

Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 153/No. 37/September 16, 1987

Newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

TBC board sets budget, elects two directors

By Connie Davis

The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention adopted plans for a \$4-million building and renovation project on its Brentwood property, unanimously adopted a \$23,850,000 Cooperative Program budget-goal, but was divided over the election of a department director at its Sept. 11 meeting in Brentwood.

Phil Roberts, who is pastor of the International Baptist Church in Brussels,

Belgium, was elected TBC evangelism department director by a vote of 52-23 with 18 abstentions. The board declined to express unanimous support for Roberts.

The board members also accepted the report of another search subcommittee for the state missions committee by unanimously electing Irceel Harrison Jr., associate director of the TBC student department, as director.

Roberts, the son of Ray E. Roberts, sec-

ond vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986-87 and retired director of Ohio's convention, was assistant professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Louisville from 1982-85.

Roberts shared his testimony and in answer to a question by Paul Durham, pastor of Radnor Baptist Church in Nashville, about his commitment to personal soul-winning, said that his "first occasion to see someone come to Christ was not in a pulpit," and that it should be the "burden of every preacher."

Discussion centered on the fact that his only service in a Southern Baptist church, state convention, or association was as interim pastor of Third Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky., in 1982. Roberts also has served as part-time pastor of a church in England, as a pastor in Germany, a summer missionary to Rhodesia through Southern seminary, a Baptist Student Union summer missionary to Israel, and a summer youth evangelist with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

A question about the evaluation of his work at Southern seminary was answered by Herschel Chevallier, pastor of Cumberland Baptist Church in Knoxville and chairman of the search subcommittee for the state missions committee. He said that the committee received two conflicting reports. One said that the seminary would not hesitate to re-employ Roberts. Another said that he had been critical of Southern seminary and the faculty during

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Executive Board approves design for new building

By W. Fletcher Allen

The next step in constructing a new building and renovating the present Baptist Building in Brentwood is up to messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Executive Board's Task Force presented two recommendations to the Executive Board on Friday and both were approved with only two negative votes.

The recommendations will enable the Task Force to proceed with necessary planning, and to be able to present to the convention in November a proposal for building and renovating.

At work now for two years, the Program, Personnel, and Planning Task Force is entering the vital stage of securing from architects a building plan for the proposed new TBC Executive Board Building and renovation.

The Executive Board approved these two recommendations:

(1) That the Executive Board adopt the conceptual plan for new construction and renovation.

(2) That the Executive Board authorize the Task Force to proceed with design development of the building concept in order to present a building plan, as required by the City of Brentwood, with more specific cost projection to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 10-12. The design must be completed before the plan can be presented to the City of Brentwood. The expenditure during this time phase shall not exceed \$50,000.

The actions came from the board's authorization on March 27 to allow the Task Force to "secure professional assistance to design existing space for effective flow (renovation) and submit conceptual drawings (new building)."

After interviewing nine architectural firms, the Task Force selected Gresham, Smith and Partners.

Besides selecting the architects, since March the Task Force has gathered information relative to space needs for Executive Board programs, agencies, and

institutions currently housed in the Brentwood building and consulted the Church Architecture Department, Sunday School Board.

Floor and elevation plans for the new building and a renovation plan were developed, with input from departments, agencies, and institutions.

According to Chairman James Porch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, both buildings will be "highly functional facilities with appreciation for Christian stewardship."

Porch, who was assisted by Task Force

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LOOKING AT MODEL — Executive Board members Frank Kemper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kenton, and Michael Bennett, Nashville layman, look at the model of the proposed building.

Baptists aid Venezuela flood victims

MARACAY, Venezuela (BP)— Southern Baptists are hoping to provide gas stoves, food, clothing, and medicine to victims of a Sept. 6 Venezuela flood that may have killed 200 people and left 20,000 homeless.

Southern Baptist Missionary Ben Kirby and other missionaries are working with Venezuela officials to get clearance to provide relief following one of the worst natural disasters in the country's history. Two months' worth of rain fell in six hours, causing mountain mud slides that uprooted trees and set boulders in motion.

Maracay, a city of 500,000, was one of the hardest hit. Many people were at a nearby resort beach when heavy rains hit mountains located between the beach and Maracay, Kirby said. A 10-foot-deep tide of mud swept hundreds of cars off a mountain road.

"A lot of cars were thrown down into big holes," Kirby said. "They're not sure how many people are down in these cars. Some of the people — they may not ever be able to get them out because they're buried in mud and under trees. It does look pretty bad." At least 250 people were missing and 1,000 injured, media reports said.

A Venezuelan Baptist pastor told Kirby that several members of his church had lost everything. The flooding and mudslides happened suddenly and survivors "just got away with their lives and the clothes on their back," Kirby said. No deaths have been reported among Baptist church members so far, he added.

Kirby and Southern Baptist Missionaries Stan Parris and Ron Adams and a Venezuelan Baptist pastor waited 13 hours to meet with a state legislator and a disaster relief represen-

tative appointed by President Jaime Lusinchi.

The representative told the men the biggest need was for portable gas stoves. Temporary shelters are set up for the homeless, but there are no stoves for cooking.

"Venezuela normally takes care of its own disaster situations without too much outside help," said Bryan Brasington, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for Spanish South America. For a long time, Venezuela has had more money per capita than any other country in South America, he added.

Nevertheless, if the missionaries receive government approval to provide stoves, food, clothing, and medicine, that will be a good Christian witness because most of the victims "have nothing whatsoever now," Brasington said.

"We were waiting there 13 hours, and it was tiring, and those people could see that we were concerned," Kirby said.

The Baptist mission in Venezuela has \$7,000 in human needs ministries and hunger relief funds to use for flood relief, Kirby said. Several Tennessee churches have offered financial support. Tennessee churches have been involved in partnership evangelism with Venezuela.

Kirby noted that mountainsides are scarred where large sections have fallen away, and "houses were just filled with mud or just not there." About 12 miles of a main road is gone.

In the first two days following the flood, about 32 bodies were dug out of mud and rubble in a suburb along the Limon River, and 30 bodies were flown out of the mountains. About 200 cars and several buses were buried or trapped by mud slides. Five bridges were destroyed.

Honeycutt calls students to 'authentic education'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Amidst continued "harassment and intimidation," faculty and students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary were urged by the school's president to take the risks of "authentic theological education."

Roy L. Honeycutt, in a convocation address opening the fall semester on the Louisville, Ky., campus, warned that the "larger context" of political and theological controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention has created new risks for the denomination's oldest seminary.

Nevertheless, "despite the decade of harassment and intimidation of this faculty, both seminary administration and faculty remain committed to authentic education as a hallmark of this seminary," Honeycutt declared.

"We reject forthrightly every form of pseudo-scholarship which interprets education as merely the indoctrination of students with pre-digested teachings, the ratification of tradition, or the conformation of custom," he said.

Honeycutt stressed that genuine theological education rests upon the foundational Baptist principles of primacy of Scripture and liberty of conscience. The seminary's commitment to academic freedom, he said, "arises from the Christian faith with its promise of freedom in

Christ to know the truth which is from God, which judges all human forms and institutions, and which will set persons free."

On the other hand, he pointed out that honest pursuit of truth can be hazardous within a free church tradition where decisions are determined by majority vote. The temptation, he said, is to confuse truth with majority opinion.

Despite the fact that Christian history is replete with illustrations of the "fallacy of the majority" Southern Baptists in recent years have been prone "to forget too quickly those dark centuries in which the majority was wrong," Honeycutt said. It was the majority, he pointed out, which "crucified Jesus and hounded the early church during its infancy."

The Old Testament scholar counseled seminary faculty and students to take courage in the prophet Isaiah's message of hope to the people of Israel who were languishing in exile.

"Despite the shadowed nature of our times, which are so much like Israel's exile in a strange land, this can be the finest hour of our generation," he said. "So I urge upon you, faculty and students, to keep the vision of an authentic education despite the pressures now being applied upon institutions of learning."

Interdenominational group plans evangelization talks

DALLAS (BP) — Missions leaders from 17 denominations and interdenominational groups will meet here Sept. 17-18 to share information about world evangelization.

R. Keith Parks of the Foreign Mission Board, who issued invitations to the meeting, said he is pleased at the response, which represents almost half of the 36 groups invited.

Parks hopes the discussion can result in some kind of networking process through which information can be shared regularly by groups that have a common interest in taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people of the world. He said he is not proposing any kind of formal organization.

In the initial letter of invitation, Parks wrote: "None of us is large enough, strong enough, wise enough to make a significant impact on the whole world. We need each other. If we can help each other have a more effective part in world evangelization, we're having a greater impact than if we lived and worked in isolation."

The missions officials, including some chief executives of organizations, will gather from around the nation for the sessions at the east tower of the Hyatt Regency DFW at the airport. The meeting will conclude with a press conference at 4 p.m. Sept. 18 in which the participants may make comments or answer questions.

Participants are J. Philip Hogan and Norman L. Correll of Springfield, Mo., Division of Foreign Missions, The Assemblies of God; William R. Bright and Carl Osterberg of San Bernardino, Calif., Campus Crusade for Christ, International; John M. Smeed and Steve Weber of Kansas City, Mo., World Mission Division, Church of the Nazarene; Warren W. Webster of Wheaton, Ill., Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society; Robert H. Bowman of La Mirada, Calif., Far East Broadcasting Co., Inc.;

Also Erwin H. Rempel of Newton,

Kan., Commission on Overseas Mission, General Conference Mennonite Church; John A. Lapp of Akron, Pa., Mennonite Central Committee; Donald McGilchrist and Alan Andrews of Colorado Springs, Colo., The Navigators; Vinson Synan of Oklahoma City, North American Renewal Service Committee; Frederick R. Wilson and Morton S. Taylor of New York and John R. Hendrick of Austin, Texas, representing Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);

And John Cumbers of Cedar Grove, N.J., SIM International (formerly known as Sudan Interior Mission); Parks and William R. O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board; J. W. Denny of San Antonio, Foreign Missions Department, The Church of God in Christ; Peggy Billings of New York, General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church; H. Eddie Fox of Nashville, World Evangelism Committee, World Methodist Council; Edward R. Dayton of Monrovia, Calif., World Vision International; and David Bendor-Samuel and Steve Sheldon of Dallas, Wycliffe Bible Translators International, Inc.



PLANNING — Officers of the Tennessee Baptist Recreation Association met recently at the TBC Executive Board building in Brentwood to make plans for their upcoming annual luncheon on Nov. 10. Pictured (left to right) are Kym Slayden, Secretary, in the media ministries dept.; Jimmy Smith, vice-president from First Baptist Church, Hendersonville; Eleanor Yarborough, state recreation consultant; Ed Jenkins, president from Central Baptist Church Fountain City, Knoxville; and Linda Dalton, secretary/treasurer from Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville.

Mercer officials condemn philosophy of 'Playboy'

MACON, Ga. — Mercer University officials condemned "Playboy" magazine and its exploitation of women following the appearance of Mercer coeds in the magazine's current "back to school" issue.

Douglas Skelton, provost of the Mercer College of Liberal Arts, deplored the way "Playboy" had exploited the Georgia Baptist school. Last November the magazine ranked Mercer among the top party schools in the nation.

"The undeserved and undesired ranking was followed by a "Playboy" photographer's visit to Macon," Skelton

said "Playboy's" deceit and distortion are evident in the current issue, where it is stated that one of the pictures was taken in the Mercer dorm. Not true."

Welton Gaddy, senior minister to the university, attacked the philosophy of sex espoused by the magazine: "Playboy's" ruthless exploitation of individuals and institutions is indicative of its perverted prostitution of sexuality from a moral perspective. The problem with "Playboy" is not that it takes sex too seriously. The problem with "Playboy" is that it does not take sex seriously enough. A healthy, wholistic understanding of the subject of sex is best found in the book inspired by the Creator of sex."

The university has no plans to discipline the six women students included in "Playboy's" current issue, officials said. Although Mercer officials believe the women made a big mistake, it is their decisions to make as adults, Gaddy said, noting, "We can't monitor everyone's personal life off this campus."

Mercer officials apparently were told any efforts they might make to dismiss the students could be challenged in court and add to the publicity already generated by the controversy.

"Playboy's" purpose was to sell magazines and exploit people, so "Playboy" managers desired all the publicity they could get, Skelton said.

The Mercer leader added he hopes "all our students are ready to put the "Playboy" matter to rest and to focus on the important business at hand, which is getting an education." — BP

Avondale church calls Henderson as pastor

Avondale Baptist Church in Chattanooga, called William Samuel Henderson III as pastor. He began Sept. 14.

His previous pastorates include Hites Run Baptist Church in Hardinsburg, Ky.; Friendship Baptist Church in Lincoln Park, Mich.; New Prospect Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg; Falling Water Baptist Church in Hixson; and Hudson River Baptist Church in Commerce, Ga.

A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Henderson also served as associate pastor of Middle Valley Baptist Church in Hixson.

HMB offering hits new high

ATLANTA (BP) — Receipts from the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, which provide funds for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, have reached an all-time high.

Current receipts of \$29,086,636, represent a 9.3 percent increase over receipts for the same period last year. The amount also exceeds the required 1987 operating budget of \$29-million.

"I am grateful for this outstanding support of the Annie Armstrong Offering. This record offering indicates solid commitment to home missions and the ministry of the Home Mission Board," said HMB President Larry Lewis.

Leonard Irwin, Home Mission Board vice-president of planning, estimated final receipts will be 81 percent of the \$37.5-million goal.

All funds received this year beyond the operational budget will be used for responding to needs of metropolitan areas through evangelism, starting new churches, and ministry to language groups, Irwin said.

Linden church assists in building project

Several men of the congregation of Tom's Creek Baptist Church, Linden recently assisted in constructing an addition to the United Tennessee League headquarters in Nashville.

The United Tennessee League is Tennessee's alcohol and drug education agency.

Executive director Wayman E. Jones and the Linden church's pastor Ben Woods, also participated in the project.

TBC board sets budget, elects two directors . . .

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his service there. Roberts had denied the charge, said Chevallier.

Chevallier also stated, "There has been no pressure from any person or group for any person that was nominated."

In answer to questions about his experience in evangelism, it was reported that his church in Brussels, which has an attendance of about 300 in Sunday morning worship, baptized about 30 persons last year and uses MasterLife and Continuing Witness Training materials. It also was noted that Roberts is 37 years old.

Larry Gilmore, pastor of College Heights Baptist Church in Gallatin, said that Roberts was "brilliant" and was a clear communicator.

Don Pharris, pastor of North Etowah Baptist Church in Etowah, stated that Roberts was "over-qualified." Later he moved for the election to be held by ballot rather than by show of hands.

Lon Shoopman, Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Madisonville, added that the churches where Roberts grew up in Ohio are small like those in Tennessee.

Jere Plunk, pastor of First Baptist Church in Carthage and chairman of the state missions committee, said that Roberts, who left during the meeting to return to Brussels, will notify the board of his decision about the position.

Committee recommendations

The board adopted a recommendation by the denominational cooperation committee requesting a quarterly treasurer's report of convention disbursements to appear in the Baptist and Reflector, adopted a motion that all agencies or institutions (including schools) that request Cooperative Program funds make line item budget reports to the proper board committee, and raised the debt ceiling of the Baptist Health System of East Tennessee Inc. of Knoxville, from \$25-million to \$60-million.

The board members also acted to recommend to the 1987 convention that it release to the trustees of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc. funds set aside from the 1983-84 Cooperative Program budget.

Concerning the recommendation for a convention disbursements report in the Baptist and Reflector, Lon Shoopman Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Madisonville and chairman of the denominational cooperation committee, said it would "enhance the level of trust" in religious institutions.

The motion calling for line item budget reports by agencies or institutions re-

questing Cooperative Program funds was amended to include schools. Better accountability is needed even though these separate entities are directed by trustees, the board members decided.

Those affected include Woman's Missionary Union, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc., Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc., Baptist and Reflector, Belmont College in Nashville, Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, and Union University in Jackson.

During discussion on the new debt ceiling for Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, Bob Chandler, president, noted that its trustees "pledged the institution itself" to repay the bond issue for new construction and renovation. The current debt ceiling of \$25-million was adopted in 1948.

The action concerning Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc. involved its \$90,000 1983-84 Cooperative Program budget, of which \$25,000 was allocated for a study of adult care in Tennessee and the future ministry of the agency, and the additional \$65,000 was put in escrow. Both actions were taken at the 1983 Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting.

James Robertson, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church in Knoxville and chairman of the Christian Services Committee, made the motion that led to the convention's action in 1983. He explained that the requested study was presented to the 1986 convention.



NAMED AS DIRECTOR — Ircel Harrison was elected TBC student director, succeeding the retiring Glenn Yarbrough. Harrison was approved unanimously by the Executive Board.



EMPLOYEES HONORED — Receiving service pins at the Sept. 11 Executive Board meeting in Brentwood were (from left) Walter Wilson, Vanderbilt University BSU director, for 5 years; Archie King, TBC Brotherhood department director, for 10 years; Jim McDonald, TBC business office director, for 15 years; Nancy Hargrove, layout artist in the TBC program services department, for 10 years; Janet Harbin, TBC missions department secretary, for 10 years; Garce Darden, administrative assistant in the TBC business office, for 15 years; and Doris Clark, administrative secretary in the TBC program services department, for 10 years. Not able to attend were Ann White, TBC church training department secretary, for 10 years, and Robert Hall, BSU director at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, for 10 years.

The committee recommended that the unused funds from the study, which total about \$10,400, and the \$65,000 held in escrow be used for the construction of a chapel at Baptist Health Care Center in Lenoir City. The recommendation was adopted by the Executive Board.

Task Force report

The Executive Board adopted the conceptual plan for new construction and renovation at the convention's office building site in Brentwood presented by members of the Program, Personnel, and Planning Task Force.

The board also authorized \$50,000 for design development of the building, to be presented to the TBC annual meeting Nov. 10-12. (See related story on page 1).

Dennis Pulley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ripley and chairman of the Tennessee Baptist program committee, presented the 1987-88 budget requests totaling \$23,850,000, which included an increase in the percentage of receipts to the SBC. The board acted during its May 5 meeting to continue increasing the percentage given to the SBC by one fourth of one percent, even though it was not recommended by the committee because of the upcoming building program. The distribution adopted was 37.25 percent of receipts to the SBC and 62.75 percent to the TBC.

It was reported during discussion that the budget-goal is a 6 percent increase

over last year's budget-goal.

The board adopted the budget requests along with the committee's revised program statement for public affairs and Christian life which deleted family life from the statement. The Task Force developed a separate family ministry program, which was adopted as a part of the new organizational structure March 27 by the board.

The program committee also recommended that study of Rainbow Acres Baptist Home for retarded adults in Jacksboro be referred to the Christian services committee. The recommendation was accepted by the board.

At the May 5 meeting the board had defeated an amendment to include the home in allocations for the Golden State Missions Offering and referred to the program committee a motion to invite the home to report to the annual meeting and begin support of the home.

The public affairs and Christian life committee reported that it is seeking a consultant for public affairs and Christian life, working to defeat the referendum to allow pari-mutuel gambling in Shelby County and the possibility of one in Williamson County, and commended Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, for spearheading Nashvillians Against Pari-mutuel Gambling, which helped defeat the referendum in Davidson County.

Executive Board approves . . .

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members John Lee Taylor and Marshall Gupton in making the Executive Board presentation, shared with the group floor and elevation plans for both buildings, and presented the architectural concept.

The entire project, he explained, "is an expansion and renovation of the TBC building in Brentwood that will reflect the convention's growth and outreach opportunities."

The exterior of the new building will complement the existing building. The two-and-a-half story addition is 34,000 square feet and will house a conference center, dining room, Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, and Woman's Missionary Union.

The conference center will be able to hold meetings involving 10 to 300 persons. The dining hall will hold 250, and will be served by a warming kitchen that can be expanded later to a full food service kitchen.

There will be 300 parking spaces and enlarged landscaped area.

The space subcommittee of the Task Force, chaired by Taylor, began work a week after the March 27 vote.

Representatives from Gresham, Smith and Partners were present Thursday and Friday when presentations were made to the administrative committee and the Executive Board. Their fee for the entire project is 5 1/2 percent.

Revealing the conceptual plan and a model for the first time, Porch said the Task Force sought to portray "a Tennessee uniqueness."

Answering queries about the possibility of building elsewhere, Taylor said, "We think it best to build here, within the \$4-million guideline you set, and to continue to be a good citizen in Brentwood. We feel we will get complete approval from Brentwood after you approve these plans."

Gupton "walked through" the conceptual plan with board members, using drawings and slides.

Executive Secretary Tom Madden, speaking to the question of financing the construction and renovation, said, "We hope to accumulate enough funds during preparation and construction to pay for half of the project. Also we can sell the convention property in Williamson County (about 120 acres). Then we can borrow the remainder necessary."

It was emphasized that the conference center is a major part of the new building, and is intended mainly for broad use by the entire convention, not for Executive Board work.

Porch said that careful consideration had been given to Brentwood code requirements, floor plan, landscaping, parking, extent of renovation, and aesthetics with careful design to communicate "a Tennessee Baptist uniqueness."

"We diligently tried," he said, "not only to present that uniqueness in the new building, but to make it evident in the renovation and in the overall building. We believe it will be functional, and will reflect the pride Tennessee Baptists have in their work for the Lord."

Approximate cost for the project is estimated at \$3,750,000, with \$875,000 targeted for renovation. One cost item that provoked discussion is a \$35,000 impact fee for Brentwood. It was explained that no major building project in the city can be done without paying this assessment, since it is necessary for city approval.

About half (25,000 sq. ft.) of the present building will be renovated. The new building will be two and a half floors and will be west of the present building, along Maryland Way. First phase of the project will be to put about 50 new parking spaces on the Franklin Road end of the building.

According to Porch, when completed, the building will be "a three divisional structure. It will be one building, but will have distinct lines for the look of three."

Editorials

Stellar Task Force report

We would have to search many pages of history to find a more important and impacting Executive Board meeting.

Friday's meeting in the Baptist Building featured a packed agenda of significant items.

Nominations were made to fill vital staff positions in student work and evangelism. Eight committees gave reports and/or recommendations, several employees were recognized for long terms of service, Executive Secretary Tom Madden gave a good report on the convention budget, and

the Task Force reported two recommendations regarding a new building and renovation of the present structure.

It was a busy day. More than that, it was a day of progress and historical significance.

Topping the list was the healthy discussion and almost unanimous approval of the Task Force recommendation to adopt the conceptual plan for new construction and renovation, and the recommendation that allows the Task Force to proceed with design development.

This means that the Task Force can aim toward an actual building plan, subject to approval by the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November.

We applaud the industry of the Task Force. If the team chaired by James Porch performs as it did before the committees and Executive Board last week, convention messengers will have no trouble understanding the plans and directions. The Baptist and Reflector plans to keep readers informed on progressive steps by the Task Force leading up to November's presentation. — WFA

Kind words lend pastor support

Now is the right time for church members to speak up and say good things about their pastors.

The world is on a tear, all too eager to join secular news media in gleefully joking about the mistakes of some television evangelists and personalities. We have heard Christians, apparently casting about for a surefire laugh, repeat a silly saying — which may be, in reality, an assault on someone's character.

Three things come to mind.

First, it is unfair and unChristlike to participate in such. There is enough evil alive in the world for us to combat. The ramparts of crime are made of strong stones.

To be a part of cheap jokes about those who claim Christ, no matter how fast they may have fallen, is to help build a case for evil. An old axiom is adequate here. "If you can't say something good, don't say anything."

Second, too often the world puts all Christian leaders in the same boat. If the boat steered by

one group sinks because of human failure — all Christians are categorized as failures. If one person hacks a gaping hole in the side of the ship, everyone on board is guilty. It is guilt by association.

When television evangelists are held up for ridicule, your pastor might suffer the same insults. He doesn't deserve such treatment — nor do other church leaders.

Third, we should accentuate the positive words and deeds of our church staff. They live in full view, and often are held up for public inspection.

Saying good things about your pastor means that you will tell others about the challenge of well-prepared sermons, the long hours he works, the constant challenge of being "on call."

You can remind critics of the nights he has sat with a tragedy-stricken family, helped a wayward son or daughter, counseled a couple headed for marriage breakup.

You can remember the times he has "made do" on a meager salary without complaining, driven a broken-down car, neglected his family to help care for yours.

Saying good words about your pastor really isn't hard. And it will lead to good feelings about him. You might even be more inclined to cooperate more!

An arm on his shoulder would help also, a "thank you" and a warm handshake — and yes, even "I love you" would do wonders for his morale.

Then — you know what is next. When the church feels this way about the pastor — and supports their man of God, his compensation will be commensurate with that love and spiritual support.

Budget committees are meeting. Now is the time not only to say a good word about your pastor — let him know you appreciate him by giving him a raise in salary. — WFA

Nicaragua's president names Baptist to peace commission

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP) — Baptist leader Gustavo Parajon has been named by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega

to a panel that will monitor compliance with the new plan to bring peace to Central America.

Parajon, a medical doctor, will serve on the National Commission of Reconciliation along with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who was appointed as the Roman Catholic representative.

Parajon is to "represent the category

of distinguished citizen," a Nicaraguan press release said. Others on the four-member panel are Mauricio Diaz, president of the opposition Popular Social Christian Party, representing registered political parties; and Vice-President Sergio Ramirez, representing the government.

The Nicaragua commission is one of the national panels called for when chiefs of state of five nations in the troubled area met Aug. 7 in Guatemala to sign a peace accord.

Parajon and his wife, Joan, are commissioned missionaries of the Board of International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. The Parajons have been active in Baptist World

Alliance affairs. She is a member of the BWA Human Rights Study Commission, and he has been a member of Baptist World Aid and other alliance committees.

Parajon is a member of the executive committee of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua and directs the convention's program of primary health care, Pro-vadenic. Some of Provadenic's 27 clinics throughout the country have been attacked by Contra forces.

He also is president of CEPAD, the evangelical committee on relief, which unites some 80 evangelical groups within Nicaragua. Parajon is interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Managua, where he regularly teaches an adult Bible class.

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Baptist and Reflector (USPS 041-780) is published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 205 Franklin Road, Brentwood, Tennessee 37024. 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 office.

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 37024.

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

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Tennessee/Venezuela prayer net partnership

— Pray for the 128 U.S. volunteers leaving Sept. 17 and the Venezuelan Baptists leading the second phase of the 1987 crusades in Venezuela.

— A pastor is needed for the only English-speaking Baptist church in Caracas.

— Pray for the Venezuelans as they try to disciple those who made professions of faith during the first phase of the crusades.

— Seven missionaries celebrate birthdays this week and include Omar Coline, Venezuelan home missionary, on Sept. 15; Freida Adams, church/home worker in Valencia, and Emilee Goff, church/home worker in Los Teques, on Sept. 16; Richard Beal, seminary extension teacher in Los Teques, and Barbara Clement, church/home worker in Merida, on Sept. 18; Norma Powell, church/home worker in Los Teques, on Sept. 19; and Carol Busby, currently on furlough in Alabama, on Sept. 20.

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.

Essence and evidence

Dear editor:

After returning from a mission trip to Chicago, I am more aware of the central need of our land. During a morning worship recently, the song "People Need the Lord" was presented. "The Essence of Our Gospel" was the topic of the message. As we battle with issues that plague our convention and hinder our pressing forward in our endeavors to minister to the multitudes, my heart returns to what was presented in this simple but concise message.

First Corinthians 15:1-11 is the essence and evidence of who and what we are as Christians. Christ died for us. That is the essence. He was buried after death. That is the evidence. Christ rose again that we might believe and have life eternal. That is the essence and the fact that He was seen by many, as listed in Scripture, is the evidence. The needs of the people I have seen here and in Chicago point me to but one direction. The longer we argue with each other, the less time we have to reach the people in need. The essence of the gospel is that Christ died for mankind and He rose again.

We've a story to tell to the nations. Let us be about the Father's business in telling THE story. The world awaits for us to deliver the essence of the gospel. It saved men then and it can and will save mankind now.

M. Bogue
112 Hurt St.
Martin 38237

Vision of 2007

Dear editor:

I had a "vision." The year is 2007. Two veterans of the SBC purge of the 1980s and 1990s are wearing long faces as they review the annual statistics. For the third consecutive year the SBC has lost members.

This is puzzling to say the least because a concerted program of purifying the convention has apparently been very successful, thanks partly to technological advances. The development of a device called the "theologicameter" has enabled the central committee to monitor theological deviations by agency employees, missionaries, and seminary professors.

Popularly known as the inerrancy lie detector, it is actually a much more subtle device than its technological ancestor. It not only measures compliance with the Baptist Faith and Message (as interpreted by the central committee), but also produces warning signals about the subject's reading habits and thus has been very helpful in controlling access to books with a German theological taint.

The vision ends with the old warriors conversing with nostalgia about the good old days of the 1970s when the reason for

the failed effort in evangelizing the world was so clear. Then it was so obvious that our zeal had been diluted by creeping liberalism.

Possible interpretations: (I give two options because I have not checked with the central committee for the official interpretation.)

a. We must be very careful to root out all the liberals. Some must have slipped through the net by masquerading as true believers. No other explanation for our failure is even thinkable.

b. We better not root out all the liberals. If we do, we will have to look for a new scapegoat in 2007 ("too many women in ministry" is a good possibility if we don't run them off).

Larry Maples
1060 Mt. Vernon Road
Cookeville 38501

No endorsements

Dear editor:

Because of the trend I see developing among the new leadership of the SBC, I would like to make a suggestion, or you may say, give a piece of advice to those leaders. When you endorse a political appointee, a political party, or a political candidate, please do so under your own name and not under the banner of the SBC. You are not the SBC, but only a small part of the membership.

I have not graduated from a seminary taught by fundamentalist professors, but nowhere in my Bible can I find that souls will be saved by playing politics. Neither have I heard where anyone has been baptized because of the political battle within our denomination.

But I have heard of increased apathy within our churches and a decrease in attendance.

If we enter into secular politics, I think we will see a great falling away from the SBC also. This may not concern those "believe as I do or get out" leaders, but I'm sure when the dollars quit coming in they will become concerned.

Remember who the "holier than thou" experts were in Christ's day? Didn't the Pharisees have all kinds of head knowledge of the Scriptures? Seems like they had a heart problem though.

C-N enrollment climbs 8 percent

JEFFERSON CITY — A healthy increase in student enrollment for the 1987 fall semester has given Carson-Newman College its largest student body in history.

Statistics released by C-N Registrar and Director of Records Paul W. Roden show a total of 1,887 students registered for credit courses at the college.

This fall's total represents an increase of 145 students — or a rise of 8.3 percent — over the enrollment for last year. The increase continues an upward trend which began with a growth of 5 percent in enrollment in 1986.

Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox cited several different factors as contributing to the large influx of new students.

"The recently concluded Church Endowment Campaign, several new academic programs, a nationwide television newscast, a national football championship, and an aggressive recruiting program have all helped to expand the college's visibility," Maddox said.

The church has enough problems without creating more and the Kingdom of God is the main loser.

John Baskette
1055 Ensel Ave.
Chattanooga 37421

Endorse Christ

Dear editor:

The Public Affairs Committee has no more business endorsing a Supreme Court nominee than Harold Bennett and Carolyn Weatherford have representing

Routh claims endorsement of Bork violates bylaw

By Stan Haste

NASHVILLE — Porter W. Routh, who served longer than any other head of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said the recent endorsement of Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork by the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee violates a denominational bylaw and breaks a historical precedent of not endorsing political figures.

Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee from 1951 to 1979, cited a provision of Bylaw 26 limiting denominational units from going beyond their officially approved program statements in the discharge of their responsibilities.

The Public Affairs Committee, Routh said, violated Bylaw 26 by going beyond its own program statement adopted in June at the annual meeting of the SBC. The statement, part of a report adopted by messengers from a special fact-finding committee on future SBC participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, reads in part, "(the PAC) shall ... act only on the basis of principles and policies generally accepted by Baptists or in support of official acts and pronouncements of the cooperating conventions."

Routh noted the SBC repeatedly has refused to endorse candidates for public office and cited adoption of a motion in 1976 reaffirming "its long tradition of non-endorsement of any political candidate." The action turned aside efforts to have the SBC endorse Southern Baptist Jimmy Carter for president that year.

Expressing his views in a letter to editors of state Baptist newspapers, Routh said he was "shocked" to learn of the Aug. 21 action by the PAC endorsing Bork "without any consultation with the Baptist Joint Committee ... and disregarding the wise counsel of Dr. Harold Bennett and Dr. Lloyd Elder."

Bennett, president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, and Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, objected to the resolution endorsing Bork during PAC debate on the matter. Both are PAC members by virtue of their positions.

Bennett warned against the action, saying, "I know of no time when either the convention or a convention-related agency has endorsed a person for office. This is different from anything we have ever done."

Elder said the proposed action "seems more ideological than First Amendment" in its focus and urged no resolution on Bork. "The process of confirming a judge is part of the political process," he said.

Southern Baptists in an audience with a pope.

Conservatives and moderates alike seem determined to rob us all of our cherished right of autonomy as individuals and as independent churches. Our endorsement should be of Christ and our audience a daily one with God.

If the newly emerging SBC limousine is headed down the road of political and ecumenical entanglements, then I, for one, am ready to trade it in on a vehicle stripped down to the basics of evangelism, missions, and prayer. A conservative or moderate Southern Baptist Convention may not be the only alternatives in this game of denominational politics.

Jack L. Carver
5017 Laurel Woods Dr.
Knoxville 37921

"It is not running for office, but it is running for election."

The PAC approved the resolution of endorsement by a 7-5 vote.

In his letter to editors, Routh stated: "The issue is not the approval of a particular candidate for a position on the Supreme Court. ... The issue is that the Southern Baptist Convention has never and should not now ... be urging the election of any candidate for any office."

"It is a sad day when persons who have incomplete knowledge of Baptist history or tradition, or the price (Baptists) have paid for religious liberty, make decisions which are in violation of specific Southern Baptist Convention actions, and also in violation of the principles of separation of church and state which they are elected to defend."

In Washington, meanwhile, the PAC action has resulted in a claim by at least one conservative group lobbying the U.S. Senate for Bork's confirmation that Southern Baptists support the nominee. Dan Casey, executive director of the American Conservative Union, said Southern Baptists have joined other religious groups, including the Moral Majority, Concerned Women for America, and the Knights of Columbus, in endorsing the 60-year-old D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals judge.

Casey said the groups had come together because of the "extremist demagoguery of the left."

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, said his organization has had numerous calls, principally from the media, about claims the SBC has endorsed Bork.

"The Southern Baptist Convention has not endorsed Judge Bork," Dunn said.

"An elementary Baptist principle is that no Baptist presumes to speak for another," he said. "Nor does any Baptist committee speak for the entire denomination. The Public Affairs Committee action at best bespeaks a completely inadequate understanding of Baptist polity."

Dunn said the Baptist Joint Committee never has endorsed presidential nominees or candidates for elective office and is "highly unlikely to depart from this position."

The PAC resolution urges the Baptist Joint Committee, "which receives 91 percent of its subsidy from the Southern Baptist Convention cooperative funds, to issue a similar recommendation and to direct its staff to lobby on behalf of the Bork nomination."

The 48-member Baptist Joint Committee, which includes the 18 members of the PAC, is to consider the matter at its annual meeting Oct. 5-6.

Group meets to discuss Texas Baptist politics

By Toby Druin

SAN MARCOS, Texas (BP) — More than 320 Texas Baptists met in the gymnasium of Southwest Texas State University Sept. 1, for a luncheon, an evening of inspiration and fellowship, and to discuss affairs of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The meeting, an informal gathering by invitation only, featured an address by Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, who said he was invited by "long-time friends," John Baugh of Houston and W. Dewey Presley of Dallas, to deliver a devotional, inspirational message. He spoke on "the transforming power of a singular commitment" from Philippians 1.

Both Baugh and Presley, co-hosts for the meeting, have been active, each for about 50 years or more, in Texas and Southern Baptist life. Baugh, a member of Second Baptist Church in Houston, is past chairman of the Baptist Foundation of Texas. Presley, a member of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, is past chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and both have held other denominational posts.

Baugh, contacted by the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said the San Marcos meeting was in "the time-honored practice of Baptist polity, that is, Baptist people informally discussing our many points of view regarding the facets of Baptist work and our denomination's business."

They had sought no publicity for the event and planned it to be a private gathering, he said, but some church groups heard Jackson was to speak and came to the evening meeting. A total of 320 chairs were set up for the evening session, said Baugh, and more had to be brought in to accommodate the crowd.

Baugh acknowledged the meeting would be viewed by some as having political overtones but insisted he and Presley and their guests were just doing what Baptists have done throughout their history — discussing matters of concern.

The discussions, he said, were about the Texas Baptist convention, not the Southern Baptist Convention. Theme of the meeting, he said, was "Texas Baptists have the right to know ... a need to know the truth. The Baptist way ... speaking the truth ... in love ... Ephesians 4:15."

He said the possible candidacy of

Jackson for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets in San Antonio, Texas, next June, was not discussed. Jackson was nominated for president in St. Louis in June 1987 and got 40 percent of the vote in losing to Adrian Rogers.

Jackson, contacted by the Standard Sept. 3, confirmed that he had been asked to bring an "inspirational, devotional message" at the meeting and that the topic of discussion was Texas Baptist affairs, not his candidacy for the SBC presidency.

He said he has not been asked to be a nominee for the SBC presidency in 1988 but added his position remains unchanged on the subject, that anyone is free to nominate him who feels he can serve the convention.

Baugh and Presley, both of whom have been active in the group "Laity For ... The Baptist Faith and Message," called the San Marcos meeting, Baugh said, because of their concern that the Texas Baptist convention is about to be confronted with the disruptive spirit and controversy that have plagued the SBC the last nine years.

"There is but one major issue before 2.5-million conservative, mainstream Texas Baptists," he said. "We must preserve our Christian principles and Baptist ideals."

Baugh added it is time for Texas Baptist pastors to stand before God, their congregations, and their fellow Texans and state openly whether they want the spirit that has dominated the SBC the last few years "to infiltrate and control the hearts and the minds of Texas Baptists."

The meeting, he said, was pointing toward the state convention annual meeting in Fort Worth Nov. 10-11, "and to everything Baptists will do for the next decade."

As to the admonition of the SBC Peace Committee that groups discontinue political meetings, Baugh observed the Peace Committee also noted that some politics is "an intrinsic" part of denominational life, including voting and public and private discussions.

"Are we to interpret the report of the Peace Committee that individuals are prohibited from talking about Texas Baptist individuals and Baptist affairs in our state?" he asked.

Auto accident injures missionary, volunteer

TRUJILLO, Peru (BP) — Southern Baptist Missionary Ken Bowie and volunteer Bob Kersten were injured seriously in a one-car accident in central Peru Sept. 1 when the automobile Bowie was driving went off a mountain road and down an embankment. The car plunged some 20 feet to a dry river bed.

Bowie and Kersten were hospitalized in Trujillo. Bowie suffered a dislocated shoulder, cracked ribs, and two fractured vertebrae in the accident. He also received a deep cut around his right eye that took 44 stitches to close.

Kersten suffered three cracked vertebrae. He was released from the hospital Sept. 6 after being placed in a plaster body cast because an aluminum brace was not available. He was flown Sept. 8 from Lima to Miami, where his son met him at the airport and took him to Orlando, Fla., his hometown. Kersten is dean of the College of Engineering at the

University of Central Florida in Orlando. Bowie, a native of McLouth, Kan., was expected to remain hospitalized in Trujillo until sometime in mid-September.

Bowie told Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials he apparently "blacked out" while driving Kersten to Cajamarca after meeting his plane in Lima. Bryan Brasington, the board's area director for Spanish South America, said that although doctors are not sure what caused the blackout, there is speculation it may have been produced by a hemorrhage.

A Peruvian neurologist recommended 21 days of rest in bed and then appropriate medical tests. Since one of the tests, an angiogram, cannot be done in Peru, Foreign Mission Board health officials have recommended that Bowie, 37, return to the United States as soon as he is able to travel.

One Word More

W. Fletcher Allen
Editor

Paul the great Apostle had some interesting theories about running. I don't know whether the episode about Elijah running from Carmel to the Negev was a favorite of his, but he could relate.

He compared it to the goals of Christian living. He would admonish the brethren quite often to throw aside all hindrances, all entanglements in running the race of life.

I have never been a fast runner. Watching fleet friends in boyhood days, I would emulate their efforts, mimic their styles. But I was never fast enough.

Perhaps the most memorable of my racing experiences came in early childhood. A beloved uncle was visiting. He proposed a race involving all us barefoot kin. The finish line was drawn, we were all admonished to run fairly, do our best; the count began and we were off.

Toward the finish line we careened, dust flying, bare feet gripping the dirt and propelling us on. About halfway, I realized something was wrong. My body was not responding to my plea of "faster, faster."

I fell in a heap, my loose-fitting overalls

slipping from my shoulders, twisting around my legs and throwing me gasping to the ground. Well, if the others had looked back, they wouldn't have finished either. My uncle guffawed, slapping his knees — and the rest of the kin joined in.

Accidentally, I had rid myself of entanglements — just as Paul advised — but not the same way, and not completely.

Paul said to the people of Philippi church several things about running the Race. "So I run," he said, "straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above."

And, "... holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain."

To the people of Corinth, he said, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it ... I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air."

I suppose Paul and the rest of us dream of a race in which every contestant will finish in a dead heat. Marvelous!

That race is the Race of Life, and if we but follow Jesus, every runner can finish the contest unencumbered, in a dead heat, and what's more — every runner can win the Crown of Life.

One thought captures my mind. The One whom I have chosen to follow has already finished the race and stands in the winner's circle as victor, receiving the "well done" and urging you and me to complete the race in classic style, winners.

Baptist Hospital sets cancer course

The Baptist Hospital Cancer Center, Knoxville, and the Knox County unit of the American Cancer Society are sponsoring "I Can Cope," a six-session cancer education course for cancer patients and their families.

The cost-free course is held at the Baptist Hospital Cancer Center Monday evenings through Oct. 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The first session was held Sept. 14.

The course includes classes on treatment, communicating, fitness through nutrition and physical therapy, emotional well-being and faith, and legal issues facing patients.

BSSB manager dies of wreck injuries

Ray Farris, manager of the management information section of the information systems department, at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, died Sept. 9 of injuries suffered in an automobile accident in Pensacola, Fla.

A recent employee of the board, Farris and his family were in Florida visiting relatives.

Farris began work in the information systems department in February 1987, following eight years with the Tennessee Eastman Company, Kingsport. Earlier he had worked for Auburn (Ala.) University.

A native of Alabama, he graduated from Auburn University. He also did graduate study at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

He is survived by his wife, Janet; a daughter, Amy, 18; and a son, Steven, 14. The funeral was Sept. 15 at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Kingsport, where he was an active member before moving to Nashville.



DEDICATION — Hickory Hollow Baptist Chapel, Antioch, a mission of Judson Baptist Church and Crieveewood Baptist Church, both in Nashville, was dedicated Aug. 30. Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Carl J. Duck, executive director of the Nashville Baptist Association, attended the ceremony. The pastor of the mission is Lemuel F. Wade.

Indonesia missionaries face visa rejections

By Marty Croll

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP) — For more than 42 years, Southern Baptist Missionary Clyde Meador has worked in Indonesia, first developing churches and later teaching theology. But now Indonesia is asking him to go back home.

Meador's family is one of 16 Southern Baptist missionary families who have been told the Indonesia Religion Department will no longer supply them a letter of recommendation allowing them to live there.

"If this is carried out, it will have significant impact on our (Baptist) work," said Meador, who is from Albuquerque, N.M. He and his wife and their two daughters moved to Indonesia in 1975, just months after they were appointed career missionaries.

If unchanged, the situation leaves the Meadors with less than a year before they will be required to leave. Other Southern Baptist families would have to move out next winter, he said.

By early next year missionaries expect about 10 other families to receive the same notice, which has come in an official letter of clearance required from the Religion Department as part of the visa-approval process. The note has appeared on the letters of missionaries who have held visas recommended by the Religion Department for 10 years or longer. The note has not appeared on visas for

healthcare workers or the one agriculturist assigned to Indonesia, whose visas are processed through other channels.

Unless government officials reverse their course, nearly two-thirds of the Southern Baptist missionary force in Indonesia — about 50 missionaries — will have to leave by early 1989. Some mission groups started receiving the notation last year. But the first Southern Baptist missionary saw it in June, said Meador, who received his notice the second week of August.

Without Southern Baptists, the well-established Indonesian Baptist Convention should be able to maintain existing churches and institutions. But by requiring the missionaries to leave, the government's new policy would hamper Baptist outreach and new church growth, Meador said.

With a population of about 170-million, Indonesia is the world's fifth largest country, behind China, India, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

"This is the most serious threat to our missionary ministry that I can recall in the last 27 years," said Ed Sanders, chairman of the Southern Baptist missionary organization in Indonesia. "They (the government) mean business."

The visa denials result primarily from Muslims exerting a growing pressure on the Indonesian government, according to missionaries and mission strategists at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Muslims make up about 90 percent of the population, and as Islamic nationalism has solidified in recent years, foreigners have felt an increasing pressure to leave.

Last year a mid-level Religion Department official stated in a public letter that no new missionary visas would be given for extended periods, reported Harry Bush, a church developer in Bali. The last religion visa to be granted came in 1984,

Bush added. Two missionary families are studying language in the country now and will be able to stay only if they receive a visa after their student visa expires. One couple was appointed last month to Indonesia but has not begun language school yet.

Southern Baptist medical missionaries, too, have felt pressure over the years from anti-Christian elements in Indonesia. Once the government enacted a policy that all foreign medical personnel must leave the country within five years. Another time, responding to Islamic concern, the government forced Baptists to sell a hospital in a strong Muslim area only six years after they built it.

In 1979 the Immigration Department stamped a "not-to-be-extended-again" notation on 10 Southern Baptist missionary visas. But after an organized prayer campaign and meetings with high-ranking government leaders who were Christians, the policy behind the notation was reversed.

Because of tension between themselves and Indonesian Baptists, missionaries at that time were not certain they had full backing from the Baptist convention. But recent years have brought healing, and now the convention is fully behind the missionaries, Meador said. The convention is filing appeal letters with almost every department of government, trying to get them to overturn the denials.

In addition, the U.S. Consulate in Indonesia is working on the missionaries' behalf.

Missionaries and Indonesian Baptists are appealing the denials first by asking the government to reverse its policy. If this fails, each missionary will ask for considerations based on his or her contributions to the country. Some missionaries might consider transferring to other fields or becoming an Indonesian citizen, a possibility still under study by mis-

sionaries and Foreign Mission Board officials.

"We've lived under this threatening cloud since before the attempted communist coup in 1965," said church developer Ray Rogers, who lives in Mojokerto. "I remember back at my first mission meeting 22 years ago, people were saying we didn't even have time to unpack."

But missionaries agree this newest threat is more ominous than any other. "In 1979 and 1980 it looked very, very serious, but this is much more serious than it's ever been before. I personally feel that with us getting this many notations, they're not doing it with the intention of reversing it," Meador said. "But that doesn't mean they won't reverse it."

M. Livingston accepts HMB editing post

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors elected Mike Livingston as book editor and approved 74 people for missionary service during their September meeting.

As book editor, Livingston will oversee the planning, editing, and production of Home Mission Board books, including the annual home mission study series. He will succeed Celeste Pennington who resigned last spring to become a freelance writer.

For the past two years, Livingston owned and operated a professional writing service in Memphis. Previously, he was employed at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission for 10 years.

Livingston and his wife, Sheril Raye, have two daughters.

In addition to electing Livingston, directors approved 15 missionaries, six missionary associates, eight church planter apprentices, and 45 mission pastors and interns.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



In my recent reading I came across a verse that caused me to reflect seriously about the truths underlined in it. Here is the verse: "Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery?" (Ezekiel 8:12).

Ezekiel saw what the elders of Israel were doing in the dark — feasting their eyes on repulsive idols, suggestive pictures, and evil deeds. Outwardly all was respectable, inwardly all was rotten. What was happening in the dark would inevitably express itself in the day.

I am sobered by the thought that many may now have their own private picture gallery. What is seen there may have a dynamic influence on the kind of people we are, and will become. Ezekiel knew that the elders of Israel, feasting on the lewd, were committing moral suicide. A foul mind issues in a foul character. If we are to avoid corruption, an unrelaxing vigilance is demanded. Our picture gallery could have a positive effect on our spiritual lives.

Let me suggest we keep in our minds the picture of Christ on the cross, crucified on bloody beams out of sheer love for us, who arose and lives today. We may keep the picture of our church in our mind. See it as worshiping, witnessing, divine institution, the body of Christ, His eyes and hands and feet and voice in the world today.

In our world of "picture galleries" the only answer is to let Christ rule over life. Crown Him Lord of all.

"Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, every man in his room of pictures?"

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Foreign Mission Board fills positions

RICHMOND (BP) — As reorganization continues at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, eight people have been named to new positions.

Hal Lee, who considers his home town to be the Pascagoula-Moss Point area of Mississippi, has been named associate to the director for Europe. A missionary to France since 1962, he will continue to live in Massey, France, and work under Switzerland-based area director Keith Parker. He will relate to both the area office and missionaries in 12 European countries.

John Deal, a missionary since 1966, has been named associate area director for the Middle East and North Africa. Effective Jan. 1, 1988, he takes on the additional responsibility of associate area director for Europe. In his expanded job he will handle Richmond-based administrative responsibilities for Parker and for Dale Thorne, director for the Middle East and North Africa. Deal, who grew up in Dothan, Ala., has been administrator at the Baptist hospital in Ajloun, Jordan, since 1979.

Birmingham, Ala., native Garry Eudy

has been named associate to the director for Middle America and Canada. An evangelist and student worker in Panama since 1980, he will move to Guatemala next year to work with area director Joe Bruce.

Everett Burnette, a native of Spartanburg, S.C., and missionary to France, has been named associate to the director for non-English-speaking West Africa. He and his family will move from Tours, France, where he has been director of a French language fellowship since 1984, to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, to work with Billy Bullington, director for West Africa.

A missionary since 1964, Texan Jim Houser has been named associate to the director for eastern Africa. Working under John Faulkner, director for

Eastern and Southern Africa, he will act as a liaison between the area office and missionaries in six African nations. Houser has been the administrator for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Tanzania. The Dallas native and his family will move to Nairobi, Kenya.

Zeb Moss, an Aberdeen, N.C., native and missionary to southern Africa since 1959, has been named associate area director for Eastern and Southern Africa. He will handle Richmond-based administrative responsibilities for Faulkner.

In other areas of the board's work, Earl Goatcher, of Little Rock, Ark., has been named associate director for community development in human needs. In his new Richmond-based job he will help mis-

sionaries throughout the world plan rural and urban development and help put together programs to train others in development. A missionary for more than 16 years, he has been the administrator for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Thailand since 1984.

And David Coleman, who has been associate director of the board's volunteer enlistment department for the last year, has become a development officer working under Jerry Jackson, the board's vice-president for development. Coleman, from Guthrie, Ky., will focus on establishing regional development councils of Baptists interested in undergirding foreign missions as well as direct the board's LIFE Endowment and corporate giving programs and the pooled income fund.

Canadian seminary offers first classes

COCHRANE, Canada (BP) — Classes started Sept. 1 at the brand-new Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary as construction work on the 149-acre campus continued.

Twenty students began work in the four introductory courses offered this fall: New Testament, Greek, systematic theology and preaching. All but one of the students are Canadians from the western provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, where most Canadian Southern Baptist congregations are located.

"You are part of a historic moment for Canadian Southern Baptists," seminary President Clint Ashley told the students as they gathered on the campus, located on rolling hills near Calgary, Alberta. "You come from different walks of life, from various professional backgrounds. But all of you will go from here to share the gospel message across Canada and around the world."

Classes are being taught by Southern Baptist representatives Wayne Cook and Mike McGough, who were assigned to the seminary by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The seminary is asking the mission board to send four more teachers during the next two years. "After that we hope to be in a position to hire our own professors," said Southern Baptist representative James Teel, director of development and promotion for the seminary.

"We're still so busy with details that one has to be reminded of the historic nature of it," Teel said. "But when one savors the moment, it's impossible to describe the emotion, realizing that it's the culmination not just of three years of hard work by some of us but many years of prayer by Canadian Southern Baptists."

For now, classes are meeting in a service building as construction continues on the main academic building, which still lacks doors, carpeting, trim and exterior

brick. Landscaping work also continues.

Since building began, about 250 Canadian and American construction volunteers from churches in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Texas, Florida, and Georgia have come to help. Another volunteer crew from North Carolina is due in September, Teel said.

But the seminary needs more money to complete construction. Canadian Southern Baptists contribute to the seminary through their regular church offerings and are in the middle of a \$300,000 "Share the Dream" fund-raising campaign for the school. Churches have given or pledged about \$100,000 so far.

More than \$575,000 for property and construction has come from Southern Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board and individual gifts.

E. Mallonee accepts Brownsville pastorate

Eddie Mallonee began his pastorate at Poplar Corner Baptist Church in Brownsville Aug. 30.

The native of Trezevant is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and received a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.

His previous pastorates include Sand Hill Baptist Church, Richton, Miss., and West Union Baptist Church, Dresden.

He has also served as minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Dresden, and Bethel Baptist Church in Greenfield.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for Sept. 20

Millennium and judgment

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

Basic Passage: Revelation 20:1-15
Focal Passages: Revelation 20:2-8a, 11-15

The passage to be studied in our lesson this week has been the subject of debate for centuries. I'm sure you don't expect me to iron out all those problems in the course of this brief commentary on it.

There have been such sharp disagreements on the interpretation of this chapter that churches, and even denominations, have been split. Throughout all this time and disagreement, little new light has been shown on the main questions of the passage.

I have chosen to stick with what I consider to be the main message of the book — a word of hope and encouragement to Christians going through tough times. With that in mind, what is the word of encouragement in this passage?

The binding of Satan

The opening words of this chapter serve as a reminder to all believers that all real power has its source in God. The forces of evil have seemed very powerful at times. They have even seemed victorious at times (such as the crucifixion of Jesus).

But God is mightier still. Notice that one comes from heaven to seize Satan. This one who comes has the power to take Satan and also the power to limit his activity. He has the key to lock him away and a chain to restrain him.

Saints of God in every evil age need to receive comfort from this truth. We have already seen that the powers of Satan and his followers are mighty and that they do appear to be in charge.

But John is able to see through this revelation that their time of rule is always very limited. John signifies this by his use of such terms as "time, times, and half a time"; "three and one half years"; "one hour." All of these are used to symbolize the brevity of their dominion.

That brevity is more starkly evident when compared to the 1,000-year reign of Christ with His saints. During that period Satan's power is severely limited, especially in the lives of the children of God.

The loosing of Satan

Have you not found it true in your life that at the very moment you think you have finally defeated Satan for good, he rears his ugly head in your life again?

This is the same tempter who attacked

Jesus early in His earthly ministry. Having been soundly defeated by Jesus, the Scripture says that Satan departed for a season. He did return many times in the life of Jesus.

John leads us to understand that this loss will be the final one. This is the time when Satan knows he must give it all he has. He again deceives the nations and gathers all the forces of evil to muster. John mentions Gog and Magog. This had been the name given to those forces who would make the final attack on the people of God which would bring forth the "Day of the Lord."

The Christians of John's day were familiar with powerful forces of wickedness. Rome, the epitome of wickedness, was in complete authority over them. They also knew that the strength of Rome could easily snuff out every believer if she desired.

The little bands of Christians were no match for the might of Rome. But their safety was not in their own hands. Their care was in the mighty hands of God. John reminds them that it is God who will deliver them from this vicious attack.

The judging of Satan and his followers

God will destroy those who war against Him and His people. He will then not just bind Satan but cast him into the lake of fire where he will receive what he has sought to do to others. He will be tormented for eternity.

This is the time when God balances the books. Throughout most of their lives Christians had suffered. They have been persecuted by the devil and his minions. God has promised that it will not always be so. Now we have come to the time when God "calls in His accounts."

The judgment seat is unveiled and the dead now stand before the great white throne. The dead are judged according to their deeds. What a fearful time that will be! At least it will be so for those who have no advocate with the Father.

Those whose names are not inscribed in the book of life are destined for eternal death. The only names which will be in that book are those whose names have been written with the blood of Jesus.

All others will be cast into the lake of fire along with Satan, the beast and the false prophet. This lake of fire which we call hell is to some contrary to the Bible's teaching about God's love.

Instead, hell could be seen as God's last tribute to mankind's integrity. God gives man a choice and man chooses hell. God never meant His creation to spend eternity in hell. You've heard the old saying — "You've made your own bed, now you must lie in it." Mankind has constructed every last inch of hell with the building blocks of his own sin.



Nail



Meadows

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for Sept. 20

Judgment upon sin

By John N. Meadows, professor
Union University, Jackson

Basic Passages: Genesis 6:1 to 9:17
Focal Passage: Genesis 6:5-19

Almost all cultures of the human race have traditions about a colossal flood that wiped out humanity. The Bible remembers a watery catastrophe as well, but differs from all other flood accounts by declaring that the deluge was an act of God — an act of justice and of mercy.

Justice

To portray the flood as the action of a whimsical deity who out of frustration decided suddenly to "scrap it all" does not reckon with the biblical understanding of the nature of God. It is all too easy to explain God's action in terms of one's own inclination and experience. Did God just change His mind? No, men and women do that.

Why did God take the world back to the brink of precreation chaos (1:2), burying His once "very good" creation (1:31) in waters from above and beneath the earth (7:11)? The answer is that the flood was the ultimate consequence of the sin in Eden. Sin, like an avalanche, moved from Adam's refusal to accept his creatureliness to Cain's murderous way to the wanton vengeance of Lamech who no longer needed the protection of the Lord (4:23, 24). And then sin made an abrupt leap (6:1-5), filling the earth with violence (6:11).

Some scholars see the marriage of the "sons of God" to the "daughters of men" as the Bible's way of saying that sin was so rampant before the flood that even the godly line of Seth (4:25-5:32) was corrupted by intermarriage with the line of Cain (4:16-24). Others think these verses denote a demonic invasion of the race by fallen angels. This much is sure: the union evoked the Lord's extreme displeasure. He said, in effect, "I will not tolerate this anarchy forever" — yet He allowed a probationary period of 120 years (6:30) even in the face of every indication that such grace would not be effectual.

Interpreters agree that verse 5 is the Old Testament's strongest statement on human depravity: "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." And it is likely that the events of verses 1-4 explain how things got that way. Sin had become full grown.

Why the flood? God's own holy nature demanded that He deal with creation gone amuck, and it seems that the Lord was provoked as much by man's presumption as by his depravity. Man had abandoned any dependency upon the sustaining spirit

of God. Then and now, the Spirit will not be pulled down to the level of the flesh (Romans 8:8).

Mercy

In the midst of the Lord's terrible malediction (6:7) there was mercy: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (6:8). Like Enoch before him, Noah "walked with God," but God did not "take" Noah as He had Enoch (5:24) because Noah was a part of His redemptive purpose.

"Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation" (6:9). "Righteous" means that one is in a right relationship with God (see Genesis 15:6). "Blameless" (often translated "perfect") does not mean "sinless," but it does mean that one does not entertain mixed motives. Noah's allegiance to God was complete. What an oddity Noah must have been to that anarchic age — an age in which there would be no converts!

Derek Kidner noted that verses 7 and 8 together "show God's characteristic way with evil: to meet it not with half-measures but with the simultaneous extremes of judgment and salvation." The Lord "was grieved" that His creation had gone so far astray (6:6). Literally, God "heaved a sigh" of disappointment about the man He had created; but He had not changed His purpose, nor had He come to the conclusion that making man was a mistake.

God instructed Noah to build an ark, a vessel designed for survival rather than sailing, a "chest" in which a remnant of people and animals was delivered from the death that fell on those who were virtually self-destructed already. It is not hard to see why the New Testament regards the flood and the act of baptism as kindred symbols of the reality of salvation, a way through death into life (1 Peter 3:18-22).

Noah stepped from the ark into a world washed clean. It was a new beginning for God and man. How amazing grace is to those given another chance! But let us note in these days of grace that the imagination of man's heart was still evil after the flood (8:21), and let us beware lest our imaginations lull us into thinking that somehow the world will not again experience the wrath of God — in fire.

SBTS names Cole to news position

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Patrick L. Cole, a reporter for the Elizabethton Star in Elizabethton, has been named director of news and information services for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Cole is a graduate of East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, and Southern seminary.

After graduating from Southern, Cole rejoined the reporting staff of the Elizabethton Star where he had worked for three years before entering seminary. A native of Elizabethton, he also worked for two years during his seminary studies as a staff writer intern at the Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

He began responsibilities at Southern seminary Sept. 1.

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Lesson for Sept. 20

Right attitude and actions

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

Basic Passage: 2 Timothy 2:14-26
Focal Passages: 2 Timothy 2:14-16, 19-26

In the beginning of the second chapter of 2 Timothy, Paul used three illustrations to point out what the Christian's life and ministry was like: the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer. Now, in the latter part of the chapter, he returns to the same subject with three additional illustrations: an unashamed worker, a clean vessel, and a gentle servant. His emphasis is on the Christian having the right attitude to produce the right action.



Taylor

In the teachings of Jesus, there is the repeated truth that we may sin in action and in attitude. Many of the words of our Lord are directed to the believer's attitude as well as his activity.

Luke 15:11ff is among many passages of Scripture where this is His obvious teaching. This is commonly called the parable of the prodigal son.

In this story which could be more descriptively known as the parable of the loving father, Jesus points out the sins of action in the younger son and the sins of attitude in his older brother. Both were sinners in their attitudes and in their actions. Paul addresses this issue with clarity in the text of this week's lesson.

An unashamed worker (2 Timothy 2:14-16)

Paul is aware of the problems in Ephesus. He gives Timothy his wise counsel in Timothy's dealing with those who are engaging in disputes in the church.

In Paul's wisdom, he urges Timothy to "cut straight" the word of truth. One commentator said, "I prefer the concept of making a straight road as with John the Baptist's proclamation: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight'" (Luke 3:4).

The believer should realize the importance of his responsibility in teaching, preaching, and living the word of truth so as to be unashamed. The word, "approved" has the meaning of being tested and approved. The unashamed worker

will have right attitudes and actions in the Lord that when he stands in the presence of God, he will not be ashamed of the workmanship of his life.

A clean vessel (2 Timothy 2:19-21)

The kingdom of God is built on the sure foundation of Jesus, and the foundation has a seal of inscription on it to indicate Who owns it. The first reference is based on Numbers 16:5, while the second reference is a paraphrase of Numbers 16:26.

Paul moves next to urge Timothy to continue to be a vessel fit for the service of the King. In a house, there were all kinds of utensils used in daily living. They were made of various materials — gold, silver, wood, and earth. They were used for different functions, honorable and dishonorable. A Christian will seek to be a clean vessel filled with the Holy Spirit ready and willing to be useful in service to the Master.

A gentle servant (2 Timothy 2:22-26)

Paul again refers to the "foolish and ignorant disputes" in the Ephesians church which were generating strife among the believers. Paul encourages Timothy to exercise servant leadership to lead the

people to communion rather than commotion.

Note the words and phrases which describe such a gentle leader: gentle to all, able to teach, patient, humble, and correcting. Each of these is indicative of the right attitude of the Christian which will lead to the right action.

The effective minister of Christ, which all Christians should strive to be, should be willing to become more and more an unashamed worker, a clean vessel, and a servant leader.



DEBTLESS — Fairfield Glade Baptist Church held a note-burning service on Aug. 24. Participants pictured are Howard Huling, pastor, Joe Nickell, Leonard Rogers, Fred Ogilvie, former pastor, and Evelyn Miller.

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Randall Rogers, Pastor

Volunteer recounts rugged trek to safety

By Jerilynn Armstrong

DALLAS (BP) — "You only know your strength when you are tested and must struggle. My time in Mozambique was a struggle, and I endured." Kindra Bryan told the media at her homecoming in Houston Aug. 29.

The struggle included a walk of more than 200 miles in the midst of a civil war as well as suffering from several diseases, including malaria and dysentery.

Despite the struggle, "I never doubted I was exactly where God wanted me to be," she said.

Flanked by family and friends at Second Baptist Church of Houston, Bryan said she and the six other missionaries

kidnapped never were mistreated by their captors, but she constantly was aware of the fighting going on around them as they traveled and always was uncertain she would make it out alive.

Bryan was kidnapped May 13 from a rural missionary clinic where she had arrived to assist in medical care only four days earlier. She was working for Youth With A Mission, an international missionary organization based in Hawaii.

She and her fellow missionaries were taken captive by guerilla forces of Renamo, also known as the Mozambique National Resistance, a rebel group seeking to overthrow the Marxist government.

"I volunteered to work in public health in Mozambique because I felt the Lord's leadership to serve in a Third World nation, but I never expected the three-month ordeal," she said.

When asked if she felt she accomplished any of her goals, Bryan said yes. "My time definitely was not spent in the medical field, but our group was able to share the gospel with our captors and they responded," she explained. "One of the missionaries, Patricia Perkins, is an accomplished artist and drew the plan of salvation for the soldiers. After sharing with them, they asked if they could have Jesus in their lives and knelt with us in prayer."

Even though their captors were kind toward the group that included a 19-month-old baby, the living conditions were harsh. For three months they trudged across Mozambique through the jungle, mountains, swamps, and rivers.

Bryan lost 20 pounds after suffering from malaria, dysentery, and worms which bored through the soles of her feet.

"Physically, the experience was brutal. We walked 10 to 12 hours many days traveling to six Renamo camps during the three months. Several in our group experienced heat stroke and had to be carried on litters by the soldiers," she recalled.

"The last two weeks we were walking 12 hours during the night, fearful of the fighting going on around us. I found this to be the most frightening because when it is pitch dark the jungle becomes full of uncertainty," she said.

The diet of the group consisted of maize meal and occasionally meat from wild game including hippopotamus, wildebeest, buffalo, and elephant.

"We slept on straw mats out in the open or in grass huts. We did not brush our teeth for three months and ran out of shampoo after the first month," she said.

The most restful time for the group was a five-week period they stayed at a Renamo camp in the Gorongozo mountains.

"It was an incredibly hard climb to reach this camp, but we were in the midst of a beautiful tropical forest. At this time only a month had passed, and I was still struggling with my situation and God's leadership," she said. "The time in the mountains was a tremendous growth experience for me spiritually and came to be like a sanctuary. I found peace in the

midst of my turmoil and a closer walk with God."

The group crossed the border into Malawi Aug. 18 and immediately were confronted by the international press.

"At times during my captivity I wondered if everyone had forgotten me back home, but when I was met with all the media attention my first reaction was to run and hide in the bush," she said. "I am a very private person, so answering questions and giving interviews is difficult, but I hope through this experience I am able to share God's love for people and the plight of the Mozambicans."

"The civil war has been going on for years, and the people are tired of the war and the deaths. I saw a lot of suffering."

Bryan expressed her thanks to the U.S. government and its help in her release and the prayers of Southern Baptist churches and people of all religions.

Her immediate plans are to rest and spend time with family and friends.

"In the near future I will have to find a job and plan to finish my degree in public health," she said.

"I do not know what the Lord has in store for me, and I will wait for His direction, but through an experience like this you learn a lot about yourself and the concern and care of others," she said.

Baptist professor ends 5,000-mile cycling trip

By Mary E. Speidel

ANAHEIM, Calif. (BP) — Disneyland literally rolled out the red carpet for multiple sclerosis victim Ed Chasteen, a Baptist college professor from Liberty, Mo., as he ended his 5,000-mile cycling trip across America Aug. 17 in Anaheim, Calif.

Chasteen, professor of sociology at William Jewell College, a Baptist school near Kansas City, Mo., spent the summer biking from Disney World near Orlando, Fla., to Disneyland, by way of Seattle. He was raising funds for the MS Society and the Human Family Reunion, a program bringing people from all races and religions together for fellowship.

On the morning of Aug. 27, the professor pedaled down a red carpet in front of Disneyland's train station, where a crowd of well-wishers waved American flags. During a celebration complete with a Disneyland band and cartoon characters, Mickey Mouse presented Chasteen a Mickey Mouse trophy honoring him for the feat.

Also participating in the Magic Kingdom welcome were Chasteen's wife, Bobbie, and Liberty, Mo., bikers Bob and Jean Watts. Watts built Chasteen's bike, named "The Spirit of Kansas City."

The Disneyland event ended a 5,126-mile bike ride for Chasteen, who was told six years ago he would never be active again. On May 18 in Orlando, Chasteen, 51, began his trek with no money and no idea where he would sleep each night.

Along the way, he depended on the generosity of others for his food and lodging needs. "I discovered it really is true. There is good in all people," says Chasteen, who slept in churches, rescue missions, private homes, police stations, and on the front porch of a house where no one was home.

When possible, Chasteen spoke at Baptist churches and stayed in homes of Baptist families he met along his route. The professor is an active layman at Second Baptist Church in Liberty.

Throughout the trip, Chasteen says he discovered what he calls "the principle of audacious asking."

"The Bible says, 'Ask and you shall

receive.' But most of us think of ourselves as givers instead of receivers. We have trouble receiving," he explains. "But on this trip, I never turned down a thing someone offered me. And as I was receiving, I felt I was also giving. It was a two-way exchange."

Along his journey, Chasteen says, many people responded to him because he was doing something different: "I found people like adventure. There's so much tedium in our lives. When people see someone doing something unusual, they want to be a part of it. I think I brought a little excitement into some people's lives this summer."

The trip brought its own set of adventures for Chasteen. On the way to speak at Central Baptist Church in Chattanooga, he had to walk his bike through a dark traffic tunnel while traffic whizzed past him. Lifting the bike's front end, he had to edge his way along a narrow pedestrian walkway.

Near Anna, Ill., he pulled a muscle in his back. To keep his ride on schedule, he had to continue riding in spite of pain. When he arrived in St. Louis in time for the Southern Baptist Convention, he received free medical care at a sports medicine clinic.

Near Portland, Ore., he took a wrong turn. When he was crossing the highway to turn around, his tire went flat. "Fortunately, there was no traffic coming, so I was able to safely get the bike over to the shoulder of the road," he says.

In spite of such dangers, Chasteen says he didn't fret about his journey: "The Bible says, don't worry. I didn't worry about anything all summer and it worked."

And even though he didn't worry, Chasteen admits there were times when he felt the trip would never end, "especially when I was going across Wyoming and Montana, riding against the wind," he recalls. "But I thought about all the people who were counting on me to do this and all the people who believed I was going to make it. They helped me keep going."

Pledges for both his causes are still coming in, so Chasteen doesn't know yet how much money his trip generated. Now that he's finished his ride, he will write a book about his experience.

"I'm going to call it 'Spirit Trail: Trek Across America.' I came up with that title when I passed various trails, such as the Oregon Trail, throughout the nation," he explains. "And while I was biking across America, I realized this trip was a spiritual journey much more than a physical one."

Union sets date for Campus Day

JACKSON — Union University, Jackson, has set Oct. 10 as the date for Campus Day '87. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. near the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel entrance.

Campus Day is designed to introduce Union University to prospective students — typically high school juniors and seniors.

After a welcome in the chapel, prospective students will tour the campus and meet faculty members. Greek Olympics on the front lawn will be followed by a cookout. Campus Day '87 will conclude with a concert in the chapel at 6:00. GLAD, a popular Christian contemporary music group, will perform.

A \$3.00 registration fee covers the cost of dinner and admission to the GLAD concert.

For more information, contact Lana Younger, Office of Admissions, Union University, Jackson, TN 38305.

Interpretations

The comforting Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1).

Uncounted millions have found these words a pillow upon which to rest their hearts in times of trouble. "Be troubled" renders a verb used to describe an ocean caught in the teeth of a storm. The storm of the crucifixion was about to break upon Jesus' apostles, hence these words.

Pagan philosophy had/has its prescriptions as to how to deal with trouble. The Stoics said to freeze your emotions, steel your wills, "grin and bear it." It was called the "philosophy of suicide." The Epicureans said to drown your troubles in riotous living. But troubles swim and multiply in the process.

Jesus said, "Believe in God; believe also in Me." In a word this is faith — faith

in God's love. He loves us in darkness as well as in sunshine.

It is faith in God's will. He does not will our trouble. But He does will that in it we deport ourselves as to glorify Him.

It is faith in God's purpose, in this case, the redemption of a lost humanity.

Romans 8:28 is a favorite verse. Literally, "For we know that to the ones loving God, with respect to all things He (God) works unto good, to the ones according to His purpose being called." In this case "the ones being called" are those who find and do God's will in every circumstance of life.

In our day from the celestial throne, coming over the storm-tossed sea of our day, we can still hear the comforting, challenging words of Jesus — "believe in God, believe also in Me."

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