

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Board elects Fletcher Allen as editor

By Charlie Warren

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board unanimously elected W. Fletcher Allen as editor of the Baptist and Reflector during a called meeting of the board June 26.

Allen, editor of the Baptist True Union, the Baptist news journal for Maryland/Delaware for the past four years, will begin his new duties Aug. 17.

He succeeds Alvin C. Shackleford, who left March 15 to accept a position as vice-president for public relations for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Fred Isaacs, chairman of the Executive Board's administrative committee which also serves as the board of directors for the Baptist and Reflector, introduced Allen as "a journalist with a pastor's heart" who is "subservient to nobody but Jesus Christ."

The recommendation, which came from a search committee appointed by Isaacs, was approved by the B&R directors in consultation with TBC Executive Secretary Tom Madden before reaching the full Executive Board.

Madden noted, "I'm convinced we could not get a better person."

During the called meeting, board members asked about Allen's beliefs

regarding God's Word, his commitment to fairness, and his goals for the B&R.

"I believe the Bible. I believe all the Bible. I believe everything in the Bible," Allen responded. "I believe it is perfectly

trustworthy. It is my authority for not only what I believe but how I live."

He said he has no agenda except to be fair and honest to the people in the churches.

"I promise, with all the integrity I have ... to be fair," Allen said.

He responded that his goals are to increase circulation, to be an advocate for the people, and to make the B&R the best paper in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Presenting his Christian testimony, Allen noted his conversion experience and a later recommitment at a Billy Graham crusade.

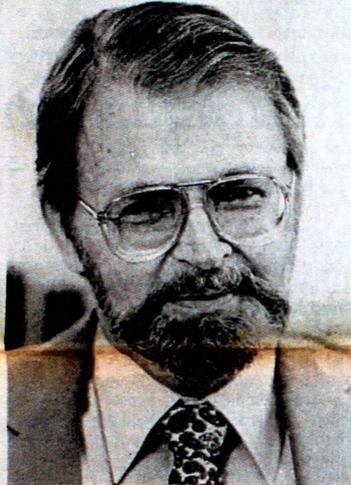
"The Lord has not turned loose of me since then," he said. "I love Him. I love His Word."

Before becoming editor of the Maryland/Delaware paper, Allen was associate editor of the Baptist Courier, South Carolina's state Baptist paper, for 17 years.

Earlier, he was assistant advertising and public relations manager for Sonoco Products Company in Hartsville, S.C.; director of news service and alumni editor at Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; and reporter and sports editor for the Florence (S.C.) Morning News.

He also served as a U.S. Army officer in West Germany, 1954-56.

Born in Darlington County, S.C., Allen is a graduate of Furman University. He is married to the former Betty Fink of Hartsville, S.C. They have four grown daughters.



W. Fletcher Allen

High court strikes down creation science law

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) - The Supreme Court, acting in its most publicized church-state case of the current term, has struck down a Louisiana law mandating the teaching of creation science in the state's elementary and secondary schools when evolution also is taught.

In a 7-2 decision announced June 19, the high court rejected the contention of Louisiana officials that the law's purpose was secular, not religious. Rather, the court held, the law's stated purpose was a "sham."

The decision marked the end of a protracted battle to save the law, whose primary sponsor, state Sen. Bill Keith, is a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary and director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Although state legislators who voted for the 1981 law argued throughout a six-year legal battle over its constitutionality that they were motivated by a desire to promote academic freedom, the nation's highest court rejected the contention.

"The Act actually serves to diminish academic freedom by removing the flexibility to teach evolution without also teaching creation science, even if teachers determine that such curriculum results in less effective and comprehensive science instruction," the seven-justice majority held.

Beginning with its landmark 1973 ruling in *Lemon vs. Kurtzman*, the court has used a three-part test to determine if laws such as Louisiana's violate the Constitution. The court held then that to pass the test, a law must have a secular purpose, must not have the primary effect of either advancing or inhibiting religion, and must not excessively entangle church and state.

Justice William J. Brennan Jr., who wrote the majority opinion, ruled the Creationism Act violated the First Amendment's ban on an "establishment of religion" because "the pre-eminent purpose of the Louisiana Legislature was clearly to advance the religious viewpoint that a supernatural being created humankind." As such, it was designed "to change the science curriculum of public schools in order to provide persuasive advantage to a particular religious doctrine that rejects the factual basis of evolution in its entirety," Brennan wrote further.

The court's senior justice concluded, "The Act violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment because it seeks to employ the symbolic and financial support of government to achieve a religious purpose."

Dissenting for himself and Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Justice Antonin Scalia charged the court majority had ruled in effect "that the members of the Louisiana Legislature knowingly violated their

(Continued on page 2)

HMB appoints Tennesseans

ATLANTA, Ga. - The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board based in Atlanta, Ga., recently appointed two Tennessee couples to serve as missionaries in Michigan and Virginia. Joel and Mildred Dunaway, formerly of Nashville, will be church planter apprentices in Benzie County, Mich. Russell and Darlene Irwin, formerly of Knoxville, will serve as Christian social ministries missionaries in Fredericksburg, Va.

Dunaway, served as pastor of a Fort Worth, Texas, church and has been employed in quality control for Lasko Metal Products and Feldkircher Wire fabrics, both in Nashville.

Dunaway is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and the University of Tennessee, Nashville. While in seminary, Dunaway was a member of PRAXIS, a joint project of Southwestern seminary and the HMB, in which seminary students are involved in church starting.

The Dunaways are participating in the HMB's church planter apprentice program, a two-year assignment for recent seminary graduates who work under an experienced supervisor in starting new churches.

Mildred Dunaway, originally from Nashville, was appointed for church and family work by the board. The Dunaways have three children.



The Irwins

The Dunaways

Irwin, a Knoxville native, was named pastor-director of the Baptist Center in Fredericksburg, Va., where he has been serving since March. From 1984-87 he was pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Ky., and from 1982-84 served as minister of youth of City View Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Irwin attended West Point Military Academy and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Darlene Irwin, also originally from Nashville, was appointed for church and family work by the board. She is a former secretary for Southern seminary, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, and Bell Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville. The Irwins have two children.

Youth conference set for March 11-12

Baptist youth from across Tennessee will meet March 11-12, 1988, for the State Youth Evangelism Conference, according to Jerry King, associate director in the Tennessee Baptist Convention evangelism department.

Nashville's Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium, which seats about 16,000, will serve as the primary meeting facility for the conference.

Mexican faces prison term for James Philpot murder

MEXICO CITY (BP) — A Mexican man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for the 1985 killing of Southern Baptist representative James Philpot.

Luis Alfredo Gutierrez Jimenez was originally sentenced to a 25-year prison term for shooting Philpot, according to the American Embassy in Mexico City. But the term was reduced to 12 years on appeal.

An American Embassy official informed Southern Baptist workers June 15 of the conviction and sentencing. Southern Baptists have relied on the embassy for most of the scant information available on the murder investigation and trial.

Philpot, an Arkansas native who had worked in Mexico since 1967, was killed Oct. 11, 1985. He was driving in Mexico City that afternoon when his car was struck by another car emerging from a side street. According to witnesses, one of the two men in the other car jumped out and shot Philpot in the head. He died at

the scene. Abel Hernandez Figueroa, a Mexican in the car with Philpot, was shot several times in the stomach but survived.

The killer and his companion escaped, but police reported the arrest of two suspects Oct. 14. A witness took down the license plate number of the car speeding away from the shooting scene, which led to the arrests, according to police.

From that point on, Baptists and American embassy officials learned very little about the investigation. Investigators took official statements on several occasions from Southern Baptist workers and a Mexican Baptist. But none was called to testify at the trial, which reportedly began in the spring of 1986. Southern Baptist representatives were not officially told if a motive for killing was established during the trial, or what that motive might have been.

Philpot's wife, Jurhee, left Mexico after the killing, but has since returned to do evangelistic work in Mexico City.

HCBA receives \$50,000 gift

SEYMOUR — Tom J. Hitch, a native of Blount County who has resided in Columbia for several years, has awarded \$50,000 to Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour.

Hitch did not attend Harrison Chilhowee, but his acquaintance with

academy leaders left him with a warm feeling for the school, he said. Aware of the academy's challenges during the '60s and '70s, Hitch determined to make a personal commitment to assist the school in its goals.

The \$50,000 gift will be used to establish the Tom Hitch Scholarship Fund. The fund will be maintained as an endowment. The principal will be invested and remain intact, while the interest will provide scholarships for students.

William L. Palmer, academy president, remarked, "In 20 years' time, this gift could touch the lives of as many as 160 students."

Hitch, an octogenarian, was president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau for 15 years.

Jesse Daniel dies June 27

Jesse Daniel, a former Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School secretary and secretary of enlargement at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, died June 27 in Camden, Ala. He was 92 years old.

Daniel retired from the TBC in 1962 after serving as a field worker and doing promotion of Sunday School, training union, and layman's work from 1927-38; as Sunday School secretary from 1938-44 and from 1950 until his retirement. He was employed at the BSSB from 1945-49.

The Kentucky native spent most of his early years in Dyersburg, where he was a member of First Baptist Church, Dyersburg. He graduated from Hall-Moody Academy and College in Martin, Union University in Jackson, and Peabody College in Nashville.

Daniel also served as educational director of Deaderick Avenue Baptist Church in Knoxville, in the U.S. Army during World War I, and as a junior high school principal in Dyer County.

The June 30 funeral was led by Bob Norman, pastor of Clearview Baptist Church in Franklin, and Truman Skaggs, a member of the family and a pastor in Georgia. It was held at Woodlawn Chapel of Roses in Nashville. He was buried in Woodlawn Memorial Park in Nashville. The deacons of Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville served as honorary pallbearers.

He is survived by his wife, Maudine Collier Daniel, Camden, Ala.; a son, James H. Daniel, Ft. Myers, Fla.; a daughter, Rebecca Stewart, Camden; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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GIFT TO HCBA — Tom Hitch (left) writes a check for \$50,000 to Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy as President William Palmer watches with gratitude.

Creation law...

(Continued from page 1)

oaths and then lied about it." Rarely in the past, he noted, has the Supreme Court invalidated a law because it failed the "secular purpose" test.

"Striking down a law approved by the democratically elected representatives of the people is no minor matter," Scalia wrote, adding, "The people of Louisiana, including those who are Christian fundamentalists, are quite entitled, as a secular matter, to have whatever scientific evidence there may be against evolution presented in their schools."

Besides objecting to the outcome in the Louisiana case, Scalia said he favored scrapping the purpose test altogether.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS' OFFICERS — The 1987-88 officers elected during the pre-convention meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association include three from Tennessee. They are (from left, front row): Joe Haynes of Nashville, secretary-treasurer; Irene Bennett, president; Elaine Dickson of Brentwood, executive director; (back row) David W. Sparrow of Memphis, central vice-president; Leland Kerr, vice-president; Bill King, assistant secretary-treasurer; Lloyd Welsh Jr., eastern vice-president; and Jerry Stubblefield, president-elect. Not pictured is Dale Shook, western vice-president.

Religious educators urge partnership in ministry

ST. LOUIS — A pastor, a psychiatrist, staff members from two churches, and a national pollster told the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association how its members can become partners in ministry.

Pollster George Gallup Jr. said America is suffering a "deep spiritual malaise" which educators can help stop.

"America is facing a moral crisis of great dimension," Gallup said. He cited epidemics of crime, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, illiteracy, divorce, and religious scandal.

Gallup said his research shows that "church attendance and involvement makes little difference in a person's ethical view" in these areas.

"We boast of Christianity as our faith but many of us have not learned the basics of the faith," Gallup said. "We say we are Christians, yet we do not show love to others who do not share our particular religious views."

Gallup cited six reasons for the decline in morality in America—excessive individualism, lack of accountability, lack of values and distorted values, watering down the doctrine of sin, various rationalizations, and a "deep spiritual malaise in our nation."

But he gave the religious educators three steps to "stem the tide of immorality."

First, "leaders should set a better example," he said.

Second, "new laws should be passed to hold various groups accountable."

Third, "values should be taught in the home and public schools," Gallup said.

Wayne Oates, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Louisville, Ky., addressed the group twice.

In an elective seminar before the meeting, Oates encouraged the educators to evangelize people with character disorders.

"Much that we call evangelism is really recruitment," Oates said. Rather than just bringing in those whose needs are easy to meet, the church should reach out to people who have hit spiritual bottom, he said.

In a later session, Oates said a "mutual covenant of love in Jesus Christ could subdue the antagonism" among Southern Baptists.

Oates discussed four areas of hurts in Southern Baptist churches today — antagonism between staff members, women in ministry, diversity of beliefs about the Bible, and diversity of gifts among staff members.

In a dialogue, staff members from two churches commended shared ministry. Charles Page, Carolyn Jenkins, and Jimmy Dunn represented First Baptist Church of Nashville, and William Henderson Jr. and David Smith represented First Baptist Church of Sylvania, Ga.

"A pastor cuts his own throat if he does not enter into a partnership with his staff," said Page, pastor of the Nashville church. "Staff to me is a family. The pastorate can be a lonely place. I need that kind of partnership."

Henderson, pastor of the Sylvania church, said a "two-horse church" like his must practice shared ministry. "It's either got to work or it just stands out like a sore thumb."

Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., told the group they also should have a partnership with Christ, an educator who imparted simple, pragmatic, and abstract truths.

"Jesus didn't come to make us smarter, but came to give us purpose in life," Miller said.

Officers elected for the next year are president, Irene Bennett, Evans, Ga.; president-elect, Jerry Stubblefield, Mill Valley, Calif.; vice-president, Leland Kerr, Annonole, Va.; regional vice-presidents, David Sparrow, minister of education and administration at Southland Baptist Church in Memphis, Dale Shook, Hobbs, N.M., Lloyd Welsh Jr., Raleigh, N.C.; secretary-treasurer, Joe Haynes, Sunday School department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; and assistant secretary-treasurer, Bill King, San Antonio, Texas. The executive director is Elaine Dickson of Brentwood.

TBCH children enjoy summer camp

A total of 288 children, volunteers, and staff of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes recently enjoyed a week of Christian summer camp at Shocco Springs, Ala.

"This was our best camp ever," said Gerald L. Stow, executive director-treasurer of TBCH.

Volunteers from across the state taught morning Bible study classes to the children, while TBCH staff members met for their own study and fellowship. Adults and children joined together for the afternoon recreation programs, which included swimming, miniature golf, softball, and paddleboat rides.

The evening worship services — led by Steve Wright, assistant pastor of family ministry at Briarcrest Baptist Church in Memphis — proved to be a special time for the staff and children. Eighteen boys and girls made professions of faith and 14 rededicated their lives to the Lord.

This year's camp also featured workshops held by J.J. and Jean Jones, professionals in human relations training. The two consultants worked with staff members and children in methods of coping with stress.

Since the week of TBCH camp is not a budgeted item, the expenses are paid through private donations.

"We're very grateful for the sponsors from across the state. Many gave so our children could go," said Stow. For example, members of First Baptist Church of Summertown raised \$1,100. A youth group at Park Avenue Baptist Church of Nashville raised \$165 in a unique "weigh-in" in which sponsors pledged to pay the children so much per pound.

The camp, now in its third year, is im-



NEW FRIEND — Exploring nature is a favorite pastime at the TBCH summer camp, as evidenced by this camper's newly found "pet frog."

portant to the staff members and children for three reasons, said Stow. The camp gives the children a time and place to get their minds off family problems; it brings children in touch with other boys and girls who are experiencing similar problems; and it gives staff members a vision of the total work of TBCH.

Children and staff members from all five TBCH campuses attended the camp. Homes are located in Memphis, Franklin, Chattanooga, Johnson City, and Burville.



TEAM SPORTS — Each TBCH child and staff member received a red, blue, or green t-shirt for team sports. Here, team members cheer a runner during a softball game.

Campus ministers focus on spiritual matters

ST. LOUIS — Almost 200 persons attending the two-day annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers at the Mayfair Hotel were challenged to help college students with their spiritual struggles.

In the opening session, Glenn Hinson, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., urged the ministers to "look and listen to God" in all types of situations and places and be ready to accept it.

"Don't try to manipulate grace. It is a gift from God. We need to let down like a swimmer to discover the buoyancy of God's presence, power, and love," he said.

In another major address, Scott Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church,

Charleston, S.C., advised counselors of college students that life's dreams are always in tension because every person's life consists of four "quadrants" of dream components: vocation, avocation, relations, and philosophy of life or theology.

The South Carolina pastor asked the campus ministers to help college students develop dreams and define those dreams.

"Help college students struggle with the concept of the will of God" in their lives, he suggested. "God uses the life dream to show us His will."

In a later session, Temp Sparkman, professor of religious education and church administration at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., reminded conferees that "God is the source of creative energy that brings us into being and sustains the world."

"God moves toward us in loving care and we respond by giving back to God," he said.

"Every time we witness, we are working with God in a two-way relationship. We both give and we both receive."

Bob Ford, president of the association, told members the future of campus ministry is bright. "While the storms of controversy rage around us, we must be a haven for those who are committed to campus ministry. We must not let controversy detract us," he said.

Observing that ministry to college students "is resurgent in the churches," Ford, who is campus minister at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Ala., urged his fellow members to "maintain ministries that develop citizens of the world who will share Jesus Christ with their world."

Officers elected for 1987-88 include Arliss Dickerson, Jonesboro, Ark., president; Hal Burke, Orlando, Fla., president-elect; Adam Hall, University of Tennessee at Martin, vice-president for membership; Sylvan Knoblock, Charleston, Ill., vice-president of administration; Bob Hall, UT Knoxville, vice-president for publications; and Raye Nell Dyer, Galveston, Texas, vice-president for programs.

Belmont trustees set budget

NASHVILLE — The board of trustees of Belmont College in Nashville approved a \$13.4-million budget for the 1987-88 school year, which includes a wellness and fitness program and a new library.

The trustees approved hiring an architectural firm to begin plans for the Lila D. Bunch Library, which will be the second largest library facility on a private college campus in Tennessee. The late Mrs. Bunch was the wife of Goebel Bunch, former Belmont trustee and former president and general manager of Bunch Cadillac Inc. of Nashville who donated \$1-million to the college earlier this year.

The library will be converted from the present Center for Business Administration.

President William E. Troutt also announced that the college will develop a student, faculty, and staff wellness and fitness program in cooperation with Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville. The board appropriated \$45,000 for equipment which will be installed in the church's family life center.

Troutt also presented a five-year plan which included emphasizing the fact that Belmont is a Christian college, strengthening its ties with Nashville and Tennessee Baptists, and developing its educational programs.

A \$250,000 endowment for the H. Franklin Paschall Chair of Biblical Studies and Preaching by First Baptist Church in Nashville led the trustees to name a search committee to select the first person for that position. The committee includes A. O. Buck, former trustee and member of First Baptist Church; Bill Wilson, trustee and pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood; Clyde

Cutrer, acting head of the college's department of religion; Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Nashville; James Stamper, vice-president for academic affairs at the college; and Fred Kendall II, vice-president for religious affairs at the college.

The trustees also voted to endorse Troutt's stand against the local pari-mutuel gambling referendum.



CAMPUS MINISTERS' OFFICERS — Two Tennesseans were among the 1987-88 officers elected during the pre-convention meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers. The officers include (from left) Sylvan Knobloch, vice-president of administration; Arliss Dickerson, president; Raye Nell Dyer, vice-president for programs; and Adam Hall, University of Tennessee, Martin, vice-president for membership. Not pictured are Bob Hall, UT Knoxville, vice-president for publications; and Hal Burke, president-elect.

Editorial evaluations

State paper editors analyze 1987 SBC

By Charlie Warren

On last week's editorial page, we printed our own editorial evaluation of the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention that met June 16-18 in St. Louis.

Many readers of the *Baptist and Reflector* do not receive other state Baptist papers. Therefore, since 1980, we have reprinted excerpts from the editorial comments of other editors regarding the annual meeting.

Printed below are direct quotations from last week's editorials from 11 state Baptist papers — the only one's we had received on Monday, our press day.

The 11 papers and their editors are: Texas' *Baptist Standard*, Presnall Wood; The Alabama Baptist, Hudson Baggett; Arkansas Baptist, Everett Sneed; Maryland/Delaware's *Baptist True Union*, Fletcher Allen; Virginia's *Religious Herald*, Julian Pentecost; Mississippi's *Baptist Record*, Don McGregor; Georgia's *Christian Index*, Jack Harwell; South Carolina's *Baptist Courier*, John Roberts; North Carolina's *Biblical Recorder*, R. G. Puckett; Missouri's *Word and Way*, Bob Terry; and Florida *Baptist Witness*, Jack Brymer.

Peace report

"The Peace Committee is on target when it points out that the nature of our diversity and the rightful place of biblical interpretation can protect from unwanted extremes. Apparently, 90 percent of the messengers agreed. Baptists want peace with fairness and diversity. It is now time for action, not rhetoric." (Florida)

"The report (of the Peace Committee) will not add to the peace so desperately needed in Southern Baptist circles. The delay in releasing the report indicated the serious internal difficulties encountered by the 22-member committee. The lengthy report appears to favor the Pressler-Patterson coalition in its ongoing effort to control the convention. Some of the leaders in that group hailed the report as a victory." (North Carolina)

"Some said it was the best we could expect, given our deep divisions. Others called it a new form of creedalism. The most frequent reaction we heard was 'The Peace Committee tells us we will have peace if we just deny that we're divided.'"

"Personally, we have grave concern that the Peace Committee report might become our special brand of creedalism for Southern Baptists." (Georgia)

"The report goes beyond the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963 by interpreting that statement. The interpretation given is not disturbing, but having an interpretation of any kind comes painfully

close to a creed. Our historical position is that Baptists need no creed but the Bible." (South Carolina)

"Since the rather lengthy (Peace Committee) report was only in the hands of the messengers a few hours before they were asked to act on it and since it was presented after 9 p.m. when messengers had been sitting in hard seats for several hours, it was predictable that a worn out body of messengers voted rather quickly to accept the report from a worn out Peace Committee.

"Regretfully, the report did not deal with some needed structural changes in the convention nor were names of people mentioned, whether they were professors or denominational politicians, who were considered causes of the controversy." (Texas)

"The Peace Committee was/is the Southern Baptist Convention in microcosm. It was representative of most if not all points on the biblical/theological spectrum among us. By virtue of its heterogeneous nature, it was inevitable that committee meetings would be marked by demanding and frustrating intensity. For each committee member who was faithful in attendance and disciplined in participation, we record our gratitude." (Virginia)

"The Peace Committee recommended 'fairness and balance' in appointments but what does this mean? Already some central figures in the conflict have said fairness and balance apply only to those who hold a certain view of the Bible. Others believe the Peace Committee recommendations require that all spectrums of the convention be reflected in presidential appointments." (Missouri)

"The long-awaited report had been promised by chairman Charles Fuller to be delivered to the people a month prior to the St. Louis meeting. For reasons known only to the committee, the report was so late that it was not completed until about 4:15 a.m. Monday.

"A report bearing the status of the Peace Committee's two-year study merits more than a few cursory hours of perusal. For whatever reason, the delay was a hindrance to messengers' understanding and being given enough time for proper study and a knowledgeable vote." (Maryland/Delaware)

"The Peace Committee report calls for the elimination of labels, and that is fine. We have deplored labels for years. There are two groups involved, however, and they have to be identified to avoid confusion.

"The Peace Committee report specifically asked that the terms fundamental-conservative and moderate-conservative not be used. The *Baptist Record* had dropped the conservative part of both titles because it didn't seem feasible to use the same word to describe both.

So, with apologies to the moderates, for lack of better terminology, we will use the terms conservative and moderate to identify the groups." (Mississippi)

"It was unfair to messengers not to receive the Peace Committee's report — the result of two years' concentrated effort — until Tuesday morning, be expected within one full and fatiguing day to give attention to it in keeping with its significance and be prepared to act responsibly on it Tuesday night.

"We are equally persuaded that additional time in St. Louis should have been devoted to presentation and discussion of the substance of the report." (Virginia)

Continuation of Peace Committee

"The vote to continue the committee for three years is a new and unwise path in Baptist cooperative work. Since trustees are already in place to monitor the boards and agencies, the action of extension challenges the trustee system. There is no need in Baptist life to move in a direction toward a Baptist college of bishops or a Baptist supreme court.

"The continuation of the committee could institutionalize the controversy, and surely Baptists already have enough controversies without giving further life to the theological/political controversy that needs to die." (Texas)

"Perhaps the main concern about the Peace Committee report is: 'How will it be used?'

"This has been a major concern about the Glorieta statement by the seminary presidents and even about the Baptist Faith and Message Statement. Asked by a news reporter if he could pass the theological litmus test

outlined in the Peace Committee report, William E. Poe, chairman of the drafting committee that prepared the final report, said he would not.

"But we should not think of the report as a litmus test or any kind of test. It is more of an expression of concern and guidance in trying to deal with a broad scope of diversity in thinking.

"Nor should we think of a continuation of the Peace Committee as a device for monitoring people and circumstances." (Alabama)

"This can be seen as an attempt to turn the committee into a watchdog group.

"We probably would be better off if the committee had disbanded last week, and we would have had a stronger and more discerning document had the makeup of the committee included people who were 'grassroots' and therefore ordinary Baptists with no involvement in past politicizing." (Maryland/Delaware)

"There was no need to continue the committee as an observer group. Retaining the committee changes its role from study to enforcement." (South Carolina)

"That makes it a watchdog committee. We have never had such a thing as that. It is recognized that these are difficult times, but the use of the committee in such a role is a questionable application." (Mississippi)

Comments on Adrian Rogers

"President Rogers emphasized the need of having a spirit of reconciliation toward one another. The mood of his presidential address was in that direction.

"Yet, it is not enough to preach reconciliation: practicing what we preach is important as well." (Alabama)

"Much of the positive nature of this year's convention can be attributed to President Adrian Rogers. Rogers is to be commended for dealing fairly, kindly, and effectively with the messengers. When messengers feel that they have not had opportunity to be heard, they become rude and ill-tempered. Rogers did his utmost to provide opportunity for everyone to present motions, ask questions, and be involved in the business process of the convention." (Arkansas)

"Adrian Rogers has a massive weight of responsibility, and a rich field of opportunity, if SBC peace is to come in this century. He is the unquestioned patriarch of the reigning party and chief arbiter of the committee appointment process. We pray that Rogers will lead us toward true peace by fair, balanced, and equitable appointments, sermons, and statements." (Georgia)

"Adrian Rogers, the president, is a very popular man. To have 40 percent of the vote cast in opposition to him for a second term, which traditionally has been almost automatic, cannot be ignored." (Mississippi)

"President Adrian Rogers did an excellent job presiding as he always does. That, together with the conduct of the messengers, made the cramped Cervantes Center more bearable." (Missouri)

Spirit of the meeting

"There was not as much evident hostility in this convention as those in recent years. Perhaps Baptists are learning how to be better winners and losers." (Texas)

"In the business sessions, most of the messengers were courteous and respectful, even when disagreement was evident." (Arkansas)

"Many messengers were appreciative of the calm nature of this year's convention. Indeed, it is to be hoped that it was indicative of things to come; but it must be noted that the calmness could have been a result of the moderate withdrawal from the fray." (Mississippi)

"Perhaps Southern Baptists really did turn a corner in St. Louis. Perhaps characteristics like competence, compromise, conciliation, and concern are elements in the solution of convention conflict." (Missouri)

"I would say that the convention was marked by a conciliatory mood." (Alabama)

"The business sessions involved less heated debate than in recent years. This is not to say all disagreement within the convention has been resolved, not by any means. Tension and disharmony persist, but without the clashes that have grown increasingly heated during the past eight years." (South Carolina)

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Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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High court upholds ruling on church hiring practices

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court ruled June 24 that Congress did not violate the Constitution 15 years ago when it exempted churches from complying with a federal ban on job discrimination based on religion, even when the contested job is non-religious in nature.

In a unanimous judgment, the high court held Congress strengthened separation of church and state by enacting the 1972 exemption and did not violate the Constitutional ban on an establishment of religion.

Writing for five of the nine members of the court, Justice Byron R. White quoted from another church-state decision earlier in the current term.

"This Court has long recognized that the government may (and sometimes must) accommodate religious practices and that it may do so without violating the Establishment Clause." (The First Amendment to the Constitution opens with the declaration, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," a clause the high court has interpreted to require separation of church and state.)

The high court decision overturned an earlier ruling by a federal district court

striking down the 1972 exemption, one of numerous amendments passed that year to the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964. Under the 1964 law, religious employers could restrict employment to "individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with . . . (their) religious activities." But in 1972, Congress deleted the single word "religious" from the exemption, thus enabling churches to discriminate on the basis of religion in hiring for any job, religious or not.

Many religious groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, had asked the court to uphold the 1972 exemption. BJC General Counsel Oliver S. Thomas praised the court's ruling.

"This decision is a strong endorsement of the concept of church-state separation," Thomas said. "We sometimes forget that without separation, the state is free not only to advance religion but to interfere with it as well. The court wisely has recognized that it is perfectly proper for Congress to pass laws that protect religious institutions from governmental interference with or entanglement in their internal affairs."

Women in Ministry meeting probes world's brokenness

ST. LOUIS — Racism, sexism, and classism head the list of brokenness in the world, according to speakers at the fifth annual meeting of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry.

The two-day event, which drew about 400 women, focused on visions of healing.

"Racism has not gone anywhere," said Catherine Meeks, a lay preacher and doctor of philosophy candidate at Emory University, Atlanta. "That demon has not been dealt with yet, but what causes me the most pain is the realization that the Lord's church has to stand at the head of the list of those responsible for allowing racism to continue to thrive in our society. The church has been, is now, and appears to plan to continue to be separatist and overly focused on the concerns of culture."

In addition to racism, she reminded participants that their world is broken by sexism and classism. Meeks, who also is an instructor and director of Afro-American studies at Mercer University, Atlanta, said the reason for so much evil in the world is what psychologists call "the shadow." She explained that persons like to think of others as the "bad guy rather than confront their own badness."

"It is very important for individual human beings to claim their own role in making the world the way it is," Meeks said.

In another major address, a former Southern Baptist woman pastor told the women, "We are signs of the kingdom. We don't need to hold on so tight,

grasping for grace that is already ours," said Lynda Weaver-Williams, former co-pastor of Goshen Baptist Church, Goshen, Ky. "Trust God and let go, brothers and sisters."

Weaver-Williams told the audience that their response to God requires obedience. "But it's not duty that brings us here," she added. "This is worship. It's beyond obligation; this is extravagance. There is not reasonable cause to praise (for women ministers), hanging between two cliffs of this denominational chasm . . . so let's do something uncalled for. Let's sing praise to God."

Assuring the women ministers that God alone commends them to their ministries, she said, "The world, the church, the children, the kingdom doesn't rest on my shoulders alone. I can let go of some of that control."

During a session on "Visions of Healing for a Broken World," the women discussed in a variety of workgroups how healing takes place and how persons respond to brokenness.

Another feature was a testimony by M. Vernon Davis, academic dean at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and his daughter, Carol Davis-Younger of Paoli, Ind. They described how they related to her call to the ministry.

Younger noted, "Calling is just like faith. It has to be your own. Ministry is a lifestyle more than just a job."

Davis said he had fears when he saw his daughter walk the aisle submitting to the ministry but that he celebrates with her.

"We should not tell our daughters who are called to the ministry, 'Don't do it; there's no future in it,' because there is."

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.

Support for BJCPA

Dear editor:

As one who was a state legislator for many years and now works full time in government affairs, I must respond to some of the concerns expressed about the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (Baptist and Reflector, May 20, p. 3).

Since the stated purpose of the BJCPA is advocacy of religious liberty, its programs should not include those who oppose church-state separation.

Of course one who differs with any public policy agency will always accuse its spokesmen of personal bias. It's a hazard that goes with the territory.

One should also point out that James Dunn has not been affiliated with People for the American Way since 1983.

Let's be grateful that we have the Baptist Joint Committee at work for us. We need them.

Phil R. Cates
3935 Point Clear Dr.
Missouri City, TX 77459

Board of deacons?

Dear editor:

Through the ages culture plays tricks on the people of successive generations. Some of those tricks are good and some are not good.

Many of our Southern Baptist churches are allowing our culture to play an unfortunate and hurtful trick on them when they down-grade the diakonate (deacon-

ship) from its New Testament meaning to that of "board."

The word "board" comes straight out of the professional, business, secular world about us, such as "board of directors," "board of education," or "board of control." The meaning of this word "board" in all these connections is the diametrical opposite of the New Testament word which is translated "deacon!"

It is tragic when we lose sight of the spiritual ministry and servant role of the deacon and corrupt it with the word "board," which carries the connotation of "director," "overseer," or "one who controls!"

The "board of deacons" is a concept which is completely out of place in a New Testament church. It is urgently important that we as individual Christians and corporately as churches be Christ centered and not culture centered!

Julius H. Avery
360 Cedar Creek Drive
Athens, GA 30605

When I became a man

Dear editor:

When I became a man, I put away childish things: football, excessive interest in all sports and games, and any hint of a belief that the Christian life is, somehow, "the game of life."

O. Meredith Smaw
1612 Sixteenth Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37212



QUICK BITE — Some of the 25,000 messengers who descended on downtown St. Louis during the convention eat lunch under the shade of trees outside St. Louis Centre, a four-story mall that included take-out restaurants.



Tennessee/Venezuela prayer net partnership

- Memorial Baptist Church in Caracas is searching for a pastor.
- Missionaries Tom and Iris Watson work with a beginning church called the Family of God which meets in their apartment building in Caracas.
- Mr. and Mrs. Roque Leon are being sent by the Venezuela Baptist Convention as home missionaries to Puerto Ayacucho in Venezuela to begin a ministry.

Deaf, workers hold meeting at camp

About 70 persons attended the 22nd annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Conference of the Deaf, which met June 19-21 at Camp Linden in Linden.

The deaf and hearing persons who attended were involved in deaf ministries across the state and represented the following churches: First Baptist Church, Knoxville; First Baptist Church, Goodlettsville; First Baptist Church, Memphis; First Baptist Church, Linden; Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge; and Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood. Also a Corinth, Miss., family attended.

The conference members elected the 1987-88 officers, who are all members of First Baptist Church, Knoxville. They are Fred Markham, president; Lorraine Cockran, vice-president; Sharon Jones, secretary; and Ron Ogle, treasurer.

Highlights of the meeting were sessions on the Holy Spirit led by the camp pastor, Robert Moore, a worker with the deaf in Charlotte, N.C.; on senior adult ministries led by Don Mauldin of the Tennessee Baptist Convention church training department; and on family relationships led by Jerry Seale, pastor of First Baptist Deaf Congregation in Knoxville.

Activities for youth were led by Kelly McCorkle, student summer missionary at First Baptist Church in Knoxville; for children by Phyllis Green of First Baptist Church, Knoxville; and for preschoolers by Rachel McCorkle and Ann Dickson of First Baptist Church in Goodlettsville.

The 1988 meeting is scheduled for June 10-12 at Camp Carson in Newport.

Send the B & R
to a friend

Florida youth trip ends in tragic bus accident

BLAIRSVILLE, Ga. (BP) — One teenager was killed and 29 other people were injured when a bus owned by First Baptist Church of Winter Haven, Fla., plunged into a mountain ravine in northern Georgia June 26.

The group of 36 young people and adult sponsors from the church had completed a week-long summer camp at Georgia Baptist Assembly in Toccoa and were bound for a day of river rafting June 26 before heading home.

The outing ended in tragedy, however, when the vehicle's brakes apparently failed on a three-mile stretch of mountain road near Blairsville, Ga.

Despite the driver's attempts to stop, the vehicle plowed through a guardrail, hit a stand of trees and stopped 50 feet below the two-lane roadway.

Investigating officers from the Georgia Highway Patrol said the bus negotiated 2.8 miles of the winding road before crashing less than a quarter-mile from the bottom of the mountain.

Some of the travelers were thrown from the bus, while others were trapped in the wreckage for up to two hours.

Angela Jones, 14, was pronounced dead at the scene. Cathy Pooser, 15, suffered a broken neck. She and other seriously injured victims were airlifted to hospitals in Atlanta.

Among those in critical condition was Frank Brooks, 39, driver of the bus and minister of youth at the church. Brooks was thrown from the bus and suffered severe head injuries.

Most of the injured were expected to be released from area hospitals over the weekend, said William Earnest, minister of education at the Winter Haven church.

The more seriously injured, numbering six or seven, were to remain hospitalized for several days. Earnest told the Florida Baptist Witness, news journal of the Florida Baptist Convention.

A Winter Haven business donated the use of a private plane to transport some parents of the youth to the area. Other parents drove.

Ralph Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church, flew to Atlanta immediately after hearing the news to visit the victims, who were scattered in six area hospitals.

Harris' son, David, 14, was aboard the bus but was not seriously hurt. His wife, Jerrie, was traveling in a van several miles behind the bus.

The church has established a fund to help victims' families pay the expenses of traveling to be with their children, Earnest said.

Hospital names 55Plus director

NASHVILLE — Baptist Hospital has named Cheryl Billings Morris of Cincinnati, Ohio, as director of its new 55Plus Program, a package of health care services being offered for adults 55 and older.

Program members receive a variety of services on a complimentary or discounted basis including free physician referral, transportation to and from the hospital, health screenings, Baptist Fitness Center discounts, and a private room at a semiprivate rate. Membership in the 55Plus Program is free.

As director, Morris will concentrate on membership recruitment and service development of the program.

Prior to joining Baptist Hospitals, Morris spent the past four years researching and covering the field of gerontology for WKRC-TV in Cincinnati.

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D. Buchanan assumes Glenwood pastorate

Dean Buchanan will begin serving as pastor of Glenwood Baptist Church, Kingsport, on July 12.

Coming to Kingsport from First Baptist Church in Powell, his previous pastorates include Northside Baptist Church, Liverpool, N.Y.; New Hopewell Baptist Church, Knoxville; First Baptist Church, Lake City; Alpha Baptist Church, Deputy, Ind.; and Pleasant View Baptist Church, Clinton.

Buchanan is currently serving as director of missions in Greater Huntington Baptist Association in Huntington, W.V. In 1982, he was a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and has served as president of the Knox County Baptist Pastors' Conference.

The graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, also holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Southern seminary adds Thomas Mabe

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Thomas F. Mabe, 52, vice-president of the Baptist Medical Center Foundation in Kansas City, Mo., has been named vice-president for development of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

A graduate of the University of Richmond (Va.) and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., Mabe previously was director of



EVANGELISTS' OFFICERS — The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, which met during the convention meeting, elected 1987-88 officers, including two Tennesseans. Officers are (from left, front row) Jerry Swimmer, musician; Jay Strack, vice-president; Henry Linginfelter, Alcoa, president; Delton Dees, parliamentarian; (back row) John Bos, assistant musician; Bob Kendig, Memphis, secretary-treasurer; and Dwight (Ike) Reighard, pastor adviser.

Evangelists preach against compromise during SBC

ST. LOUIS — Tennessean Henry Linginfelter, an evangelist from Alcoa, proclaimed that Southern Baptist evangelists should "lick the boots of men like Adrian Rogers and Bailey Smith for helping to swing the SBC back to a conservative mood," after being elected president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists during its June 16-17 meeting in St. Louis.

Evangelist Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla., declared that America's problem is "chicken preachers," "weenie men" and "lily-livered congressmen" as he addressed the annual meeting of the conference, which met during the annual Southern Baptist Convention.

Smith encouraged more than 2,000 evangelists not to "compromise" their message of repentance through Jesus Christ.

"I'm tired of trying to get a meeting if I have to apologize to a backslidden pastor," Smith said.

The former SBC president also said pastors should preach repentance without being afraid of "committees, deacons, or the WMU (Woman's Missionary Union)."

Because preachers have compromised their message in past years, "we now have X-rated movies, four-letter words on television, abortions, and an increase in homosexuality," he added.

Preaching on "An Angry Pastor and an Anointed Evangelist," Smith reviewed the story of Jeremiah and his pastor (priest) Pashhur who struck Jeremiah with his fist because he was jealous (Jeremiah 20).

"A lot of pastors are striking evangelists today — not with their fists — but with their mouths."

Smith said many filling pulpits today are "chicken preachers" because they

don't preach the "unadulterated, unmitigated Word of God."

The crowd gave Smith a standing ovation when he said he did not compromise by saying, "God does not hear the prayer of a Jew" while president of the SBC.

Smith also said America is plagued with "society sickness" because of compromising preachers.

"Every Supreme Court justice, lily-livered congressman, and liberal preacher will stand before Almighty God and answer for" the 16-million babies who have "been murdered" in America since 1973, he declared.

In a testimony, Larry Taylor, an evangelist from Bandera, Texas, said, "Boys can take their Rolls Royces, Mercedes Benzes, and gold faucets, but just give me Jesus."

A media evangelist from Richmond, Va., Howard Baldwin, shared his ministry through art to deaf persons.

Randall Miller, a black evangelist from Euless, Texas, said he looks for the day when there is racial equality within the SBC.

Other speakers included Jerry Johnston, an evangelist from Overland Park, Kan., and Lewis A. Drummon, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The evangelists affirmed 15 statements dealing with integrity in the wake of the PTL and Oral Roberts controversies, and elected officers for 1988.

The 15 statements are taken from Billy Graham's book *A Biblical Standard for Evangelists*.

The evangelists also passed a resolution calling on the Home Mission Board to give greater consideration to the needs of vocational evangelists and singers in planning for conventionwide simultaneous revivals in 1990.

Officers elected for 1988 in addition to Linginfelter included Jay Strack, Ft. Myers, Fla., vice-president; Bob Kendig, Memphis, secretary-treasurer; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, Miss., music director; John Bos, Orlando, Fla., assistant music director; Delton Dees, St. Louis, Mo., parliamentarian; Ike Reighard, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., pastor advisor; and Tom McEachin, Home Mission Board liaison staff member.



MUSIC PRECEDES MESSAGE — The choir and orchestra from Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, presents special music before their pastor, Adrian Rogers, delivers the President's Address during Tuesday morning's session at the Southern Baptist Convention last week. Jim Whitmire directs the groups.



FINISHED PRODUCT — Charles "Buddy" White (right), the pastor of Morrisets Chapel Baptist Church in Whitesburg, presents a copy of his new book, *Excuses*, to Director of Missions Glenn Toomey of Nolachucky Baptist Association, one of the four associations in which he has served as a bi-vocational pastor. White, of Russellville, also owns 2,000 fruit trees and works at Shelby Williams Industry in Morristown.



PLANNING FOR SECRETARIES — The 1987 officers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries' Association, which include (from left) Mary Alice Brake of Prescott Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis, vice-president; Beth Prowse of First Baptist Church in Cookeville, president; and Helen Butler of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, secretary-treasurer; met recently at the TBC Executive Board building in Brentwood to plan the association's annual conference April 11-13, 1988.

Baptist Hospital honors W. Payton

NASHVILLE — Walter Payton, the all time leading scorer for the Chicago Bears, has been named 1987 recipient of the Tom Landry Award presented by Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

Payton, who will receive the award at a special luncheon in his honor at the Baptist Fitness Center on July 8, is the third athlete to receive the honor.

"The Tom Landry Award was established in 1985 and is given annually to recognize individual commitment to physical and spiritual excellence," said C. David Springfield, president of Baptist Hospital.

"Walter Payton has pursued excellence in all of his endeavors. Not only is he an outstanding athlete, but he has given much of his personal time and attention to civic and charitable endeavors while devoting himself to his family as well," Springfield said.

The award was first presented to Landry in 1985. Last year's recipient was Roger Staubach.

Venezuelans need more volunteers

About 450 Tennesseans have volunteered to participate in the evangelistic campaigns in August and September as a part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership, but more volunteers and two special language teams are still needed, reported Clarence Stewart, foreign mission ministries consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Several additional teams, which include three to four persons, are needed for the Aug. 14-25 crusades. About five to seven teams also are needed for the Sept. 18-29 crusades.

The requested language teams include a French-speaking team to work with a Haitian mission of Iglesia Bautista Central de Caracas and a Chinese-speaking team to help the Chinese mission of Iglesia Bautista "Bethel" de Cutira in Caracas.

Southern names Bennett provost

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — G. Willis Bennett, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was named provost of the seminary, effective June 15.

The appointment was announced by President Roy L. Honeycutt at Southern seminary's annual alumni and friends luncheon during the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis. Bennett, dean of the school of theology



FIRST GRADUATE STUDENTS — Evelyn Long (left), secretary for the graduate studies program at Carson-Newman College, helps area teachers Bobby Haun and Paula Inman register for the first graduate courses to be offered at the college.

Graduate program at C-N enrolls 47

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City has enrolled the first students in its new graduate program in education. Roy Dobyns, vice-president and academic dean, reports that 47 students have registered for the graduate education courses offered during the college's first summer term.

"We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response which the graduate program has received," Dobyns said. "The establishment of a graduate studies curriculum represents a historic moment for Carson-Newman."

Carson-Newman now offers two different graduate degrees for kindergarten through grade 12 classroom teachers — a master of education or a master of arts in teaching degree.

According to Ronald Midkiff, chairman of the division of education and graduate studies, graduate courses will be taught primarily in the summer and in the evenings during the regular school to provide for working students. "During the fall and spring semesters we will offer evening courses in Morristown and Knoxville, as well as here on campus," he said.

since 1963, will serve as the seminary's chief academic officer.

Bennett, 67, is a native of Candler, N.C. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., the University of Louisville, and Southern seminary. After serving as pastor of Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina and Kentucky, Bennett has taught in the areas of Christian ethics and church and community since joining the seminary faculty in 1959.

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Tennessee

REVIVAL RESULTS . . .

Over 500 attended the summer Bible camp held on the campus of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City June 15-20. Phil Hoskins, president of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists, reported 74 professions of faith, over 300 rededications, and three commitments to full-time Christian service at the conference sponsored by the fellowship.

LEADERSHIP . . .

John Finley has been called as associate pastor and minister of youth at Raleigh Baptist Church in Memphis. He comes from Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was minister of youth. Finley is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Doug Vann has joined the staff at Berclair Baptist Church in Memphis, as minister of education. Bob Wilson is the pastor.

Longcrest Baptist Church in Memphis, has called Lamar Frizzell as minister of education. Donald Abernathy is the pastor.

Bryan Read has resigned as youth and family minister at Central Baptist Church in Chattanooga. He has accepted the position of youth and family minister at First Baptist Church in Watkinsville, Ga.

Alan Cottrell has resigned as minister of youth/music at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Newport, where K. W. Jamison is pastor.

PEOPLE . . .

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stogner were honored for the 50th wedding anniversary on June 14, at First Baptist Church, Sevierville.

Union University in Jackson honored Howard S. Kolb with a doctor of divinity degree in a ceremony on May 30. Kolb is pastor of Audubon Park Baptist Church in Memphis.

CHURCH NEWS . . .

Rivergate First Baptist Church in Hendersonville has voted to build new facilities at their location on Center Point Road. The facilities will include Sunday School classrooms, a fellowship hall, and an auditorium that will seat 450 people. Lloyd Bardowell is the pastor.

Bellevue joins ACTS series

FORT WORTH, Texas — Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, is one of the first churches in the nation to be a part of a new series of preaching programs on the ACTS television network. Featured speaker on the program, "Love Worth Finding," is the pastor, Adrian Rogers. The program airs Sundays at 4 p.m. EDT.

On Sunday, June 7, the first of the new preaching programs was carried on ACTS. The series, approved by trustees of the Radio/TV Commission in Fort Worth, Texas, in April, marks the first time programs have been sold to churches on the network. Eventually 12 and one-half hours of programs will be sold. RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen said. When completely filled, the series will add some \$1.2-million to the commission's annual budget.

"The ACTS network is reaching full maturity," Allen said, "and these new programs on which the gospel is preached without compromise will multiply the influence of ACTS on the families of America."

Allen said that this offers an opportunity to the many mainline preachers who have been frustrated because there was no suitable television avenue open to them.

Time allocated on the network includes six hours of preaching programs each Sunday, a daily half hour Monday through Friday morning, and four hours in prime time weeknights. "Invitation to Life," a weekly hour of evangelistic preaching, will remain in the same time period Thursday night, network officials said.

In addition, churches can use one of the local commercial breaks to give a local telephone number for a person to call to receive counseling and spiritual help.

Allen said recent additions of cable systems have brought the network to the largest number of homes in its history. The number of homes capable of accessing ACTS programs over cable is 4.6-million. An additional 1.8-million homes can receive ACTS on seven low-power and three full-power television stations. Using the industry estimate of 2.7 persons per household means that almost 17.5-million people can tune in to ACTS.

Georgian Hills calls Frizzell to pastorate

Georgian Hills Baptist Church, Memphis, has called Gregory R. Frizzell to serve as pastor. Frizzell has been serving as minister of education and associate pastor for the last three years at Georgian Hills.

Frizzell is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and received a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

First Baptist Church, Lexington, ordained him into the ministry.

Personal Perspective



By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

"Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last" (Genesis 49:19).

Gad was one of Jacob's sons. He was to possess the pastureland east of the Jordan — but it was not going to be easy. There would be reverses, failures, and disappointments but victory would surely come.

As I reflected on this experience I thought of how many troops there are that assail us.

There is the troop of temptation. No one escapes this troop. Troops of doubts besiege us. It even surrounded John the Baptist and it almost captured Thomas. There is the troop of subtle evil. Men sleep while evil prospers. Stan is our adversary, our accuser, a deceiver but appears often as innocent looking as an angel of light.

I thought of several that the troops endeavored to overcome — but those assaulted were in the end triumphant. The father of Gad, Jacob himself is an example. The troops of deceit, dishonesty, and guile were often upon him, but at last God gave him a new nature and a new name. "Israel."

The troops set upon John Mark. They led him to desert Paul and Barnabas. They attacked him and he was a disappointment to his friends — but victory came at last when Paul said, "Bring Mark."

Even Christ was not exempt from the troops. Despised, forsaken, crucified, buried, and then — victory — He arose.

The story of Gad could well be your experience and mine. The troops are ever after us, but there is victory ahead — for the victory of Christ can be shared by every one of us.

Enrollment up at Belmont

NASHVILLE — Belmont College's summer undergraduate enrollment has increased by 23 percent over 1986 figures, officials of the Nashville college announced. The statistics also do not include students in the new graduate program.

A total of 647 undergraduate students registered for the first session of summer classes, said Registrar Martha Kelley. In 1986, 528 undergraduates were enrolled in the first session, she said.

In addition, a total of 75 graduate students registered for either the college's new Master in Education program or the Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business, which opened last year.

Westel calls Harris

Ronald L. Harris began serving as pastor of Westel Baptist Church, Westel, on May 10.

Harris' previous pastorates include Isoline Baptist Church, Crossville; Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Crossville; Allardt First Baptist Church, Allardt; Memorial Baptist Church, Livingston; Pine Orchard Baptist Church, Oakdale; Volunteer Baptist Church, Bristol; and Friends Chapel Baptist Church, Deer Lodge.

He is presently employed by Cumberland County Appliance.

Westwood missions groups welcome missionary home

Mary Mangrum was welcomed with banners made by the Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action of Westwood Baptist Church when she arrived at the Nashville airport.

Mangrum is a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Panama where she is Christian education consultant for the country. Her duties include teaching in the Baptist Theological Seminary of Panama located in Araján. She also trains leaders in Sunday School, church training, discipleship and Vacation Bible School.

Having grown up in the Westwood church, Mangrum was featured during services June 7. Designated as "Mary Mangrum Day," she spoke during the services and activities focussed on foreign missions awareness.

At the close of the evening service Steve and Karen Weaver, pastor and wife, along with five other couples in the church volunteered for short-term foreign missions.

Since Mangrum began her service in Panama in 1984, she has received letters

of prayer support as well as money from special missions projects from the missions organizations of Westwood Baptist Church. Through correspondence with the missionary, the GAs and RAs are made aware of specific prayer needs on the mission field. There is an RA chapter at the church named for the missionary, whose parents, Eulis and Evelyn Mangrum are members of the Nashville church.

Mangrum was graduated from Belmont College in Nashville and became a Foreign Mission Board appointed journeyman to Costa Rica. After the two-year program, she attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. After earning her seminary degree, she served as minister of childhood education at First Baptist Church in Independence, Mo. From there she went to language school before beginning her stay in Panama.

During her furlough, Mangrum will be speaking in churches as well as assisting in camps and world missions conferences.



WELCOME HOME — Mary Mangrum, foreign missionary to Panama, was welcomed by family, friends, and the missions organizations of Westwood Baptist Church when she arrived at the Nashville airport.

C-N's J. Welton portrays Bible through characters

By Terri Schultz and Randy Hutton
JEFFERSON CITY — "What lousy weather we've been having!" exclaims the old man in a Yiddish accent.

His statement brings laughter from the audience: the old man is Noah, and the weather is the rain which produced the great flood. Noah goes on to enlighten the audience about the problems related to being confined with one's family and an arkload of animals for several weeks.

This portrayal of Noah's life aboard the ark is one of several stops featured in John Lee Welton's "Journey: A Dramatic Trip Through the Bible." For Welton, professor of communication arts at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, this one-man show provides an opportunity both to entertain and to minister through drama.

The purpose of "Journey" is "to bring to life people from the Bible who have for so long been looked upon as far away and different from ourselves and our times," Welton said.

The drama begins with a mime piece depicting creation. Some of the situations Welton portrays are taken from the Bible; others are fictional. Characters include: Noah, the "big fish" which swallowed



STORM'S COMIN' — Noah (John Lee Welton) elaborates on the problems he faces preparing for the story in his one-man show "Journey: A Dramatic Trip Through the Bible."

Jonah, the innkeeper who turned Mary and Joseph away and who 30 years later meets Jesus, the Roman soldier who accepts Jesus at the cross, and a slave in Rome awaiting execution.

Welton makes all of the necessary costume changes onstage. His only props consist of a makeup table and the coat rack that holds his costumes.

For Welton, the biggest challenge of a one-man show involves "keeping the energy and vitality up for an hour," even though he has over 30 years of experience as a performer and a teacher of drama. "I've been working toward this kind of performance over the years in bits and pieces," said Welton, who has published a number of his original monologues in various church-related magazines. "I never had the time to put it all together until this past spring semester, when I

was on sabbatical."

Children are especially fond of the more humorous pieces. "For the fish that swallowed Jonah, I wear a mask," Welton said. "The children get a big kick out of that. They also like Noah, because they're so familiar with him."

Through drama, "Journey" offers a

unique perspective on some familiar and some unfamiliar events from biblical times. In Welton's words, the performance "attempts to help us see that we are not vastly different from the people whose lives were deeply touched thousands of years ago by God and His Son."

Trip to South Dakota offers close-up view of missions

A group of 10 Robertson County Baptists recently experienced the mission field close-up by participating in a week-long trip to South Dakota to work at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The main objective of the trip was to help Harold Heiney and his wife Deloris, local Southern Baptist missionaries to the Sioux Indians, with some much needed repairs to their house.

While there the group built a two-car garage with two storage rooms for the couple, according to Martha Morgan, the only woman on the mission team.

"The couple had been on the mission field for 16 years and had always put other people first by helping other churches to build," said Morgan. "This time we would build for them."

The group also shared their testimonies

at the Wednesday night worship service of Lakota Baptist Church on the reservation where Harold Heiney serves as pastor.

The group consisted of members from four churches in Robertson County, Hopewell Baptist Church, Springfield, sent Pastor Phillip Lawrence, Leslie Hancock, Andy Mason, Steve Thomas, Jim Adams, Travis Gallaher, and Martha Morgan. Other participants were Randy Wilkins, Flewellyn Baptist Church, Springfield; Terry Dorris, Orlinda Baptist Church, Orlinda; and Cliff Underwood, Williams Chapel Baptist Church, Springfield.

In summarizing the trip, Morgan said, "For just a brief moment we were missionaries on a 'foreign' field and it was good."

Jimmy Sartain accepts Covington pastorate

Jimmy Dale Sartain began his ministry as pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington on June 1.

Sartain is a graduate of Delta State College in Cleveland Miss. He also holds a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.



Sartain

He comes to Covington from Graceland Baptist Church, Memphis, and has also served as pastor at First Baptist Church in Coldwater, Miss.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for July 5

John's vision of Christ

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

Basic Passages: Revelation 1:1-20
Focal Passages: Revelation 1:1, 3, 9-13, 16-20

Some of you are saying, "Oh, no, not Revelation!" While others of you are saying, "Hooray, now I'll find out when the world's coming to an end!" I hope both groups will feel far differently when this series of studies of the Revelation is completed.



Nail

Much of what has been preached and written over the years about this tremendous book has only served to mislead the vast majority of our people. As a result, most church folks either write off the whole book as beyond understanding, or they find within it fantastic schemes by which God has supposedly told the church what He never even revealed to His Son on earth.

This great book of inspiration was and is intended to give hope to all of God's children. In the very beginning of the book we are told that it is intended to be a blessing to those who read it and pay attention to it (v. 3). Some of the incredible interpretations of it are beyond sincere believers and certainly could not be much of a blessing.

Main purpose of the book

There are a multitude of visions in this book. Some of them are gruesome. Some are puzzling, while still others are beautiful beyond all description. In the midst of all of these, we must keep one thing in mind. The central message of Scripture is to tell us about God, ourselves, and what God is doing on behalf of His people.

All commentators on this book that I have read agree that the book was first written to Christians who were either in the midst of persecution or about to be persecuted. These words were intended to be an encouragement and a message of hope.

The sender of the message

John tells us quite early that, though he is writing these words, the message is from the Lord Jesus Christ. He reminds the readers that Jesus was the first to make the ultimate sacrifice. Jesus has never asked more of His followers than He was willing to give for them.

Rather than being defeated by being executed, Jesus is alive and is Himself the ruler or conqueror of all the kings of the earth (v. 5). In fact, He has made those who believe in Him to be a kingdom of priests. Though His followers may suffer persecution or even death, they are not defeated by the world any more than Jesus was.

One day those who brought about His death shall see Him again. They shall see

Him in His majesty and will mourn. God's children can be assured that He leaves no loose ends when He goes about His mighty work. Each of us who follow Him can be assured that we are so important to Him that He will not leave one of us behind when He comes.

The testimony of John

John shows us an important truth in verse 9. He had apparently been banished to the Isle of Patmos to keep him from spreading the gospel. It was in the midst of his tribulation that he saw Jesus most clearly.

How many times have you found that it was during a time of trial or sorrow or suffering that you were able to see God more clearly than ever before? It is in those times when we lean on His everlasting arms and that we learn the most about Him and His purpose for our lives.

The vision of Jesus Christ

In the remainder of this chapter John attempts to paint a picture of the One who directs him to send the message of encouragement. If your Bible indicates references to other Scripture used in this section, you will find that almost every part of the description of Christ is taken from a passage in the Old Testament. It would be helpful, though not possible in this column, to take the time to refer to those passages and see more clearly what the prophets were saying.

The terms that are applied to Jesus were as familiar to his readers as are terms like "lily of the valley," "bright and morning star," and "fountain of living water" are to us. Each part of the picture is designed to remind them of their heritage and to point them to a future secure in this One Who is the first and the last.

Verses 17-18 serve as the best source of hope for any believer. They served as a text of a sermon I heard on record which was preached by George Truett. His theme in that sermon could fittingly be used as the theme for this entire book.

He called upon his hearers to "be not afraid." He encouraged them by the words of Jesus to face life, death, and eternity without fear. That is possible, he said, because Jesus has conquered life and death and provides our entrance into eternity with Him. It is a marvelous gift from God that, through Jesus Christ, we can face each day with assurance.

John closes the chapter with a sweeping encouragement to the churches of Asia which he had already mentioned. These churches are representative of all churches with their good and bad points. Jesus reminds them that He is among them and that He keeps them. What more do we need to know to face the future?

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for July 5

A new relationship with God

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

Basic Passage: Romans 5:1-11
Focal Passages: Romans 5:1-11

Romans 5:1-11 is a tremendous passage of Scriptures. I like the words, "justified by faith" in verse 1. Remember that "justification" is a legal word. I like the definition of justification that it is "an act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner to be righteous."



Palmer

That righteousness is not by human works. That righteousness is by divine decree based upon the life, death, burial, and resurrection of God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. "Justified" is a very descriptive word.

I learned to type back in the days of a manual typewriter. (That was long before these modern electronic devices that perform some incredible tasks.) My typing teacher would say, "Take these paragraphs and justify them on both the right and left margins." That meant that I had to figure how to add extra spaces between words and sentences to make the right hand margin parallel with the left hand margin.

That took some figuring, but when I was finished the product looked like a column of newspaper print. Both sides were even all the way down. That meant that they had been "justified." They were made to be what they were not really!

We cannot justify ourselves. We are justified through faith. Nothing needs to be added to faith. Nothing else can be added to faith to merit justification. We are justified freely by God's grace. We do not deserve justification. We cannot receive it through an ordinance. We cannot get it by joining a church, doing good deeds, repeating prayers, or confessing creeds. We are justified by faith.

Justification by faith brings rich spiritual benefits. "We have peace with God" (v. 1). "We have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand" (v. 2). "We rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (v. 2b). "We glory in tribulations also" (v. 3). "We shall be saved from wrath through Him" (v. 9). "We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son" (v. 10a). "We shall be saved by His life" (v. 10b). "We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 11a). Through our Lord Jesus Christ "we have now received the atonement" (v. 11b).

The Spirit of God creates in every man a simple sense of the need of God. I believe that man has an innate desire for greater purity. A divine discontent is manifested against low and secular living. Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ men will try to quit their bad habits, seek to avoid companions who lead them

astray, and they will even go to church. It is true that "Setting the face Godward is not kneeling at His feet."

Peace with God (v. 1) comes only through our Lord Jesus Christ. William Clow wrote that "You are not really Christian at all until you have believed this good news that God is reconciled unto you in the death of His Son, and have entered into peace."

Not only do we have peace, but through our Lord Jesus Christ "we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand" (v. 2a). Access is entrance. We enter into the throne of grace boldly, and "We rejoice" (v. 2b).

The saved person has reason to rejoice. Hope for the future is glorious. Now we come to the hard part! "We glory in tribulations" (v. 3). Yes, that is not easy. Tribulation is not easy even when we know "that tribulation worketh patience: (v. 3) and patience, experience; and experience hope: (v. 4) and hope maketh not ashamed" (v. 5a). We are to endure afflictions with patience. Difficulties ought to strengthen us and enable us to have the assurance of God's love through the knowledge of the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote of our hope: "We are not ashamed of our Hope. We are not ashamed of the Object of our Hope. We are not ashamed of the Ground of our Hope. We are not ashamed of our personal appropriation of this Hope. We are not ashamed as to the absolute certainty that our hope will be realized."

The love of God is the reason for this confidence. This confident hope brings inner joy and holy boldness. It "maketh not ashamed" (v. 5).

I use verse 8 more than any other in this passage when I am talking with others about the love of God: "God commendeth (proved) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." We are undeserving of God's love and mercy, but He has done everything possible to draw us unto Himself.

That "everything" culminated in our being justified by the blood (v. 9) of Christ Who died for us. Being washed from our sins, we are to live as He lived (v. 10). That gives us reason for "joy" (v. 11).

First Setswana church organizes in Botswana

GABORONE, Botswana — Less than two years after it started as a weeknight Bible study of John, the first Setswana-language Baptist church in the Botswana capital of Gaborone was organized. The Bosele Baptist Church is located in one of many Self-Help Housing Authority areas in the city of 80,000.

Last December, Missionary Dan Hylden baptized the first eight members in a portable baptistry. Included were Rre Rabi, blind since high school, who has been preaching for the congregation, and his wife, who had never attended church until her husband brought her to the church.

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LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
Lesson for July 5

Challenging culture

By Johnny M. Johnson, pastor
First Baptist Church, McEwen

Basic Passage: Acts 17:16 to 18:17
Focal Passage: Acts 17:22-31

Paul's missionary team left Philippi and headed toward Thessalonica, where they had a ministry of three weeks. Berea was the next city where Paul proclaimed God's saving message. The same Jewish opposition which hindered the ministry at Thessalonica stirred up discontent in Berea. Timothy and Silas remained in Berea as Paul made his way to Athens.



Johnson

The pre-eminence of the golden days was gone, but Athens remained the greatest university city in the first century. Art and philosophy were primary fields of interest, but religion was prominent in the city as well. The thousands of shrines and idols that dotted the landscape were encountered everywhere.

Athens, quite literally, was "full of idols" (17:16). The rampant paganism disturbed the spirit of the great missionary, so that he began to speak with the Jews and religious people he encountered in the synagogue and the marketplace. Paul challenged the philosophies, culture, and lifestyles that ran counter to the Christian way.

God unknown (17:22-25)

The Athenians wished to clarify the message Paul brought to them, so they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus (v. 19). This term refers both to a group and to a place where the group met, and we cannot unequivocally state which is intended here. Areopagus (literally "Ares' Hill") is the equivalent of "Mars Hill" because Ares is the Greek name and Mars is the Roman name for the mythological god of war. The Athen-

ians asked Paul (v. 19), "May we know what this new teaching is which you present?"

That question was like asking Magic Johnson if he hoped to win the N.B.A. title! It is amazing how God creates situations for us to witness. Paul wanted to win the Athenians from a life of pagan idolatry to the Christian way. The next thing he knew, he was obligated to explain the gospel to a ready-made congregation.

Paul begins by observing that the people of Athens are "very religious" (v. 22). This must be the proper reading, for no speaker would alienate his audience at the outset with an insult ("too superstitious"). He proceeds to make mention of an altar dedicated to "an unknown god" (v. 23).

At one point in her history Athens had suffered a terrible pestilence which nothing could reverse. Someone suggested that one of the gods had been offended and that satisfaction must be made.

Since it would be next to impossible to determine which god was offended, it was suggested a flock of sheep be let loose in the city, and wherever each lay down, it would be sacrificed to the god closest at

hand. Some sheep lay down near the shrine of no known god, and these were offered to "The Unknown God." There were thus altars erected and dedicated to "The Unknown God."

Paul commends the religious fervor of the Athenians. He begins on common ground, and he continues by affirming that he has come to inform them about the true God, whom they "worship as unknown" (v. 23). Paul's God is Creator and Lord of all that is. There is no need for numerous gods, one for this, another for that, since there is only one real God, and He is sufficient for everything.

God uncovered (17:26-28)

The Apostle states that God who had created people has made them in such a way "that they should seek God" (v. 27). Paul, in effect, commends again the religious zeal of the Athenians, but shows them they are, nevertheless, misguided. He demonstrates, quoting from a pair of philosophers, that if we truly seek God we will find Him.

God is beyond our finite comprehension, but He has taken the initiative by giving us a thirst for Him and providing the water of life to satisfy us. He does not

hide from us, rather He has come among us, to seek us out and save us (John 1:14, Luke 19:10). The Lord of life is not unknown, rather He is uncovered.

God unescapable (17:29-31)

Having challenged the pagan religion of Athenians, Paul calls for a change of life, repentance. He says, "The times of ignorance God overlooked" (v. 30), but now He calls everyone to repent. God has never ignored evil or sin in any form, so what the Apostle is saying is that God has not rendered immediate, final judgment. The Lord will, however, ultimately "judge the world in righteousness" (v. 31), and there will be no escape.

Each one must respond to the message of Jesus Christ even as the Athenians did. We note three possible responses (vv. 32-34). "Some mocked," we may at our own peril deny the truth. "But others said, 'We will hear you again,'" so a second possibility is delay. Why postpone the greatest thing in the world? Some of the Athenians made the right choice, discipleship, for "some men joined Him and believed." The Spirit speaks to each of us in language we can understand, so let us accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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Missionaries avoid South Korean violence

By Erich Bridges

PUSAN, South Korea (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries in South Korea's cities are breathing tear gas these days. So is almost everyone else who lives or works near the growing demonstrations against the government.

But so far, missionaries say the violent student protests have not seriously disrupted their work or Korean Baptist churches.

"We're having a lot of demonstrations down here in Pusan," reported Medical Missionary Charles Sands, who works at the Baptist hospital in the southern city.

"We've (treated) two or three students for getting too much tear gas," Sands said. "Last night, apparently the police were chasing the students, and a bunch of them ran in the hospital and of course that brought in all the tear gas. ... It was kind of a mess this morning when I went down there."

Missionaries confirm an anti-American tone in some of the demonstrations. They say the protests are directed against U.S. government policy toward South Korea, not against American citizens there. But U.S. officials have warned Americans to avoid the demonstrations. Avoiding the tear gas is not as easy.

"We're close enough to Yonsei (University) that we get tear gas every time they

do," said Don Jones, administrator in Seoul for the 135 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to South Korea. "But we don't have any trouble getting around the city unless we get too close to where they may be having some demonstrations."

That could change if the government applies "extraordinary measures" to restore order, as it threatened June 19 after protesters killed a policeman in Taejon. Whether those measures might include some form of martial law remains to be seen.

"We've had martial law here many times," said Jones, a 31-year veteran of Korea missions. "You abide by the rules, and life moves on."

But observers say martial law would be a serious step just 15 months before the start of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, which Koreans see as a chance to showcase their remarkable national achievements for the world. And no one wants another Kwangju.

Hundreds of people died in 1980 in the city of Kwangju, when the military crushed a violent student rebellion. "There was considerably more violence in the Kwangju incident, but it didn't last this long," Jones said of the current protests.

University students, the political opposition, some church groups, and a growing segment of the middle class are demanding direct election of the president, rather than the current indirect electoral system. The government cut off negotiations on the issue in April and ruled that talks could not resume until after next February, when President Chun Doo Hwan is scheduled to turn power over to a successor chosen by the National Assembly.

In late June, however, the government appeared to be moderating its stand against negotiations in the face of national unrest. President Chun agreed to meet with opposition leaders.

Escalation of the recent demonstrations

began when protestors occupied the grounds of the Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul, with the apparent support of Korean Catholic leaders. In recent years many Korean Protestants have joined Catholics in calling for political and social change. Korean Baptists, up to this point, have not.

"Baptists have not made any official statements as a denomination," Jones reported. "They've left that more to individuals to deal with. Typically, the Catholics and also the Methodists have been the most outspoken in political or social fields. Baptists have had the image of saying, 'We want to preserve our right to preach the gospel without hindrance,' and have left it to the individual to express his political views."

Former WMU headquarters sold to Birmingham firm

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The former national headquarters building of Woman's Missionary Union has been sold to LTC Joint Venture, composed of Land Title Company and Colonial Properties Inc. of Birmingham.

The building is located on the corner of 6th Avenue North and 20th Street in downtown Birmingham. It served as WMU national headquarters for 33 years, from 1951 to 1984.

WMU officials placed a historical marker on the building June 2.

"I am glad that the building will be in the hands of an old, established, Alabama

company," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of national WMU. "I feel good that it is now owned by such a stable respected company."

The \$2-million payment has been applied to the \$5-million debt which resulted when the national staff relocated in 1984 from the downtown facility to the new headquarters complex atop New Hope Mountain on the outskirts of Birmingham.

Contributions to a Centennial Thank Offering are expected to retire the remaining debt when WMU centennial is celebrated in 1988.

Seminarian calls churches to more creative ministries

SAN FRANCISCO (BP) — Southern Baptist church-starting efforts in western states will remain successful only as long as the churches are representative of the culture and are not clones of Southern congregations, the president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary said.

"Western culture has different values than those with which many Southern Baptists are familiar, and we must present the gospel in the context of that culture," noted William O. Crews of Mill Valley, Calif.

Crews made his observations during a national meeting of state interfaith witness coordinators in San Francisco.

The four-day session was sponsored by the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"Theological baggage founded on tradition rather than Scripture needs to be jettisoned if we are to move forward in ministry. In addition to more ethnic congregations, we also need more Anglo fellowships that are not 'hung up' on the ways of worship with which we have been traditionally familiar," said the former president of the Northwest Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

A native Texan who has served as pastor of churches in California, Oregon, and Washington, Crews said he is noticing more churches who feel they can be Southern Baptist without having "Baptist" as part of their names.

"These churches don't want their witness hindered by any title. Most dropped 'Southern' from their names years ago and some have deleted 'Baptist' from their signs. It doesn't mean you have to give up any distinctives or doctrines. In fact, some of these are doing a superior job of indoctrinating people into their fellowships with extensive discipleship programs."

"We need to be free to experiment with different approaches to ministry that do not compromise our beliefs," he added. "If we keep insisting on doing things like we did 40 years ago in the South, we're not going to reach very many people in the West."

California alone has 27-million residents — 10 percent of the nation's population and one out of every seven of the country's college students. But only 4 percent of its residents attend church regularly, Crews said polls revealed.

During the meeting, James Redding of Brentwood was presented the first state coordinator of the year award for his leadership as interfaith witness coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Redding has been in the post for more than three years and was honored for his creative approach to ministry.

Panama emergency closes churches

PANAMA CITY, Panama (BP) — Christians in Panama will have to worship in their homes until the state of emergency declared by the government June 11 is lifted.

The state of emergency suspended civil liberties and banned all public meetings as soldiers patrolled the streets of Panama City in the wake of days of political demonstrations and violence.

"We will not be able to even get together in churches," reported Southern Baptist Missionary Sharon Cook by telephone June 12. "They have said that the only place you can meet with anybody is in your home. We have a news blackout here completely, no newspapers other than the one state newspaper. We are able to telephone each other and ... we can move a little bit. But we have to be careful where we move."

Americans in Panama, including the 24 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to the country, have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel while the violence continues.

The demonstrations against the government began June 9 following charges of electoral fraud involving the Panamanian military.

Interpretations

The assigning Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19).

On this verse Leo I, the first Roman Catholic pope, based his right, and through the priesthood, to forgive or not to forgive sins. If this be the meaning, Jesus gave the same right to each local church (Matthew 18:18).

Unfortunately, this is not a correct translation of the Greek text. More unfortunately, most modern translations follow it. Williams does not, though he does not exactly translate the Greek verb tenses for "shall be bound ... shall be loosed." This reading is to the effect that on earth the church acts, and later heaven approves it.

The only translation with which I am familiar which exactly and correctly translates these verbs is *The New American Standard Bible*. The correct reading is "shall have been bound ... shall have been loosed." In other words, heaven has already decreed. And the church is to act in accord with that decree. We do not tell God not to forgive or to forgive sin. To the contrary, He has already told us.

"Keys" lock and unlock doors. Some interpret this in terms of keys being symbolic of rabbinical authority. But this seems out of context when these verbs are properly translated. The issue is not authority but responsibility. I see the

"keys" as the gospel given to us to proclaim. If it is not proclaimed, the doors to the kingdom are closed to those who have never heard it. If proclaimed, the door is open to all who will enter by grace through faith.

So the sense is that if we bind the gospel on earth by not proclaiming it, heaven has already decreed that there is no other plan by which people can be saved. But if we loose it by proclaiming it, many will hear, some will believe, and heaven has already decreed that those who believe will be saved.

It is a great privilege to be custodians of the gospel. But it is a greater responsibility.

College ministers create network

NASHVILLE (BP) — The first national workshop for church ministers to college students has helped establish a new network for support and sharing ideas, according to some of the 160 participants.

Unlike pastors, ministers to college students do not often have a network of peers to share problems and ideas, explained Art Herron, a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board national student ministries consultant who coordinated the workshop May 25-29 in Nashville.

The meeting was the first national student ministries-sponsored event specifically for church ministers. Herron said he hopes participants will plan similar state or regional meetings.