

Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 153/No. 34/August 26, 1987

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

BSSB trustees act on Bible commentary

By Linda Lawson and Dan Martin
RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board reserved the right to approve consulting editors for a new conservative multi-volume Bible commentary during their summer meeting.

As the first of six consulting editors to work on the new commentary to be written by inerrantists — which was authorized during their February 1987 meeting —

trustees named Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas and a leader in the nine-year effort to turn the Southern Baptist Convention to a more conservative direction.

In other matters, trustees opted to stay with two full board meetings per year and adopted a 1987-88 budget of \$164.8-million, an increase of about \$9-million over projected 1986-87 income of \$155.6-million.

The recommendation to continue hav-

ing two annual meetings but lengthened to allow more time for business was adopted after a substitute motion by Rick Forrester, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lilburn, Ga., to move to four annual meetings, failed by a vote of 35-25. Forrester had requested in February 1987 that consideration be given to four meetings.

Trustees overwhelmingly approved a recommendation from President Lloyd

Elder to elevate the Sunday School department to division status with Harry Piland, director of the department, becoming division director, effective October 1987.

They also voted to create a new marketing department in the office of church programs and services to include the materials services department and stepped-up efforts in advertising, promotion. (Continued on page 2)

Pastors study, worship, fellowship at 31st retreat

By Connie Davis

Speakers directed about 140 pastors at the 31st annual Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Retreat to respond to the Bible by evangelizing, leading today's church, and obeying God in other areas of their lives. The retreat met Aug. 17-21 at Camp Larson in Newport.

Jack Stanton, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and director of the Institute of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., led eight Bible study sessions.

Stanton suggested the pastors follow the pattern of a New Testament church to prevent the drop-out of church members. That pattern directs the church to be dif-

ferent from the world, obedient to God, able to learn, a fellowship, reverent, sharing, worshipping, happy and witnessing.

"Some of the best revivals I've been in have come out of brokenness (in a church)," said Stanton.

He noted that a fine line divides ostracizing sinners and preaching against sin.

"It would be a shame to miss the potential in a human life because we didn't care enough to love them and serve them."

The large numbers of persons saved at a church such as First Baptist Church in Dallas are not a response to the preaching of W. A. Criswell, the pastor, but the

leadership of the teachers, continued Stanton.

He defended missionaries who serve in ministries other than full-time evangelism, noting that those ministries are often needed before witnessing can be effective.

Persons are saved, he continued, because of the love shown, not because of the verses or the logic used. He challenged the pastors to become more sensitive to the urgings of the Holy Spirit to witness.

Stanton also called for Bible teaching. "Never has it seemed to mean so much to be a church member and so little to be a God-fearing . . . Christian."

The camp pastor, Rick White, shared eight messages at the retreat. White is pastor of First Baptist Church in Franklin and 1986-87 president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

White contended that little tasks and unimportant people do not exist in Christian work.

Exclaiming that the Bible is "inerrant," White reminded the pastors that the Bible is useless if its commands are not followed.

Pastors who move often to serve another church, may need to examine themselves and ask for forgiveness, but (Continued on page 2)



FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT — Jack Stanton, first vice-president of the SBC from Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., shared personal experiences as he led the Bible study sessions at the Pastors' Retreat.

Church in Memphis calls woman to serve as pastor

Nancy Hastings Sehested, associate pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., since 1981, has been called as pastor of Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis, effective Oct. 25.

Sehested is believed to be the first woman called as pastor of a Tennessee Baptist church in the convention's history.

The Memphis church voted Aug. 23 by an 83 percent majority to call her as pastor.

Sehested said she doubts if the 83 percent vote would be mirrored by Southern Baptists at large in the Memphis area, but expressed gratitude for the support from members at Prescott Memorial.

Ralph Chumbley, a member of the search committee, said the church had been looking for "the best candidate, male or female, for almost a year."

A native Texan, Sehested is a graduate of City College of New York, New York City, and Union Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y., where she earned her master of divinity degree. She also attended Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.; and Monclair State College, Upper Merion, N.J.

She has served on the steering committee for Women in Ministry, a Southern

Baptist organization, and as a speaker for the SBC Forum. Her father and grandfather both were Southern Baptist ministers.

She is married to Kenneth Sehested, executive director of Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. They have two daughters: Jessica, 11, and Alanya, 7.

July gifts boost SBC CP rate

NASHVILLE (BP) — July contributions to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program ranked 10th on the list of monthly receipts for the convention-wide missions budget, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the denomination's Executive Committee.

The Cooperative Program finances Southern Baptist evangelistic, ministry, and educational efforts worldwide. The national receipts come from 37 Baptist state conventions, which receive contributions from Southern Baptist congregations.

July receipts were \$10,778,300, an increase of slightly more than \$1.5-million over receipts for July of 1986, a gain of 16.24 percent.

After 10 months of the 1986-87 fiscal year, the Cooperative Program has received \$108,893,265. That is a gain of almost \$5.3-million over the same period last year.

The Cooperative Program's strong showing in July pushed the year-to-date increase to 5.09 percent, compared to the current U.S. inflation rate of about 4 percent.

"I was surprised and gratified at the size of last month's increase," Bennett said. He noted that in recent months the inflation rate had climbed while the Cooperative Program gain had fallen, bringing them almost dead-even at the end of June.

He gave credit to the state Baptist conventions for maintaining the Cooperative Program's increases: "I must commend the state convention leaders for the way they have continued to increase the percentage of their contributions to Southern Baptist Convention causes. The states are increasing their contributions to SBC causes more consistently than churches are increasing their gifts to the states."

Rash of robberies plagues missionaries in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY (BP) — A series of armed robberies and robbery attempts has plagued Southern Baptist missionaries in Guatemala this summer, apparently as a result of a local missionary directory falling into criminal hands.

In a recent incident, missionaries Ted and Sue Lindwall returned from church Aug. 2 to find three armed men ransacking their home. The men had broken a window to get inside and had tied up a guard in the house.

Mrs. Lindwall chased one of the men out of the house with a knife. Her husband pursued the other two into the yard. But they turned on him brandishing guns, forced him to his knees, and took his wallet, which contained more than \$200. Jewelry and some Baptist convention funds inside the house also were taken. The robbers tried to take the Lindwalls' car but could not shift the gears into reverse.

Two men tried to break into another missionary home in Guatemala City the same day but were turned away by a guard. The same week a group of known criminals tried to gain entrance to a third missionary home, and a fourth home was being watched by presumed robbers, according to missionaries.

These incidents follow the May 28 robbery at gunpoint of Missionary Margie Carothers, whose car, wedding rings, and purse were taken.

One Baptist layman, a retired Guatemalan police official, has suggested the incidents are related and indicate an organized attempt to rob or frighten Southern Baptist missionaries. He recommended that armed guards be hired, at least temporarily, to protect all missionary homes in Guatemala City.

Missionary Don Doyle, whose own house was the target of an apparent robbery attempt, agrees the incidents are related. But he said he believes the motive is money, not intimidation.

"I feel like a group has gotten hold of information regarding our particular mission," Doyle said. "We know pretty well how it happened. We had a car stolen here recently and in that car was a directory

that has all our names and addresses in it. I think they're going down the list. But I doubt seriously that it's for the purpose of terrorizing us. I think it's for the purpose of getting in and robbing us."

Doyle said missionaries in the city are beefing up home security and would be

"extremely careful" during the next few months. But the mission organization has declined the suggestion of armed guards.

"We do not want to project the image of having to be protected by an armed military guard," explained Doyle. "We're not interested in that."

Crimes like robbery and burglary have increased in Guatemala because of hunger and worsening economic conditions, he said. North Americans in the country make "vulnerable targets," he added, because they tend not to be as careful about personal and property security as Guatemalans are.

Apparently unrelated to the missionary robberies is the trouble surrounding Family of God Baptist Church in the city. The church has been robbed and vandalized five times in the last year.

In the latest incident, four men held a guard at gunpoint while they smashed furniture and an accordion, the church's only musical instrument, and took a Communion table. Pastor Isaac Batz said he believes the attacks are part of a systematic persecution of the church by people who do not want an evangelical witness in the community. Missionaries John and Anne Brackin are members of the church.

BSSB trustees meet...

(Continued from page 1)

tion, product planning, and other facets of marketing. Charles Livingstone, a 24-year employee of the board and director of the materials services department since 1981, will head the new unit.

Trustees also voted to "assure the Southern Baptist Convention that we will operate the Baptist Sunday School Board in compliance with the spirit and the letter of the Peace Committee report..."

A two-paragraph response to the Peace Committee was adopted by trustees after they declined to act on a longer version proposed by the board's Plans and Policies Committee. The shorter version — written by Robert Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Baptist Church of Morganton, N.C. — was adopted by a narrow margin over the more detailed response which spelled out that the board has been using the Baptist Faith and Message as a primary doctrinal guideline since 1969. Employees also have signed a statement of agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message since 1969.

A church literature average rate increase of 4.5 percent, effective April 1988, and a 1988 conference center average rate increase of 4.3 percent also were approved.

A recommendation to include sanctity of human life and opposition to abortion in the list of social and moral concerns referenced in literature was adopted without discussion. Also, the board will promote Sanctity of Human Life Sunday beginning in January 1989 and will consider, as part of a Sunday School curriculum study currently in process, an annual lesson on sanctity of life.

Sunday School Board trustees approve master properties plan

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — A Nashville properties master plan for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was approved by trustees of the board along with approval for preliminary work on phase one, which includes expansion of the warehouse and construction of a six-story office building.

The plan was developed by the board's administration in conjunction with a Trustee Space Study Committee appointed in 1985 to look at long-term space needs through the year 2000.

Approval of the plan includes a commitment for the board to remain at its downtown Nashville location. A 51.3-acre property site several miles from downtown purchased in 1985 for a possible warehouse/distribution center is appreciating in value and will not be sold for the present, according to the report.

Projections for future space needs of the board were made on the basis of serving the needs of a denomination including about 17.5-million members by the year 2000, according to David Turner, director of the management services division. Present SBC church membership stands at slightly more than 14-million.

Phase one, a \$14.2-million project ap-

proved by trustees for "direction, overall concept, and preliminary cost range," includes building a multi-story office-conference building above the center area of the operations building, expanding that building, and expanding parking on a remaining roof area of the building.

In response to a question from a trustee, Turner said the project can be paid for with funds already set aside in budgets of the last two years and from fixed assets reserve funds.

While the office-conference building will include six stories, only four stories will be completed in phase one.

Turner said expansion of the operations building can be completed with the purchase of one piece of property currently under negotiation and purchase of land underneath a portion of the building for which the board owns air rights and an option to buy. That land is expected to become available in the next few months.

Turner said present plans call for completing warehouse expansion by the end of 1988 and construction of the office-conference tower by early 1990.

With approval of the overall plan and preliminary work on phase one, each major development of the plan will be presented to trustees for future action.

The action on the new Bible commentary began in the Tuesday morning session when trustee Jodi Chapman, a homemaker and member of the SBC Peace Committee from Wichita Falls, Texas, asked the board to name Patterson as general editor and Carl F.H. Henry, former editor of Christianity Today magazine, as consulting editor.

Chapman's motion would have moved the current general editor, Michael Smith, chief editor of Broadman books at the board, to managing editor of the commentary.

Chapman, however, withdrew her motion Wednesday morning in favor of a recommendation by the Broadman Committee to name Patterson one of six consulting editors.

Courson, who said he had no problems with Patterson being a contributing editor, questioned whether it is the role of trustees to approve editors for the new commentary.

Dean Mathis, pastor of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church of Hobbs, N.M., and a member of the Broadman Committee which brought the recommendation, introduced an amendment calling for the remainder of the proposed slate of consulting editors to be presented to trustees in February 1988 for final approval. If the administration needs to move faster, Mathis said, a special session of the full trustee board should be called.

Despite a warning from administrators that trustees were making administrative decisions and after a further effort to amend the action, trustees voted to approve the amended motion.

Two motions by Larry Holly, a physician from Beaumont, Texas, concerning Sunday School literature were debated and substitute motions adopted.

One asked that a nine-member committee of trustees be allowed to develop one quarter of adult Sunday School literature as a demonstration project. A substitute motion by Courson, adopted 36-26, asked the administration to bring recommended changes from the two-year Sunday School curriculum study for consideration at the February 1988 meeting.

A second motion by Holly asked that a letter from six Sunday School workers expressing concerns about preschool Sunday School literature be included in the minutes but referred to the Bible teaching committee for response. A substitute motion by J. B. Flowers, pastor emeritus of West Hampton Baptist Church in Hampton, Va., asking that the matter be referred to the administration passed 37-29.

Mae Mynatt, 91, dies

Mae Mynatt died Aug. 15 at Oak Ridge Methodist Hospital. She was 91.

Her son, Dillard Mynatt is pastor of First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge.

A life-long member of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Mynatt worked for 15 years at the Knox county lodge at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina.

Calvin Metcalf, pastor of the Fountain City church, officiated at her memorial service on Aug. 16.

Retreat...

(Continued from page 1)

they should not follow the example of the many pastors leaving the ministry.

"We're quick to label each other, but we're slow to wash," he stated, referring to the example of service set by Jesus as he washed the feet of the disciples.

Evangelism and study must be balanced in a church, White suggested.

In a message on obedience to God, White cited that obeying God may lead to a "collision with reason" and added that "spiritual activity is no substitute for obedience to God."

White submitted, "If we don't get God involved in Bold Mission Thrust, it's going to be Bold Mission Bust for Southern Baptists." He called the pastors to go to the mission field, be willing to send their children, and get serious about their support of those on the field.

Speaking on the family, he said, "The church has finally recognized that divorced people are not second class spiritual citizens," but the church "must never compromise what God says is right."

Montrose Streeter, associate campus minister at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, suggested that the pastors should emphasize the love of Jesus rather than the wrath of Jesus.

Phil Glisson, an evangelist based in Memphis, encouraged the pastors to use what they have instead of becoming discouraged by bigger churches. He also submitted that most of the falsehoods today come from secularism.

The pastor of First Baptist Church in Nashville, Charles Page, stated, "There is no room for arrogance and bitterness and anger in our churches today." He also said that Christians should discover the spiritual condition of every person they meet.

Other speakers included Robert Hamblin, vice-president, evangelism section, Home Mission Board; J. W. Bargiol, director of missions, Big Emory Baptist Association; and Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Jerry King, associate director of the TBC evangelism department, directed the camp. Bucky Phillips, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Sevierville, led the music accompanied by James Brown, a member of Manley Baptist Church in Morristown; and Archie Fendley, minister of activities at Central Baptist Church, Bearden, in Knoxville, led camp recreation.

Family, friends laud life of missionary

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — "I think he will be well remembered," Jewell Waldron said with a trace of pride in her voice.

Family and friends of Troy M. Waldron Jr. gathered Aug. 16 to do just that — remember the life and work of the Southern Baptist missionary who was killed in an Aug. 4 helicopter accident in Ethiopia.

Waldron's wife, Jewell, stood before participants in a memorial service in Silver Spring, Md., and described the crash that claimed the lives of her husband and the helicopter's pilot, Steve Bartalsky. Originally, four people were to have been on the helicopter. Mrs. Waldron said, adding the fact her husband and Bartalsky ended up as the only passengers proved to her their deaths were not an accident, but "part of God's specific plan."

Mrs. Waldron reported a brief graveside funeral service was held for the two men Aug. 6 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and a memorial service was held Aug. 9 in International Evangelical Church, the congregation attended by the Waldrons, Bartalskys, and a number of missionaries and relief workers.

Closing her comments, Mrs. Waldron said of her husband, "He's happy. I'm sure, to be home with his Lord."

John Faulkner, Eastern and Southern Africa area director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said Waldron's enthusiasm, energy, and joy were "like a breath of fresh air."

Recalling that Waldron finished at the

head of his language class and spent his last furlough learning to use a computer to assist in translation, Faulkner told people gathered at Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church, the Waldrons' home church, "Troy exemplified what it meant to be a foreign missionary."

Waldron was business manager and treasurer for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Ethiopia and was helping translate leadership materials. The family returned to Ethiopia about four months ago following a furlough in the United States.

Ed Briggs, pastor of the Silver Spring congregation, said, "Troy was bound for Ethiopia just as Jesus was bound for Jerusalem," with both men realizing the potential dangers involved in following God's will. "Troy's mistakes were never in failing to act."

A letter written by an Ethiopian worker at the Southern Baptist mission in Addis Ababa and read during the memorial service told how the news of Waldron's death "shocked our hearts so hard that we couldn't eat or sleep that night." Fikadu Jembere added, "It is not easy to miss him."

Another voice from Ethiopia joined in remembering Waldron. Suzanne Groce, who along with her husband, Lynn, is on furlough in Florida from service as a Southern Baptist career missionary in Ethiopia, read an original poem she wrote about Waldron following his death.

In addition, four former mission volunteers and a former journeyman to Ethiopia, as well as two former mission

volunteers to Kenya, attended the memorial service. Also present were Susan and Rachel Thompson Robertson, the widow and daughter of Roger L. Thompson, a Southern Baptist missionary killed in an Ecuadorian airliner crash in 1983.

People gathered for the memorial service shared many memories of Waldron, who began his spiritual pilgrimage as a 9-year-old Royal Ambassador in the Luther Rice congregation. He became the most highly decorated RA in that church's history.

As a teen-ager, Waldron organized an extensive camping program in his home church, including scheduling youth choir concerts at various state parks. It was through the youth choir program that he met his wife, the former Deborah Jewell.

"The things we dreamed about, Troy went out and did," said Jerry Barringer, a member of Luther Rice. "He always projected such an enthusiasm for everything."

"And he always used the talents he had. He didn't go to Ethiopia as an evangelist or preacher. He was a businessman and liked to work with people, so that's how he went to the mission field."

Barringer recalled even when Waldron was forced to return from Ethiopia for emergency reasons — the death of his sister in 1984, the death of his mother-in-law in 1985, and the death of his father in 1986 — he was "always busy helping other people while he was here."

Mrs. Waldron said she hopes to return to Ethiopia by mid-September to complete

some of the work she and her husband began. Her plans are then to return to the United States permanently in December or January.

She asked Southern Baptists to pray for people — career missionaries and short-term volunteers — who have business and administration skills to go to Ethiopia.

"The real problem now with Troy gone — Troy who normally did the work of about three people — is that we have no one in administration," Mrs. Waldron said. "Troy had just gotten out of language school and he was really starting to get the office organized. A lot of things with the famine crunch had just gone by the wayside because we were so busy."

"The last three years it had been the tyranny of the urgent. The absolutely most urgent thing would be what would be done and that normally was concerning food and personnel."

Mrs. Waldron said she thinks her husband will be remembered in Ethiopia for his energy and hard work. She recalled her husband also expected his employees to work hard. But, she added, the workers realized Waldron would never ask them to do anything he was not willing to do himself and respected him for his fairness.

"He was also very well loved," Mrs. Waldron said. "He really cared about spreading the gospel in Ethiopia as far and as quickly as possible."

"His real love was the literature program. The impact he had on literature belies the four years he was there."

Seminary professors join group to protect rights

By Diane Winston

DALLAS (BP) — Fearful of a conservative attack, moderates who teach at Southern Baptist seminaries have joined a secular organization pledged to defend academic freedom and job security.

More than two dozen professors at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary have formed a chapter of the American Association of University Professors at their Wake Forest, N.C., campus. Individual professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., also have joined the national organization, which seeks to promote higher education and protect the profession's standards, ideals, and welfare.

"There does come a time in the kinds of problems we're facing now when a per-

son has to pay attention to individual rights and privileges," said Temp Sparkman, a Southern Baptist professor who was accused of teaching heresy last year.

Sparkman, who teaches at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was acquitted of "un-Baptist" teaching by seminary trustees who ordered him to revise his latest book.

"We'd like to do our work unhindered," he said, "but we're learning that's not the case and won't be the case for a number of years."

Sparkman said there had been no move to start an American Association of University Professors chapter on his campus.

The appearance of the association chapters underlies the new realities of

Southern Baptist life. This summer, conservatives in the 14.6-million-member denomination culminated a nine-year struggle to control the convention's 20 agencies and institutions. And with their hold virtually secure, conservatives are setting about their primary goal — to clean up the seminaries, particularly Southern and Southeastern.

The schools' faculties and administrators say they are faithful to Baptist principles. But moderates see several ominous trends, including the convention's adoption of a report recommending that the trustees of its six seminaries "determine the theological position of seminary administrators and faculty members."

The president of the Southeastern

American Association of University Professors chapter, Richard Hester, declined to comment on the group's formation or purpose. But W. Randall Lolley, the seminary's president, said he did not consider the chapter, whose members include more than two-thirds of the faculty, to be adversarial.

"I'm sure there is some element of feeling it gives them a wider court of appeals in some of these matters that are controversial now," Lolley said.

The association's members say the group cannot offer any guarantees if jobs are threatened. But in the past, it has helped professors with legal and financial assistance and has censured schools that unfairly dismiss professors.

"This will allow a group of professors some platform to communicate," said Kenneth Chafin, a professor at Southern seminary. "It doesn't give us any political power."

But Chafin's boss, Roy L. Honeycutt, called AAUP membership "a needless action."

"In my judgment, belonging to AAUP will not do anything pro or con regarding their security," said Honeycutt, president of Southern seminary. "In our system, due process is followed throughout."

Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said the issue raised by the association's membership was broader than whether schools followed due process.

"This is a tragic testimony of the mood of suspicion and distrust that pervades our denomination," Dilday said. "People are searching for assurance, protection, and guidance — and it seems to be getting worse, not better."

—Diane Winston is religion editor for the Dallas Times Herald.

Volunteers rebuild Saragosa

SARAGOSA, Texas (BP) — Texas Baptist volunteers have erected the first new house at Saragosa, the western Texas town destroyed by a tornado May 22, and plans are being made to rebuild the entire community Aug. 24 through Sept. 11.

Included in the rebuilding plan is an around-the-clock building effort by volunteers on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7.

Up to 450 Texas Baptist volunteers will take part in the building project, in which as many as 60 homes are expected to be rebuilt. Among the laborers will be 75 to 100 retired couples who work regularly with Olen Miles and the Texas Baptist Men Retiree Builders.

A group from Woodway First Baptist Church, Robinson First Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church, all of Waco, erected the first house at Saragosa July

29 through Aug. 2. They were assisted by two Varones Bautistas, or Hispanic Baptist Men, from Dallas. Their labor provided a two-bedroom home for Sophia Gomez, a 60-year-old widow who is bringing up two children.

The home was prefabricated on the parking lot at Woodway and raised onsite by the volunteers. Most of the materials used in building the house were donated by Waco-area merchants, and other materials were purchased by churches in Waco Baptist Association.

Two Texas Baptist couples from Second Baptist Church in Lake Jackson are working on a one-bedroom Red Cross model home that is expected to be completed by Aug. 15. A group of Mennonite families from Kansas are erecting a three-bedroom home that also is being built with Red Cross funds.



ANNIVERSARY — Orlinda Baptist Church, Orlinda, recently celebrated its 155th anniversary. Former Pastor Dwayne Sheumaker (left), now pastor of Valley View Baptist Church, Nashville, was present for the celebration. Sheumaker was pastor from 1969-79. The present pastor, Joe Evans (right) succeeded Sheumaker.

Editorial

Tennessee Baptists need to stay informed

Churches all across Tennessee will observe Baptist and Reflector Day Aug. 30.

This year, as in past years, we offered to send free copies of the B&R in bulk to any church that requested them. We are pleased to report that about 60 churches requested a total of more than 5,500 copies. We appreciate that kind of response.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 70,227

Charlie Warren
Associate Editor

Connie Davis
Assistant Editor

Baptist and Reflector

Mona Collett
Church News Assistant

Doris Elliott
Advertising

Rita Gambill
Production Assistant

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Fred Isaacs, chairman; Paul Bryant, vice-chairman; Paul Barkley, David Drumel, Ray Fowler, Marshall Gupton, Calvin Harvell, Mrs. Richard Hawkins, James Hulson, Murray Mathis, Calvin Metcalf, Perry Michel, Jerry Oakley, Jere Plunk, Dennis Pulley, James Robertson, Lon Shoopman Jr., and Fred Steelman.

Of course, hundreds of churches all across the state provide copies to their members each week through either the church budget plan or the club plan. (See the masthead below for details on the cost of those plans.)

Anyone who has watched the circulation figure, which is updated on this page each week, is aware that our circulation has declined in recent years. This problem is not unique to the B&R. Every state paper has experienced similar decline. So have most secular publications. Postal increases in recent years are partly to blame, but we also are aware that you, our reader, are bombarded with reading material daily, not to mention the flood of information on TV, radio, billboard, and other media.

We believe it is extremely important to get the Baptist and Reflector into as many homes of Tennessee Baptist church members as possible. Informed Baptists make better church members. Informed Baptists are more supportive of Baptist work beyond their own doorstep. Informed Baptists are more active in volunteer service to the needs of mankind. Informed Baptists can pray more specifically. Informed Baptists make wiser decisions in church business meetings, in associational meetings, in state convention life, and at the Southern Baptist Convention level.

This publication is far from perfect. We make mistakes and use poor judgment on occasion. But we strive weekly for accuracy, fairness, timeliness, and balance. We believe in, and fight to protect, the right of Baptists to know what is going on in Baptist life, how their money is spent, and yes, even when there is "bad" news. We try to follow two Baptist adages, one a twist on the first — "tell the truth and trust the people" and "trust the Lord and tell the people."

We practice advocacy journalism. That

means we believe in and advocate the mission of the New Testament church as expressed in Southern Baptist life.

While we are sometimes criticized for focusing on controversy, especially during the recent years of the SBC crisis, a careful reader will be aware that a small percentage of our space deals with controversial material. We feature news about missions — in the local church, at the associational level, in TBC work, on the home mission field, and around the world. We report news about TBC churches. We present information about Baptist agencies and institutions. We keep the work of the TBC Executive Board staff before the people. Occasionally we focus on moral issues, especially when Baptist people get involved, as they have in the recent opposition to pari-mutuel gambling efforts in the state. We offer our readers human interest feature stories on individual Baptists who are being used by God in extraordinary ways.

Our new editor, W. Fletcher Allen, will begin his duties with us in September. He will bring to this publication some additional skills and spiritual gifts. He has served Baptists well through the years, most recently as editor of the Baptist True Union, the state Baptist paper of Maryland/Delaware, and before that as associate editor of the Baptist Courier, South Carolina's state Baptist paper. Pray for him as he begins his new responsibilities with us, striving to make the B&R the best service to Tennessee Baptists that is humanly possible.

We welcome feedback from you, our readers. Through the years, your support of the Baptist and Reflector has been excellent. We are grateful.

On this observance of B&R Day 1987, we express sincere gratitude for your interest and support. (CEW)

Retreat participants reveal insight into ministry

By Connie Davis

Meeting men like Guy Farris, pastor of Wilhite Baptist Church in Cookeville, and Don Peek, chaplain at Green Valley Development Center in Greeneville, at the recent Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Retreat helped me understand the annual meeting.

Farris and Peek have both attended the retreat for 27 years without missing a year.

Among his anecdotes about church life and the retreats since 1960, Peek explained that the lives of many Tennessee pastors are changed at this retreat every year. He has seen them grow bigger and better churches because of some retreat experiences.

Peek's commitment to the ministry has led him in his retirement to work with about 700 residents at Green Valley Development Center. He explained that when a child reaches for his hand with crippled hands and then kisses his hand, he is reminded of how the children must have acted toward Jesus. He is glad to help them, he said.

Attending his first retreat was Harold Newby, a silver-bearded hulk of a man, who, until a year ago, did construction work or operated his own business.

Just nine years ago, Newby was drinking heavily, his business was about to go broke, and he was about to lose his family. While sitting in a bar, he prayed to God, and from then until today his life as been dramatically different.

He started attending church, made a profession of faith, and within three to four months, he led about 10 persons to Christ.

He took therapy for a speech impediment, graduated from the University of Tennessee, and served as a supply preacher. Explaining that he didn't immediately exercise his faith by leaving his work to begin his ministry, Newby was called about a year ago as pastor of St. Clair Baptist Church in Spring City, where his wife and children were members before he was saved.

"This is my testimony that I give for Jesus," said Newby, and his tears also told the story he shared with me.

Another Tennessean met at the retreat shared some of the blessings and trials of his nearly 40 years in the ministry. When he was 35 and had a family, he felt called to the ministry. He enrolled at Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy at Seymour and earned his high school diploma in just

nine months with the highest score ever made at that time in the testing.

Reflecting on the smaller churches he has served, he said the Lord has used him to prepare many churches to become what they are today. He was able to use his construction experience to help provide for his family.

Many pastors of small churches need encouragement because of little recognition and congregations that are "set (set)" in their ways, he said. "But those people need someone to serve them."

During one period, when he did not have a church to serve as pastor, he financed his own radio program because of his burden to preach. He never solicited funds on the show, he added. For 16 years he continued the program, even after he began serving a church as pastor.

He currently is retired and not serving as a pastor, but has written a book of his sermons and also writes songs to share the gospel.

These and other Tennessee pastors deserve thanks and praise for what they have done and what they continue to do for our Lord.

Union Hill calls Watkins as pastor

Union Hill Baptist Church in Nashville has called Bob Watkins to the pastorate. His previous pastorates include Dumas Baptist Church, Dumas, Miss.; Temple Baptist Church, Myrtle, Miss.; Longview Baptist Church, Belden, Miss. Watkins attended Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Miss.

Red Bank group experiences 'first' on Venezuelan trip

The 33-member mission team from Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, presented the first government approved Christian concert in the amphitheater in downtown Maracay.

Traveling to Venezuela July 9, and returning July 20, the mission group had a twofold aim — music and maintenance.

Housed in a dormitory at the Baptist seminary in Los Teques, the group traveled in the evenings to sing. The youth choir sang 11 times in 11 days, according to Billy Appling, minister of music at the Chattanooga church. A ladies trio was among the adults who made the trip.

Days were filled with light maintenance work at the seminary. A retaining wall was built and grass was planted. One project included stripping and repainting the chairs in the dining hall. They also did some electrical work.

"Music draws a crowd," says Appling, describing the overflow crowds every-

where the group sang. People would stand outside the chapels and churches to hear the Spanish and English lyrics. Aside from two concerts in Caracas and one at the First Baptist Church in Los Teques, the choir did several outdoor concerts. One was in a housing project in San Antonio. A professor from the seminary accompanied the group and interpreted for them as they conversed with listeners one-on-one after the concerts.

Noting that the crowds were very receptive, Appling added that the enthusiasm of the people was a real boost for the youth and adults. Highlighting the trip was the concert in Maracay attended by 800 people.

Members of the church, where Fred Steelman is pastor, worked and saved for a year to make the trip. The youth worked together and individually to help pay a portion of their own expenses. A cookbook was published and sold by church members to raise money for the trip.

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.

Where are we headed?

Dear editor:

Two unrelated events recently published in the B&R cause me concern.

The first is the hosting of presidential hopeful Pat Robertson in St. Louis at the time of the annual convention by Jimmy Draper and Bailey Smith. The reception's timing seemed engineered by its hosts to imply Southern Baptist Convention support for Robertson's presidential bid.

Is it in the future of our SBC to endorse presidential candidates? Why are otherwise effective pastors seeking to broaden their circle of influence from pulpit to politics? After feeding the 5,000, that crowd sought to persuade Jesus to go into politics by crowning Him king. He sent them away and went out alone to pray. It is cause for concern when we leave the spiritual ministry and appeal to the idea that we can bring in the millennium by legislation. I object to being represented by implication in actions which I find unbiblical or unconscionable.

The second event is the visit to the pope by Harold Bennett and Carolyn Weatherford. I find myself as a Southern Baptist being represented by two of my leaders in an action I find totally unacceptable. I was amazed to read that Miss Weatherford believes there is a "missions relationship" through Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics. Through the ages, the Roman Catholic Church has been known for idolatry — a heresy which readily accommodates animistic idolatry when it is encountered on the mission field. To what purpose do we lend credence to this world

idolatrous system by conferring with its head?

If our future is to be guided by biblical principles, we can ill afford to ignore our history of polite but firm separation of church and state and church and idolatry. Let us not exchange our heritage for the pottage of "broadening our ministry spectrum."

Al Hodges, missionary
BP 580
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Amazed at criticism

Dear editor:

I have been amazed at all the criticism of President Adrian Rogers for not going to Columbia, S.C., to see the pope. There are several reasons I think he might give for not going.

Since he believes in the priesthood of the believer, maybe he found what God's will was for him. I hear much talk about the priesthood of the believer these days. Is the president of the SBC excluded?

Since Catholics and Baptists are at opposite poles doctrine-wise, maybe he feels he has very little in common with the pope.

Maybe the bowing, kissing, ceremony, and pomp associated with the pope is not our president's cup of tea.

Maybe leading one of the great churches of America and leading the largest protestant denomination is consuming his time and energies. He may plan to go soul winning that day.

Maybe he had planned family time that day, which may be more important than an audience with the pope.

Maybe he did not want to give credence to a man and a religion that misleads millions as to how a man can be right with the Lord God of the universe.

Can't a leader of our convention plan his schedule and decide who he sees or does not see without being badgered by criticism?

Clay Frazier
145 St. John's Road
Morristown, TN 37814

Defense of Genesis

Dear editor:

This is a continuation of the letter I wrote on the first 11 chapters of Genesis as being a myth.

Joe Franklin begins Humboldt ministry

Joe E. Franklin began his ministry at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Humboldt, July 26.

He previously pastored First Baptist Church, Bells, for nine years.

He has attended Union University, Jackson, and presently serves on the committee on arrangement of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

I think the purpose of teaching such doctrine is to do away with sin and the Savior. If you want to know if the first 11 chapters of Genesis are authentic, study the books of Romans and 1 Corinthians.

For sin to enter the world, someone had to sin, and that someone was Adam (Romans 5:12).

Sin resulted in death. "For in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Adam did not live to be 1,000 years old. "But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8). "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died" (Genesis 5:5).

In Romans 5:12-21, there are two men mentioned, Adam and Christ. Please read these Scriptures and notice the contrast between the two.

"For since by man (Adam) came death, by man (Christ) came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). This includes both saved and unsaved.

"Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good (the saved), unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil (unsaved), unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

Arthur H. Cate
Rt. 2, Box 552
Rockwood, TN 37854

Complete confidence

Dear editor:

My first experience with the church training week at Camp Linden was in the summer of 1973. Since then I have returned as often as possible. Johnnie Hall and his talented staff have the best organized youth camp I have ever been associated with in my 15 years of youth work and ministry.

Two years ago, I accepted the call to pastor the Holcomb Baptist Church in Grenada County, Miss. Our youth had not been to camp before, so I chose the one place I could take them with complete confidence. We drove five hours to attend church training week at Camp Linden because I knew Mr. Hall would have Bible teachers that believe the Bible, a camp pastor solid in the Word who could relate to youth, and the best organized camp program in the convention. As a former Tennessee Baptist, I am proud of the Tennessee Baptist Conven-

Personal Perspective



By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Following are some thoughts I had while considering the statement, "To the Saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colossae" (Col. 1:2).

"In Christ and "at Colossae" equals living in two worlds. I live "in Christ" but I also live "in Murfreesboro." I work in your Baptist building, "in Brentwood."

I share His risen life, His continuing presence, and His triumphal adequacy even as we live "in Colossae."

We don't live in just one place but in two places. We don't have an option. God has joined them together.

Some have tried to separate the two "worlds" and live only in Christ. They have attempted to isolate themselves from the world. They have endeavored to secede from the populace. This is contrary to the New Testament. We are to be salt and light. The cross is not only above the church but in the marketplace.

There are those who want only to live "at Colossae." They want to conform to the world and not transform it. They want "to get along by going along." Their motto is: "When in Rome do as the Romans do." This is also contrary to the teachings of Jesus and is always spiritually disastrous.

It is not "either/or" but "both/and."

If we are "in Christ" while "at Colossae," it means we have the inner spiritual strength to live victoriously in the midst of temptation. Jesus has been "in Colossae." He knows about temptation and the strength of Satan and He promises us He will not leave us alone.

To be "In Christ at Colossae" means we can have peace while surrounded by trouble. Inner peace cannot be bought but is a by-product of a life in Christ.

To be "in Christ at Colossae" means that death is another experience of life. John wrote, "whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." We have a life that is death resistant.

When death comes, we will no longer be "at Colossae" but we shall be more alive than ever "in Christ."

tion and the church training department, because they are doing a great work. I truly appreciate Mr. Johnnie Hall's spiritual leadership and genuine Christian cooperation.

Dale Gravatt
Rt. 1, Box 100
Holcomb, MS 38940

New Salem church calls pastor Sharp

Elmer Sharp began his ministry as pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Clinton, July 5.

Previously, he served as pastor of West Maryville Baptist Church in Maryville, for more than seven years.

Other previous pastorates include Grove Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville; Holston Baptist Church, Strawberry Plains; and Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville.

As a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, he presently serves on the public affairs and Christian life committee.



Tennessee/Venezuela prayer net partnership

—Pray for Venezuelan pastors and church leaders who will be nurturing those who made decisions during the Aug. 14-25 evangelistic crusades.

—Continue to pray that visas will be granted for newly appointed missionaries to Venezuela.

—A new Bible institute is being organized in Acarigua. It is scheduled to open in October. Pray for those who will teach there.

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

Please enter a subscription to the Baptist and Reflector for one year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please bill me for \$6.55.

I am enclosing a check for \$6.55.

Clip and mail to: Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

World vision captures rural Tennessee church

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Springfield, may be "out in the country," but it isn't out of touch with the rest of the world.

Eleven members of the Tennessee church have participated in 12 volunteer missions trips at various times since 1981. They have shared their faith in Africa (Burkina Faso and Kenya, specifically), the Caribbean (Jamaica), and South America (Venezuela).

Numerous others have supported the efforts with prayer and finances.

Five young people have committed themselves to mission careers; three are college-age and two are in high school.

Bob Carroll, the church's pastor for the past 16 years, sidesteps any credit for the blossoming missionary spirit.

"It's not something the preacher has done, or anybody else," Carroll says. "It's what the Lord has done in this little country church." It qualifies as little because Sunday School attendance averages 120. It's "country" because it's located between Springfield and White House.

Otherwise, the church, founded in 1838, has moved beyond such stereotypes.

"These are things that were not happening in our church 10 years ago," Carroll says. "It was not because our people

didn't care. Maybe the opportunity was not there, or at least we didn't know it was."

Indeed, volunteer opportunities through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board have increased dramatically in recent years.

Bethlehem's first involvement in the volunteer missions came in 1981 when one of its members, John Cavanah, joined a team of Tennessee Baptists headed to Burkina Faso, then known as Upper Volta, for a construction project. Church members decided to help pay part of his way.

The next year, Cavanah returned to Burkina Faso, accompanied by his wife, Betty, who did literacy work. In 1984, the Cavanahs ventured to Jamaica to assist in Vacation Bible School during the day and evangelistic services at night. The following year, the couple returned to Jamaica, accompanied by Carroll's son, Mark, and another young man.

The pastor's son subsequently led others from Bethlehem to Jamaica — a three-member team last year and a four-member team earlier this year.

Both years, Carroll and his wife, Faye, were among seven other Bethlehem mem-

bers who traveled to Venezuela for evangelistic campaigns. To prepare for the initial trip, they took Spanish lessons once a week.

"We could gibber a little bit, but not very well," Carroll says. "We were able to pretty well follow a conversation." But most of the door-to-door witnessing was handled by Venezuelan church members.

"We saw so many wonderful things happen," the pastor recalls. One young mother, for example, took a religious tract and "read all the way through it by herself, every word out loud, praying the sinner's prayer and receiving Christ as her Savior and Lord without any assistance from anyone."

The Carrolls were impressed that Bap-

tists they worked with didn't shy away from sharing their faith with people who knew them well. Among them was a former drug addict who witnessed to friends in the drug culture.

"The Venezuelan Christians taught us how to worship," Mrs. Carroll adds. They greet each other warmly at church and, when they pray, "every word comes from the heart."

Carroll notes that no Bethlehem member has been hindered in going abroad by a lack of finances. Church members and even anonymous individuals have helped pay the expenses. "God has proven over and over again that He's not going to ask any of us to do something that He does not have the means to accomplish."

The Carroll's son, Mark, is among those who have made commitments to career missions. The couple isn't fretting that someday their son may be thousands of miles away.

"I don't know how it would feel ... to endure that separation," Carroll comments, but he believes "it would be a tremendous feeling if, someday, he were anywhere in the world as long as he was in the Lord's will."

"We have two other sons," Mrs. Carroll says, "and I wish the Lord would call them."



VIBRANT VOLUNTEERS — Bob and Fay Carroll and nine others from Bethlehem Baptist Church, Springfield, are part of a trend toward volunteer work abroad among Southern Baptists. Carroll, pastor of the church, and his wife have worked in evangelistic campaigns in Venezuela.

Houston church hosts theologian

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Willow Meadows Baptist Church in Houston will host the first theologian-in-residence sent to a local church from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Houston church has invited William Tillman Jr., assistant professor of Christian ethics, to act as "Christian ethics resource person" during his sabbatical leave this year. The church's pastor is George Gaston, former pastoral ministry professor at Southwestern.

Tillman, who has taught at Southwestern since 1981, also will serve as interim director of Southwestern's off-campus center at Houston Baptist University.

"This congregation asks that I bring my professional expertise to bear upon them as part of my local church involvement," Tillman said. "I will guide them to learn how they may better apply Christian ethical values in their community."

Tillman will lead Christian ethics seminars at Willow Meadows and other Baptist churches in the Houston area on topics such as child abuse, abortion, and amnesty.

C. D. Arwood accepts pastorate in Adams

Clarence Donald Arwood, Sr. began his pastorate at Red River Baptist Church in Adams on August 14.

His previous pastorates include Wickland Baptist Church, Bardstown Ky., and Oak Hill Baptist Church Crossville.

Arwood attended the University of Hawaii, and Boyce Bible School of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Louisville, Ky.

Collier earns degree

NEW ORLEANS — Jeffrey L. Collier of Columbia received the master of religious education degree in July after participating in the May commencement exercises at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Seminary Extension Classes
For Ministers and Laypersons — Belmont College — Nashville
Fall — 1987

COURSES: Tuesdays (beginning September 22, 1987)
5:30 p.m. — **New Testament Survey, Part I** (NT 0165) taught by Dr. Marvin Nail, pastor, Whitsitt Chapel, Nashville
7:15 p.m. — **Leadership Development** (RE 0261), taught by Dr. Kirby Clark, Seminary Studies Director, SEED, Nashville

TERM: Thirteen weeks
REGISTRATION: During first class session, September 22, 1987
LOCATION: Fidelity Hall, Room 410
COST: \$55 per course (\$15 registration, \$40 tuition) plus books

(For other information, contact Dr. W. Fred Kendall II, Office of Religious Affairs, Belmont College — (615) 385-6435.)

When your group comes to Eureka Springs, AR to witness the Life, Death, Resurrection, & Ascension of Jesus Christ . . .

Let the Great Passion Play take you back to the last week in the life of Christ. While seated in the 4,400 seat outdoor amphitheatre this dramatic recreation unfolds before you. The Great Passion Play begins the last Friday in April and continues through the last Saturday in October. No performances on Thursdays or Mondays. Play begins at 8:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. after Labor Day.

The Great Passion Play, Eureka Springs, AR 72632-0471

Now your group can stay in the Victorian Comfort of The Basin Park Hotel located in the historic shopping district of beautiful downtown Eureka Springs, AR. . . . Make The Basin Park Hotel Your Place to Stay.

Basin Park Hotel

Special Group Rates Now Available Only \$34

Make your reservations to stay with the Basin Park Hotel and for only \$34 per person per night you get room, breakfast, and a \$6.50 Great Passion play ticket! The Basin Park Hotel is newly renovated and set up especially for groups, with bus parking, full service restaurant and no bar.

For Reservations call (800) 643-4972 or (501) 253-7837 or write: Basin Park Hotel, 12 Spring Street, Eureka Springs, AR 72632 We tailor packages to your needs.

Knoxville ophthalmologist clears vision in Antigua

By Kim Nicley

His office was the corner of a kitchen in a village church. The air conditioning worked intermittently — whenever breezes blew through openings in the concrete cinder block walls. Medical equipment had to be adapted to the 220-volt circuits.

But Jack Rule, a medical doctor of the Baptist Eye Institute, Baptist Health systems in Knoxville, wanted to be there.

"There" is Antigua, one of the five Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean. About 70,000 people inhabit Antigua, which is eight miles long and 12 miles wide. Antigua declared its independence from the United Kingdom in 1981, and thereby lost the benefits of the socialist medical care system. Antigua now depends on the charity of volunteer physicians such as Rule.

Rule, two opticians, another ophthalmologist, and two nurses donated a week's vacation to visit Antigua on behalf of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The group saw more than 800 patients in four-and-a-half days. Many Antiguaners are still waiting for care.

"About 18 percent of the people we saw had cataracts, and nearly 16 percent were affected by glaucoma. In the United States, about 1/4 of 1 percent of the population is affected," Rule said.

Approximately one-fourth of the Antiguaners they saw had keratoconjunctivitis, a painful inflammation of the cornea and the conjunctiva. Rule said the high occurrence of inbreeding among Antiguaners contributed to many congenital eye problems such as this.

Although medical services were free of charge to the islanders, some donated \$1 in East Caribbean currency (about .50 in

U.S. money), if they could afford it. Prescription eyeglasses were donated and were free to the people too. "Remember those boxes at the checkout counters of drug stores that ask you to donate your old eyeglasses? Well, they go to places like Antigua," Rule said.

"It was interesting to find that people already knew who we were when we arrived," Rule said. "An announcement had been made in the churches and on the radio. Then it spread by word of mouth."

"The people were warm and gracious," he continued. "Everyday they brought lunch to us at the clinic. We had lobster, shrimp and fish salad, and four kinds of delicious curried rice. Their club sandwiches were a little different, though — they were made from goat meat," he said.

Most people in Antigua are laborers and would be considered poor by American standards. A typical house is brightly painted and is set very close to similar dwellings with dirt yards and free-roaming animals.

"It seems there isn't a middle class. People are either very well-to-do or very poor," Rule commented.

While in Antigua, Rule and other team members stayed in a motel with a restaurant, but that didn't keep them from healing others. "Our regular waitress had

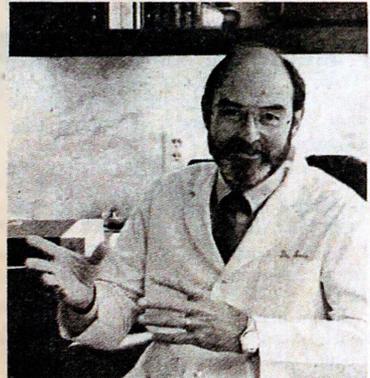
to work and was unable to visit a clinic while we were there, so we brought the clinic to her," Rule said.

The trip in October of 1986 was Rule's second, but probably will not be his last

mission trip. In fact, preliminary plans are underway for a group of eye care professionals to visit Sierra Leone, an impoverished country in western Africa. Rule said he hoped to go on that trip.



ANTIGUA EYES — Jack Rule (right), a medical doctor of the Baptist Eye Institute in Knoxville, examines a child's eyes in Antigua, where Rule worked as a mission volunteer.



RELATING EXPERIENCE — Jack Rule, a Knoxville ophthalmologist, tells of his experiences as a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board volunteer to Antigua.

G. W. Shotwell accepts Clarksville pastorate

G. Wesley Shotwell has been called to the pastorate of Excell Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Shotwell is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and received a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He has served as college minister, minister of youth and music, teacher in a college department, and also as summer evangelist with the Baptist General Convention of California.



Shotwell

Baptist and Reflector

60 DAYS FREE TRIAL

1. Under this plan, a **FREE** subscription to the **Baptist and Reflector** will be sent to the home of each resident family in your church for 60 days.
2. During that time your church is requested to vote in business meeting whether or not to continue the **Baptist and Reflector's Every Family Plan**.
3. If your church decides to continue the subscriptions, **Baptist and Reflector** will bill the church on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis — whichever the church prefers.
4. Unless our office is notified to stop the **Baptist and Reflector** subscriptions at the end of the trial period, your church will be billed at the end of the next month.

INTERESTED?

For more information, phone us or fill out the form below and mail it today. This offer is available to ALL Tennessee Baptist churches, regardless of the number of members.

CHURCH NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Pastor's Name _____

Mail to: **Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024**

Baptist and Reflector

P.O. Box 728
Brentwood, TN 37024
Serving Tennessee Baptists since 1835

Belmont, Union host programs for seminary studies in fall

Union University, Jackson, and Belmont College, Nashville, will each host a Seminary Studies Program this fall, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Seminary Studies Department, Nashville.

The Nashville Seminary Studies Program at Belmont will offer courses on Christian ethics and a New Testament survey course, beginning Sept. 14 and continuing each Monday through Dec. 14.

Union will feature courses on church evangelism and Greek when the Jackson Seminary Studies Program begins Sept. 21. The Jackson program also meets on Mondays and continues through Dec. 21.

Jackson program

"Building an Evangelistic Church" will meet from 2-5:30 p.m. and will be taught by Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. The course examines the role of ministers and church members in evangelism, and how to evangelize the lost through church program organizations such as the Sunday School.

From 6-9 p.m., "New Testament Greek I" will be taught by Hyran Barefoot, presi-

dent of Union University and an adjunct professor for Southern seminary. The second part of this course will be taught next spring.

Persons interested in enrolling for either or both courses should apply immediately through the office of religious affairs at Union University, Jackson, TN 38305, or the Seminary Studies Department, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 500, Nashville 37203.

Nashville program

Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern seminary, will teach "Survey of Christian Ethics" from 2-5:30 p.m. Robert Byrd, professor of religion at Belmont College and an adjunct professor for Southern seminary, will teach "Introduction to the New Testament I." This course, which will meet from 6-9:30 p.m., will deal with the historical background to the New Testament and with the life and ministry of Jesus.

Individuals wishing to participate in the Nashville program should apply immediately to the vice-president for religious affairs at Belmont College, Nashville, TN 37212-5729, or the Seminary

Studies Department.

All admissions-related materials, including a \$10 application fee, must be received by the Seminary Studies Department by Sept. 7 for the Nashville program and by Sept. 14 for the Jackson program.

Matriculation fees are \$200 for one course and \$350 for both courses for Baptist students, and double these amounts for non-Baptist students.

A complete degree is not offered through these Seminary Studies programs, but participants may complete up

to two-thirds of degree requirements through the program. The remaining course work must be done at one of the seminaries.

Mulberry Gap holds meeting

About 350 persons gathered Aug. 12-13 at Idas Chapel Baptist Church in Sneedville for the annual meeting of Mulberry Gap Association of Missionary Baptists.

The messengers re-elected Lester E. Greene, who has served seven years as moderator, and R. G. Walker, who has served 15 years as clerk. Greene is pastor of Idas Chapel Baptist Church, Cedar Flat Baptist Church in Tazewell, and Panther Creek Baptist Church in Sneedville. Walker is a member of Power House Baptist Church in Morristown.

The association, which has been organized for 149 years, also re-elected its executive board. The members are Jack Free, a member of Thorn Hill Baptist Church in Thorn Hill; Earl Bowlin, a member of Union Baptist Church in Thorn Hill; John Paul Kinsler, a member of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Eidson; John Johnson, a member of Davis Chapel Baptist Church in Kyles Ford; and R. G. Walker, the associational clerk. Some of the executive board members are also pastors.

The messengers had a dinner on the grounds. Their next meeting will be Aug. 17-18, 1988.

Hannibal-LaGrange elects Paul Brown

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP) — Paul Brown, executive vice-president and academic dean of Hannibal-LaGrange College for 11 years, has been elected president of the Missouri Baptist school.



Brown

The college's board of trustees unanimously elected Brown to succeed Larry Lewis, who became president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board early this summer. Brown had been acting president of the school in Hannibal since June 1.

Brown has been admissions counselor for Union University in Jackson, and chairman of the division of languages and arts at Clarke College in Newton, Miss. He also has been pastor of Oakhaven Baptist Church, Memphis, and a church in Mississippi.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University of Mississippi in Oxford, where he earned a doctorate in higher education and student personnel.

Brown said his goals for his administration are to maintain the college's Christian distinctives and Southern Baptist identity; to offer "a wide range of academic programs that encourage our Christian graduates to go out and bear a strong witness for Christ;" to increase enrollment from between 750 and 800 to between 1,200 and 1,500; to provide adequate facilities for the expanded academic programs and student population; to increase the school's financial base; and to lead the school to "continue giving a strong witness for Jesus Christ in today's world."

'Contempo' assistant changes assignments

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Susan Todd of Birmingham, Ala., has been named public information specialist for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Todd formerly was editorial assistant for Contempo, the WMU missions magazine for women ages 18-29. She began her new job Aug. 3.

Todd, a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, joined the WMU staff in 1981.

In her new position, Todd will prepare and disseminate news and information about WMU, and will represent the organization to denominational and secular media outlets.

Crisis.

It happens suddenly, with no time to prepare. Divorce. Serious illness. The death of someone dear. When crisis strikes, where can you turn? For new hope in hard times, there's the "How to Cope" book series—first-person accounts from people who have dealt with the pain of crisis. Their stories of faith, plus advice for coping from professional counselors, offer encouragement and the reassurance that God still cares.

When crisis strikes you, a friend, a family member, turn to the "How to Cope" series—for new hope in hard times.



Life Is a Gift: My Experience with the Serious Illness of My Child
What Happened? My Experience with Divorce
Spring Follows Winter: My Experience with the Death of My Husband

Order from your Baptist Book Store or Mail Order Center for only \$3.95 each.

AMI SECURITIES

Announces the sale of
\$300,000
 Of Insured* First Mortgage Bonds
 To Be Issued By
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
 Jonesborough, Tennessee
Earn Up To 11.50%

Bonds Qualify For IRA, and Keogh

SIMPLE INTEREST	COMPOUND INTEREST
6 Mo.-2 Yrs. — 8%	6 1/4-8 Yrs. — 10 1/2%
2 1/2-4 Yrs. — 9%	8 1/2-10 Yrs. — 11%
4 1/2-6 Yrs. — 10%	10 1/2-15 Yrs. — 11 1/2%

This announcement is not an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy these securities. Offer is made by prospectus only. Offers will be subject to prior sale. Available only to investors in states where bonds may be lawfully offered.

*Insurance Fully Described In Prospectus.

AMI SECURITIES

P.O. Box 9414 — Birmingham, Ala. 35220

Roy M. Cotton — Registered Representative

For More Information Call:

US WATS (800) 433-5101 Local (615) 753-2578

BONDS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE — August 17, 1987

BE A PART OF IT

The First Regional Annuity Conference



hosted by
WINDERMERE for
 Arkansas, Illinois,
 Kansas, Kentucky,
 Missouri, Oklahoma,
 Tennessee, Texas

A TIME TO LIVE

Mail Reservations to:
WINDERMERE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

State Road A.A. Roach, Missouri
 65577

\$89.50 each — 2 per room
 (\$10.00 per person —
 Applies to total cost)
 October 5-9, 1987



Annuity Board, Southern Baptist Convention

(Advertisement)



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

School bells ring in academic, financial challenges

Our campuses are teeming with excitement as our children return to school. Academic preparation for life is a vital part of our ministry. Our children attend the local public schools. Hopefully, they will make many new friends this year.

The back-to-school months of August and September are also a time of great financial need for our children. As you might suspect, the costs for school supplies, new clothing, school fees and lunches add up all too quickly when you are dealing with a large number of children.

Our church people across the state are very thoughtful and helpful in meeting these and other vital needs of our children. Recently, a church group sent a large box of school supplies. A donation such as this

really helps to keep our children well supplied and our operating costs at a minimum.

We work very closely with the academic preparation for our children. The house parents supervise the homework assignments and our tutors help those who are falling behind in their work. Children are encouraged to take part in other activities in school, such as sports, clubs and other organizations.

While teaching of the mind is important, character development and spiritual growth is essential. It is our primary goal that the loving, caring atmosphere created in the cottages will provide the environment for such growth. The provisions made by Tennessee Baptists to meet all these needs are

gratifying.

Jesus rebuked the disciples when they thought He did not have time for children. But Jesus took those children in His arms, blessed them and said, "Whoever receives one such child in my name, receives me." (Matthew 18:5) The needs of children across the state grow every day. These needs are more complex and involved than in the past. I am thankful that TBCH is committed to creative change in order to meet these vital needs.

Your partnership and help is so vital to all we do. Tennessee Baptists own this ministry, elect its trustees and provide the principle source of funding. Thank you for receiving children in Jesus name and in so doing receiving our Lord.

New clothes bring smiles at TBCH campuses

"New clothing is so important to our children," said Dr. Gene Gafford, regional director of the Memphis campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. "We don't want them branded as 'Home kids' because of inadequate clothing. It's important that they feel good about themselves, and part of that is having a nice appearance."

Gafford, along with Jerry Blasingame and Rev. Burl McMillan, regional directors of the Middle and East Tennessee campuses of the Children's Homes, are juggling budgets and donations to outfit more than 200 children for the return to school. It's a yearly task that consumes the major portion of each campus's clothing budget.

"Some children come to us with just the clothes on their backs," said Blasingame. "We have to start from scratch and outfit them with everything."

The first step is to take each child to the clothing room on campus. There, staff members help the child in selecting such apparel as jeans, shirts, dresses or coats from the donated goods. Some children return to their cottage home with several outfits; others are unable to find any suitable clothes.

The problem, explains Richard Savage, director of cottage life at the Chattanooga campus, is that many of the donated clothes are outdated.

"Of course, we're thankful for the items that are donated. But some of the clothes we receive have been sit-

ting in closets for ten years," he said. "We're just not able to use outdated clothing because the children are made fun of. It brings them negative attention at school when they're not dressed like the other kids."

So whenever possible, the children are provided with new clothing. Not all of it is purchased. Some businesses — such as Sears in Memphis and Buster Brown Manufacturing Company in Chattanooga — will occasionally donate new apparel. In Memphis, an athletics store donated tennis shoes. Still, most of the new items must be bought — a fact that strains already tight budgets.

"Right now, our clothing budget is running right at zero," said Gafford. "We're doing what we can, though, because it helps so much for

our children to have something that is personally theirs — something that hasn't been worn before by anyone else."

In particular, the older children have an emotional need for a sweater or jacket that is theirs alone.

"When the children enter their teen-age years, they begin to feel a stigma associated with wearing used clothing," explained Blasingame. "It may seem like 'just a pair of jeans' to us, but to them, it's much more."

The members of the Adult I Sunday School class at Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga recognize the need to provide new clothing for the children. For the past two years, the class has donated Easter outfits for each child on campus.

Other donations have helped the TBCH campuses prepare for the school year. In Memphis, churches have donated school supplies. As can be expected, there is always a need for supplies such as folders, notebook paper, spiral composition books, markers, poster board and construction paper.

In addition, the children need basic toiletry items, such as deodorant, toothpaste, combs and brushes. Older girls need a small makeup kit.

Each of the three main campuses has a special clothing fund for the children. Donations may be mailed directly to each campus, but they must be designated for the Clothing Fund (otherwise, the money will be directed to the campus general fund). The addresses are:

East Tennessee Campus — TBCH
6623 Lee Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Middle Tennessee Campus — TBCH
P.O. Box 519
Franklin, TN 37065

West Tennessee Campus — TBCH
6896 Highway 70
Memphis, TN 38134



Trying to find something to wear in the clothing room can be as much fun as a scavenger hunt. Pictured trying on new shirts and ties are two residents of the Franklin TBCH campus.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Chattanooga • Franklin
Memphis • Johnson City
Greeneville • Burrville
Nashville

Central Office
P.O. Box 728
205 Franklin Road
Brentwood, TN 37024
1-800-624-8591

A ministry of the
Tennessee Baptist Convention

BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for August 30

Seven vials

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

Basic Passage: Revelation 15:1 to 16:21
Focal Passages: Revelation 15:5-7; 16:4-6, 10-17

Much that is in this book is like other portions of the book. It seems that each time the writer returns to a theme it is more detailed or more emphatic.

This week's lesson has a lot of similarities to chapters 7 and 8.

In those chapters, John wrote of the redeemed of the earth gathered around the throne of God and of God's wrath touching the earth and those on it. The difference in today's passage is in the extent of God's wrath.



Nail

Deliverance of the redeemed

Chapter 15 begins with a preview of coming events. Specifically, the writer hints at the destruction about to come upon the earth. But first, as usual, he gives us a view of the security of the redeemed.

The saints of God are pictured on or beside the sea of glass. This is a marvelous picture of hope for people with a Jewish background.

The sea is a place which, to their mind, contains all manner of evil. It even comes to symbolize the abode of evil. This sea is made of glass purified by the fire of God. It has been cleansed of its evil and the saints are safe even standing on it.

Throughout these two chapters we hear echoes of the Exodus experience of the Israelites. The Israelites crossed the sea on dry ground as an escape from the evil forces of the pharaoh. Now the saints of God stand in heaven having crossed a dry sea to the very presence of God.

Those who now stand on the redemption side of the glassy sea can sing a duet with Moses who sang the praises of God on the deliverance side of the Red Sea.

After these saints give God His due praise, God begins to complete His work of judgment. His judgment will not be the impassioned rage of the beast and the false prophet which squelches all opposition. Rather it is a pure anger completely justified by a holy God (v. 6).

Judgment by physical suffering

The seven plagues of wrath poured out in Chapter 16 are meant to continue the echo of the Exodus experience of the Israelites.

The first four plagues are designed to hit mankind where he lives. They bring physical suffering upon him. The boils and the heat bring physical pain while the striking of the water gets to the very source of his life.

These pains and inconveniences (like the plagues on Egypt) are designed by God for a two-fold purpose. First of all, they are intended to punish for wrongdoing in relation to the people of God.

Second, and probably most important, was the fact that they were designed to draw their attention to God that He might receive proper glory and honor. They only hardened the heart of the pharaoh. They caused these people to blaspheme God.

This is sometimes hard to understand but we see it a lot today also. A professor of mine reminded his class that the same sun which softens ice into water will turn soft mud into hardened brick.

Judgment upon false hopes

The fifth plague hit mankind in another vulnerable spot. By attacking the power of the beast it attacked what the world had come to think was all-powerful. The darkening of his kingdom seems to indicate a weakening of his power.

For a people who had based their future on the beast, brute force, this would mean that their world was beginning to crumble.

This, too, could have caused them to forsake the beast and turn to the God who truly is all-powerful. However, the Bible tells us that it hardened their hearts further and caused them to blaspheme God.

Judgment upon all the forces of evil

As with most people who think they are losing the battle, the forces of evil now pull out all stops. They marshal all their troops to make a last-ditch effort to defeat God.

The outcome of the battle is never in doubt. This is to be the final outpouring of God's wrath. The angel, in fact, states, "It is done."

The last outpouring is also one final opportunity for them to repent and turn to God. Instead, they go out into eternal damnation blaspheming God.

Yet there are those who would accuse God of being unloving because some people are condemned. The fact is that He has continually given them opportunity and they have thrown it back in His face. God is just.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for August 30

When Christians disagree

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

Basic Passage: Romans 14:1 to 15:13
Focal Passages: Romans 14:1-4, 13-21; 15:1-2, 7

The Apostle Paul shares truths in Romans which bless us individually. Back in chapter 5 we read, "But God commendeth (proved) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (v. 8). God loved us when we were unlovely. Since God has loved us as unlovely, we know that He loves others who are unlovely. We ought to love those whom God loves - the unlovely.



Palmer

In chapter 14 the apostle says, "Him that is weak in the faith, receive ye" (v. 1a). The apostle is talking about acceptance. This verse has been translated, "Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions." Acceptance is to be without condition.

We read in chapter 15, "Wherefore receive (accept) ye one another, as Christ also received (accepted) us to the glory of God" (v. 7).

If this passage teaches us anything at all, it teaches us that believers are going to have differences. Believers have differences because believers are different! "For one believeth that he may eat all things; another who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him" (vv. 2, 3).

Believers are related to God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. Believers are brothers. Even natural brothers are different. Spiritual brothers are different, too. The wrongness comes when brothers allow the disagreements and differences to divide them. Because we are different, we ought to expect differences. I look through my glasses. You look through yours. You and I ought to be able to disagree without our being disagreeable. We ought to love each other as Christ loves us.

"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand" (v. 4). Richard Halverson wrote, "These are matters of conscience. We do not understand why the Spirit of God convicts one that a thing is wrong and leaves another undisturbed, but it is a fact of Christian experience. These differences need not constitute disunity in the body. Unity does not mean uniformity. Getting all Christians into the same organization will not guarantee unity and might aggravate disunity. Christians may be institutionally diverse and enjoy a basic unity, for it is our Lord Jesus Christ who unites us."

We are to accept one another in Christ. We are not to despise one another's convictions. We are not to pass judgment upon one another. We are to be convinced in our own minds. Each of us must stand on his own convictions because each of us is going to have to stand before Jesus as the judge of the judgment. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (v. 12).

We are not to cause another person to stumble: "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way" (v. 13). As a Christian I am to give up my right or my liberty in behalf of the rights and interests of others. This is my Christian obligation. I am to be a peacemaker. "For the kingdom of God is ... righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (v. 17).

Serving Christ in this manner, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (v. 19). The weak are not to condemn the strong. The strong are not to tempt the weak. Christians are to help and encourage one another. Christians are to love and care for one another. Do not do anything which will cause your brother in Christ to stumble or be offended or to be made weak (v. 21).

Chapter 15 begins, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (v. 1). This continues to address the issue of the duties of those within the Christian church as they relate to one another.

I like the translation of the New American Standard version for these first three verses of chapter 15: "Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me.'"

That leads us to the words of verse 7, "Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God." That takes us back to where we began with Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth (proved) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Stanley Penn retires Fayetteville pastorate

Stanley Penn retired his pastorate at Friendship Southern Baptist Church, Fayetteville, on August 9 after two years of service.

Penn has previously served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Florida. He is available for supply, interim, and revivals.

Confused about life insurance?
Why not buy the most life insurance
for the least amount of money

Example: Male; 60, non-smoker
\$100.00

For only
\$32.56 per mo.

Call Don Mahaffey
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Call Toll Free 1-800-367-5492
In S.C. 1-800-521-5039

If lines are busy please call back.

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSON PIKE - CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES

Lighters, Memorabilia, Baptistries, Signs, Steeples

Dial Toll Free 1-800-446-7400

Box 2250, Danville, VA 24541
In VA (804) 822-2000

JOHANNUS ORGANS

Rose Music Co. is now the exclusive dealer for JOHANNUS Church Organs. Plan to experience the Johannus Sound today.

ROSE
615/970-2375

Music Company
Knoxville, Tenn.

ADD-A-PAD PEW UPHOLSTERING REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS PEW REFINISHING

Our installers have upholstered over 1,000 churches. 15 year wear warranty. We can upholster your pews on site for less than ~~other~~ cushions! Call us for a FREE estimate.

Church Interiors Inc.

NASHVILLE HIGH POINT ATLANTA

1000 W. HIXSON PIKE - CHATTANOOGA, TN

P.O. Box 41154

Telephone: TN 37263-1154

U.S.A. (800) 334-8730 TOLL FREE

Pews, pulpits, baptistries,
steeple, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors, carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
Lesson for August 30

Contending with materialism

By John Lee Taylor, pastor
West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson

Basic Passage: 1 Timothy 6
Focal Passages: 1 Timothy 6:14, 17-19

This last section of Paul's first letter to Timothy is characterized by his warm willingness to give Timothy the benefits of his experience and advice. It has a "fireside chat" atmosphere about it as if Paul speaks to Timothy as his younger son in the ministry. Pitfalls and perils are coupled with goals and godliness.



Taylor

The guidance Paul gives Timothy in contending with materialism is never out of style or out of season. The pursuit of spiritual values is far more important than "laying up treasures on earth."

The perils of prosperity 1 Timothy 6:6-10

A person was asked, "How much money does one need to be content in life?" He answered, "Always, a little more." Apparently, there were some members of the early church who had developed this same opinion. Jesus addressed this problem of our human nature on several occasions. One of the first incidents in the early church involved Ananias and Sapphira and their sinful misuse of their property. In this week's text, Paul gives a strong warning to Timothy to avoid seeking wealth for its own sake, its status, and/or its power.

The emphasis Paul gives in these verses is that contentment is to be found in godliness. To know and to do God's will for one's life brings with it an assured sense of contentment which wealth and prosperity cannot provide. One commentator defines contentment as "a state or condition in life in which one needs no other help or support."

The word, "drown," in verse nine has as its root meaning "to drag to the bottom." The inordinate lust for prosperity has dragged many lives down into ruin and destruction.

Verse 10 is one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. Most people say "money is the root of all evil." This, however, is not what Paul says. The actual translation is "a root of all (every kind of) the evil is the love of silver." The word, silver, is used in the sense of monetary exchange. Money itself is neither good nor evil. It is amoral. It is our use of money which determines its morality. The unquenchable pursuit of more, more, more is called the sin of greed. A question believers must come to

grips with is "How much is enough?" or "When is enough enough?"

The pursuit of purpose 1 Timothy 6:11-14

In this section of this week's text, Paul tells Timothy that whatever the course others may take for their lives, he is "to flee" and "to follow." Both of these words are in the imperative and carry with them the force of a command. Timothy is to continue to the end, the goals God has set for his ministry.

Those who would minister in the name of Jesus must keep on following His purpose for their lives. This purpose includes these six areas of Christian character: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Individually and corporately, these traits are opposite to those exhibited by "money-grabbers."

Timothy is to keep on fighting the good fight of faith. It is a continuous battle against the forces of evil. In so doing he will "lay hold of eternal life." Timothy was already a Christian, so Paul is not referring to his need of salvation. He is affirming Timothy's fulfillment of God's call to minister and his quality of life that is eternal in its purpose and nature.

Paul exhorts Timothy to keep the commandment of verses 11-12 as well as the

admonishments of the entire letter. The time span of the keeping is until the second coming of Jesus.

The proper place of possessions
1 Timothy 6:17-19

In these verses of the study, Paul returns again to address those who are wealthy Christians. He does not condemn wealth, but reminds those who are "rich in the world" to realize that all that they have is to be viewed as a gift from the gracious and generous heart of God. With His generosity, they must recognize their responsibility.

Very pointedly, Paul says that the rich must not be "highminded." Instead, they are to do good and be willing to share in meeting the needs of others.

Verse 19 echoes what Jesus said in Matthew 6:20. We are to be far more concerned about laying up treasures in heaven than we are about accumulating possessions on earth.

Today's Christian needs Paul's wise counsel as he contends with materialism in a growing materialistic society. He must keep his perspective of money in the clear focus of Jesus when He said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you."



SPECIAL!!! INSURANCE FOR NON-DRINKERS

AUTO • HOME • CHURCH • LIFE FOR NON-DRINKERS ONLY

For people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, we would like the opportunity to show you one of our plans or policies covering LIFE, HOME, CHURCH AND AUTO INSURANCE.

Call or see one of our Representatives listed below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Chattanooga (615)
Terry Case, Agy. Mgr. 899-6033
Hiram Altman 894-3275
A & P Ins. Agency 877-3561 | Memphis (901)
Cairnes Ins. Agency 795-6559
Wilbur Milam 388-2904 |
| Elizabethton (615)
Elizabethton Ins. Agency ... 542-4983
Hart Ins. Agency 542-5648 | Monterey (615)
Cumberland Mtns. Ins. 839-2131 |
| Greenbrier (615)
Porter Rawls Ins. Agency ... 643-0102 | Mt. Carmel — Rogersville (615)
Johnson & Johnson. 357-7197 |
| Hendersonville (615)
Sherman Brown 822-4366 | Murfreesboro (615)
Atlas Ins. Agency 890-3445
Golden Rule Ins. 893-7853 |
| Kingsport (615)
Clarence Huffman 288-6711
Roy Strunk Agency 239-8683
Rogers Ins. Agency 247-1171 | Nashville (615)
Hallice Dickey 367-9157
Richard Coleman 865-7232
Tee Insurance Agency 385-3700
Dick Wonders Ins. 885-1332 |
| Knoxville (615)
Donny Hodges AM 673-4863
Lloyd Burton 524-1201 | Paris (901)
H. D. Lax Ins. Agency ... 642-5281 |
| Lexington (901)
Pat Carnal Agency 968-6649 | Selmer (901)
Stan Wheeler Ins. Agency . 645-9839 |
| | Tracey City (615)
Hendrix Ins. Service 592-6721 |

CHURCH FURNITURE
Pews, Pulpits, Altars, Communion Tables
Free Brochures - Free Estimates
Write R.G. Ketron Church Furniture
or 3401 Montlake Dr.
Call: Knoxville, TN 37920
Phone (615)577-8716

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.

\$10,000,000
HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
CHURCH LOAN COLLATERALIZED BONDS
SERIES C
MINIMUM PURCHASE - \$500.00

Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Interest on the Bonds will be payable semi-annually. The Bonds will be offered with maturity dates varying from six months to fifteen years and the interest rate will vary from 8.5% to 10.5% depending upon the maturity date as set forth in the Prospectus.

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained by calling (404) 898-7225 or writing the broker-dealer servicing bond issue:

CITIZENS AND SOUTHERN SECURITIES CORPORATION
ATTENTION: COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT
33 North Avenue, NE
18th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-0216

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like information about placing my investment in an IRA account.

Preferred Risk Mutual INSURANCE COMPANY

East Tennessee
Cal Elkins, Sales Manager
591 Phyllis Cr.
Talbott, TN 37877
(615) 587-6226

Central and West Tennessee
Hallice Dickey, Sales Manager
1007 Murfreesboro Rd., Suite 101
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 367-9157

'Home Life' editor retires after 35 years

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE (BP) — Reuben Herring owes much of his 41-year career in journalism to his family and Ida Bell Williams, a high school teacher who encouraged him to write.

"I was always interested in writing," said the senior editor of Home Life magazine whose father and grandfather before him were journalists. "When I was in high school, my English teacher encouraged me to write, and that just sort of clinched it."

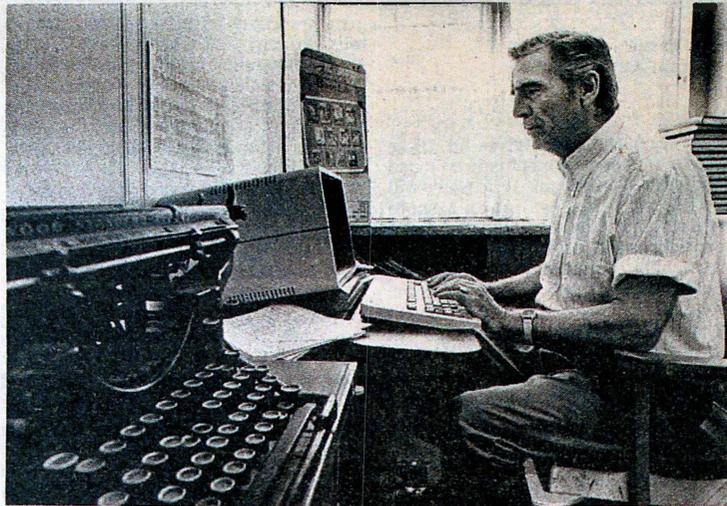
The "senior" was added to Herring's title when he received the career professional award at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, where he edits the monthly family magazine in his family ministry department office. However, Herring retired July 31 after 35 years at the Sunday School Board.

Herring spent much of his childhood around the Tifton (Ga.) Daily Gazette. "I grew up in the newspaper office where my father was the editor and his father was the founder," he recalled. "I began working there as a young teenager. I started delivering papers and sweeping, and when I got into high school I did a little reporting, mainly high school sports."

After college graduation and six weeks after he got married, Herring was drafted into the army and spent three years in World War II, where he experienced frontline fighting. He came back a "shaken man" to get acquainted with a two-year-old son.

"It was pretty overwhelming to realize that now I had responsibility for myself, my wife, and my son. And right then, I was unemployed," he said.

But it wasn't long before the tables turned and, in 1946, Herring was offered



WITH THE TIMES — Reuben Herring, who is retiring as editor of Home Life magazine after 35 years at the Sunday School Board, takes advantage of modern technology.

a job with the Dothan (Ala.) Eagle as sports editor.

He hadn't even applied, but he stayed with the paper seven years.

In the meantime, the former Methodist had joined his wife's Baptist faith and was baptized at First Baptist Church of Dothan, where he became publicity director.

"It was while I was in that church that Joe Burton, first editor of Home Life, came down there and conducted one of his Christian home revivals," Herring said. "Because I was publicity director, I

naturally handled the publicity for the revivals.

"Some months after Burton came back to Nashville, his associate editor resigned. Burton called me to see if I wanted to come to Nashville," he recalled.

Herring's move from secular to religious journalism never was an issue: "I had already felt the desire to get into a church-related vocation, although not leaving journalism. For example, I had written the editor of the state Baptist paper in Alabama to see if they had an opening."

Herring enjoys telling the story about when, in 1953, Burton came to his house in Alabama to discuss employment, Herring's wife, Dot, now secretary/receptionist at the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, was "very pregnant."

"When my wife was serving supper, we had to leave immediately for the hospital, where she was delivered of twins. My colleagues say she really got me the job," he quipped.

Herring now has five children. One of the twins died of crib death when he was nine months old, a tragedy Herring

believes has added a dimension to his experience as editor of a family life magazine.

Herring has, in a sense, come full circle at the board, beginning as associate editor of Home Life and leaving as its senior editor. In his 35 years at the board, he also has held several positions in the church training department, supervising a children's editorial unit and editing adult curriculum and equipping center modules. He also served a short stint in the church administration department, editing pastoral ministries products.

"I feel a great deal of satisfaction as I think about how in its first 40 years Home Life has circulated 350-million copies, that I've had a part in developing the deacon family ministry plan, equipping centers on family life and other topics, and have edited and supervised children's and leaders' materials," he said. "It feels good to know that in my 35 years at the board I've been allowed to have a part in contributing to Christian marriages and Christian family life."

His list of contributions to the board does not stop with his full-time positions. He has written nine books, including the novel, Fire in the Canebrake, a story of religion on the American frontiers of Kentucky and Tennessee during the 1800s.

He plans to continue writing for the board. This self-described "typewriter-man" has focused his sights toward modern technology and is highly considering the purchase of a personal computer.

For a man who started out with a portable typewriter, an apple crate, and earplugs, Herring has come a long way.

Home Mission Board names DOMs of year

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Bob Lee Franklin, director of missions for Noonday Baptist Association in Georgia, and Fred Lunsford, director of missions in Truett Baptist Association in North Carolina, have been awarded the director of missions of the year award for the eastern states during the home missions conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Franklin received the metropolitan award. Lunsford received the rural/urban award.

PBS-TV special features pastor, church in Alabama

WASHINGTON (BP) — The pastor and other members of Alabama's largest Southern Baptist church are featured in an upcoming Public Broadcasting Service series examining the impact of the U.S. Constitution on the lives of Americans today.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, along with others in the 9,000-member congregation, appear in the premiere episode of "We the People," a four-part series produced by PBS station KQED-TV in San Francisco, in collaboration with the American Bar Association. The series will air on PBS on four consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning Sept. 22.

The first segment, dealing with the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of religion and speech, includes footage shot in Mobile and Cottage Hill Church dealing with that city's debate over the content of public school textbooks.

Wolfe has been active in supporting a legal suit brought by more than 600 parents against the Alabama State Board of Education charging that Christian influence in American history has been excluded from public schools. In its place, the suit claims, a religion of secular humanism has been established as the official religion of the schools in violation of the First Amendment.

Last March, federal district Judge W. Brevard Hand ruled in favor of the parents. His decision has been appealed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In addition to the initial episode, titled "Free To Believe," other segments in the

series deal with racial and sexual equality, police powers and the rights of the accused, and the division of political power between the states and the federal government.

Hosted and narrated by Peter Jennings, anchor of ABC's "World News Tonight," the series received major funding from Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., with additional funding from law firms nationwide, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Ford Foundation, and George Gund Foundation.

Educators unite for mission work

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The National Fellowship of Baptist Men has formed an ad hoc steering committee to organize Baptist educators for volunteer missions service, announced Larry Cox, associate director of the organization.

Hal Buchanan, former dean of education and director of teacher training at Delta State University in Mississippi, was elected volunteer coordinator. He will direct the process of creating bylaws, developing strategies, and electing officers for the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators.

"The purpose is to try to harness the capabilities of Baptist educators who have a zeal for the missionary spirit that Jesus Christ gave to us in Matthew 28:18-20," said Buchanan.

"This is for those who have the gift of teaching and want to use it as a missions opportunity," said Cox.

Interpretations

The condemning Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Behold your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:38).

Matthew 23 contains the most condemning words ever to fall from Jesus' lips. It was aimed at the scribes and Pharisees as representatives of the Jewish nation. It was on Tuesday before Jesus' death. On this "day of controversy" Sadducees, Pharisees, and Herodians had sought without success to discredit Jesus before the people. It was after this that He spoke the words in Matthew 23.

Note verses 23:35-36. In the Hebrew Bible the first and last books are Genesis and 2 Chronicles. Abel is in Genesis. Zacharias is in the latter. Jesus said that His generation would be punished for all the martyrs' blood shed in the Old Testament era.

It was after Jesus' lament over Jerusalem (v. 37) that He uttered the

words of our text. Rebellion was in the Jews' hearts — against God and Rome. He saw the dark clouds of the Jewish War (A.D. 66-70) against Rome gathering on the horizon. Like a mother hen trying to get her chicks under her protecting wings before a storm, so did Jesus call His contemporaries to repent and have faith in Him. But they refused.

This was in A.D. 30, forty years (a generation) before Jerusalem was totally destroyed by the Romans. Verse 38 refers to that event. "Desolate" is not in the best texts. So "your house is left unto you."

In rejecting Christ the Jewish nation rejected God. So, having done so, she need not expect help from Him. "Your house is left unto you." History tells the rest of the story. The highway of history is littered with the debris of fallen nations which rejected God. Our nation should take warning!