

# Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 153/No. 43/October 28, 1987

Newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Shelby County expels Prescott Memorial

By Bill Bangham & Roy Jennings

MEMPHIS, (BP) — The 120-church Shelby County Baptist Association in Memphis has withdrawn fellowship from Prescott Memorial Baptist Church for calling a woman as pastor.

Messengers to the association's annual meeting Oct. 19 approved a motion that Prescott Memorial "not be recognized as an affiliated church" of the association. They contended the church violated New Testament teachings on the role of women in the church when it elected Nancy Sehested as pastor this summer.

An estimated 75 percent of about 360 registered messengers to the annual meeting approved the measure, reported association moderator John Bedford.

Questions of the church's doctrinal soundness were raised in an executive board meeting of the association three weeks earlier when members discussed the selection of Sehested, formerly an associate pastor of a church in Decatur, Ga., as pastor. The association's credentials committee was asked to investigate

and report during the annual meeting.

In a closed session excluding all but participating messengers, the credentials committee reported its findings. While the calling of a woman pastor was "an irregularity that may threaten fellowship of the association, the credentials committee recognizes the autonomy of the local church body," said Ken Story, committee chairman and pastor of German-town Baptist Church.

"Each church has a right to act as it pleases," he said. "However, the association is also autonomous and free to choose which churches will be in its fellowship."

The committee reported on a meeting with members of Prescott Memorial, moved that no action be taken, and suggested the term "doctrinal soundness" was sufficiently vague as to warrant a delay to adopt guidelines before any action was considered.

"There may be also other churches in the association who are engaged in practices that would be considered irregularities," said Story.

The credentials committee's motion was defeated.

In a counter motion, Patrick Stewart, pastor of Covington Pike Church, Memphis, moved that Prescott Memorial no longer be recognized as an affiliate church of the association.

"It is the responsibility of the association to refuse to recognize messengers from any church which persists in practices contrary to the purpose statements of this association," Stewart said. Quoting from association bylaws, he continued: "Knowing that Prescott would be involved in missions endeavors, I could not work hand-in-hand with them in establishing mission churches with women as their pastors. Therefore that is divergent of the purpose and the statements of this association."

During the debate that followed, Prescott Memorial member Tom Walsh read a prepared statement from the church. It said in part: "We made our decision after months of careful delibera-

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Sehested

## Lolley resigns as Southeastern president

By Larry High and R. G. Puckett

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — In a surprise announcement which stunned the faculty, student body, and the community, W. Randall Lolley announced his plans to terminate his presidency at

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, a post he has held for 13 years.

The 56-year-old native of Alabama — who holds two degrees from Southeastern and is the only alumnus to serve as its president — told a tearful and stunned stu-

dent body Oct. 22 that action taken by seminary trustees the preceding week left him no alternative. Trustees removed all power for selecting new faculty members from the faculty and gave it completely to Lolley and trustees.

"I cannot fan into flame a vision which I believe to be contradictory to the dream which formed Southeastern in 1951 and has nourished me as a student and alumnus of the school," Lolley said at the conclusion of his chapel sermon. "I have reached some conclusions that make it necessary to begin discussing with the appropriate persons the termination of my presidency."

Lolley gave no date when the resignation would be effective. He tentatively has scheduled a Nov. 3 meeting with four members of the trustee board. They are Robert E. Crowley, chairman; James R. DeLoach, vice-chairman; Jesse P. Chapman, immediate past chairman; and W. Lee Beaver Jr., chairman immediately before Chapman.

In making his announcement, Lolley also revealed he had received a letter from Morris Ashcraft requesting that he be relieved of the role of dean but be permitted to continue on the faculty as professor of theology.

While Lolley has no faculty status nor tenure, Ashcraft has both. In his letter to Lolley, Ashcraft wrote: "The recent actions and stated intentions of the majority of our board of trustees indicate to me that I will not be able to implement their guidelines for the instruction unit of the seminary. Therefore, I hereby request that you plan for me to relinquish my posi-

tion as dean of the faculty."

Lolley prepared a statement but would not make printed copies of it available because he will make it his official resignation which must go to the trustees. He left the campus immediately after the chapel service to go to the bedside of his father who is seriously ill.

"In these resignations (Lolley and Ashcraft), we suffer two grievous losses," Professor Richard Hester told a crowd of students and friends at the press conference held on the steps of Broyhill Hall, the building where the trustees met the week before.

"We are deeply saddened but not terribly surprised," Hester read from a prepared statement. "President Lolley and Dean Ashcraft have both made it abundantly clear they will not implement the policies of political fundamentalism now being enacted by a narrow majority of our board of trustees.

"The president and the dean have told us they will not serve as agents of the persons who want to overturn this school's distinguished 37-year tradition of competent, open, responsible theological education. They have told us they refuse to preside over a fundamentalist school," Hester, president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors, told several hundred students and media representatives.

With the faculty assembled behind him, Hester said, "We respond to their resignations with grief and a profound sense of loss, but we also respond with affirmation

(Continued on page 5)

## TBC Pastors' Conference features Rogers, Allison

The annual Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, which meets Nov. 9, just prior to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting, will feature Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, and Gray Allison, president of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis.

The conference will gather at First Church in Franklin.

Richard D. White, conference president and pastor of the Franklin church, will reside at the conference, which will include three sessions.

White noted that officers will be elected in the afternoon session. He also reported that Allison will lead a study of Malachi, the topic of the 1988 January Bible study, and that Rogers will preach the closing message.

Other speakers include Charles T. Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church in Birmingham, Ala.; Sid Nichols, pastor of Mt. Hebron West Church in

Elmore, Ala.; Terry Taylor, pastor of Beaver Dam Church in Halls; and Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church in Nashville.

White also noted that lunch will be served at the church for a small charge. The sessions begin at 9:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.



Rogers

## Editorials

# Informed Baptists are better equipped

Preachers and editors have something in common.

This is especially true with Baptist journalists — and our pastors. Both groups deal with words — spoken and written.

Like pastors, editors who love the Lord and serve Christ do not take this call lightly. They know the burden of witness, the power of the printed and spoken word for good or for evil.

We do not count the subscription numbers for boasting ammunition, but because we know there is a deep need for Baptists to be informed, inspired, and educated through the printed word.

There is a constant striving for better papers, more informative and inspiring news, more attractive use of pages, more stories of what Christ's people are doing. And all of this is not for man's glory, but for the work of the church and the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So we want more readers, more readers until all Baptists in Tennessee have at least had opportunity to regularly read the Baptist and Reflector.

More than a hundred years ago, the editor of a weekly secular paper wrote some scathing comments about those who "dropped" their subscriptions to his paper. He expressed his feelings like this:

"After you get on your ear and make up your mind to stop your paper, to make the editor feel humiliated, just poke your finger in water and then pull it out, and look for the hole.

"Then you will know how sadly you are missed. The man who thinks a paper cannot survive without his support ought to go off and stay a while. When he comes back, he will find that half his friends didn't know he was gone. The other half didn't care a cent, and the world at large hadn't

kept any account of his movements whatever.

"You will find things you cannot endorse in every paper. Even the Bible is rather plain and hits some hard licks. If you were to get mad and burn your Bible, the hundreds of presses would still go on printing them; and if you were to stop your paper and call the editor all sorts of ugly names, the paper will still be published.

"And what is more, you'll sneak around and borrow a copy of it every week from your neighbor. It would be much better to keep your vest pulled down and your subscription paid a year in advance."

That editor was more than "miffed." He was genuinely upset. But this editor does not share those emotions. We will always want every Baptist to be an avid reader of the Baptist and Reflector. This is more than a mere wish — it is a prayer and a mission. We believe informed Baptists are better equipped to face the world. — WFA

# Trusting God is better than whining

The mother pushed the overloaded shopping cart through the grocery store doors and headed toward the parking lot. Her little girl, about seven or eight years old, clung to the front of the cart as it rolled along.

She was dragging her feet and whining in a voice that grew steadily louder. Evidently she wanted the world, or at least mother, to know of her displeasure and unhappiness.

Mother seemed resolute. She had probably undergone the whining treatment from better experts than her little girl. She uttered only five short words. "Darling," she said, "don't be a whiner."

Lesson in life that was, even biblical.

The tone of her voice let daughter know that whining would not change things. Whatever the source of her unhappiness, it would remain despite the whining. A good look at the grocery cart revealed that hunger could not be the prob-

lem. Daughter's clothing and her general appearance said that she was well-dressed and healthy.

Most likely she was whining because she was not getting her way. She had made her wishes known and mother had not budged, except to say, "Darling, don't be a whiner."

The Bible is filled with God's promises to us. He has never failed to fulfill his part. When he promises, he delivers — full measure, bountifully.

But we whine for more. And we whine for things to be done our way. We ask for blessings on our terms, and often we tell him we are in a hurry. We whine for better treatment by the

world, and a brighter place in the sun.

Impatience is part of our lifestyle. We whine for immediate solutions to problems — and we want them now. Instant cures, we tell God, for all ills.

Well, everybody is not whining. It is good to know there are some patient saints among us, willing to wait, doing what they can do for the Kingdom, and taking God at His Word.

The world does not need whiners. Doing and being — in pursuit of the Christian lifestyle is the way. "Trust me, try me, and prove me," the Lord says. And that mother with the learning youngster and the grocery cart was giving out good advice when she said, "Don't be a whiner." — WFA

# When the pulpit becomes mobile

In journalism we have a term that distinguishes a shorter, but still important story, from the main story in the news. The shorter story relates to the same subject matter as the top news, and we call it a sidebar.

Sidebar sometimes have a way of dominating the news, at least for a while.

The Baptist and Reflector feels obligated, and indeed has promised, to keep the Baptist constituency abreast of the political and moral issue of pari-mutuel betting in Tennessee, and to help inform and mobilize the fight against it.

That's the main story. The sidebar?

Some proponents for pari-mutuel betting say that Baptist pastors (and probably all pastors) should not get involved in the gambling issue.

Pastors have no business in such matters, they say, and their proper place is behind the pulpit.

This is making an interesting sidebar. Baptist pastors have never been bashful in speaking out against influences that are harmful to family life and the community's well-being.

It is apparent that Baptist pastors consider pari-mutuel betting a harmful influence — and so their pulpits move from inside the church house to wherever they can give responsible and well-founded testimony.

And this does not mean that Baptists, pastors, and laity are stressing the negative. Speaking against unwholesome influences that have

been proven harmful is exactly what Christians should be doing.

We applaud and stand with pastors who speak up. Pari-mutuel betting is better for discussion — for pastors as well as concerned citizens. — WFA

# Welcome Weekend set

JEFFERSON CITY — Prospective students and their parents will have an opportunity to learn more about Carson-Newman College firsthand when the college holds its autumn Welcome Weekend event Nov. 7.

According to Jack Shannon, director of admissions, high school seniors, college transfers, parents, and church groups are all welcome at the event, which will feature campus tours, meetings with members of the college faculty, and presentations by C-N students. Members of the college staff also will be available to offer tips on financial aid and to conduct admission interviews.

Afternoon activities will feature a football game between C-N and Wofford. A C-N theatrical production of the comedy "Harvey" at 8 p.m. will cap the day.

Registration for Welcome Weekend will be held from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Music Building on the C-N campus. Lunch will be provided by the college.

Students can make arrangements to stay on campus overnight by contacting the college by Nov. 1, Shannon said. Because of space limitations, parents cannot be housed on campus, but the college will help interested persons make arrangements for lodging at area hotels or motels.

For more information, contact the C-N office of admissions.

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Telephone: (615) 373-2255

Baptist and Reflector (USPS 041-780) is published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 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  
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Goettes

Holstes

McGinnises

Rogerses

## Four Tennessee couples take mission assignments

RICHMOND, Va. — Four couples with Tennessee ties were among 54 people named as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 13 at First Church, Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Goette will live in South Korea, where he will direct athletics and teach physical education and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. They are members of Brainerd Church, Chattanooga.

Goette currently attends Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Previously, he was a science and physical education teacher at Chattanooga Christian School. Born in South Carolina, he is the son of former Presbyterian missionaries to Korea, where he lived for awhile while growing up. He also lived in Decatur, Ga., and Chattanooga.

He is a graduate of Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He has been a camp counselor in Hampton, Ga.; a houseparent for a school in Rabun Gap, Ga.; and athletic director and physical education teacher at the Korea Christian Academy in Taejon; and a Foreign Mission Board summer missionary in Israel and Hong Kong.

A native of Louisiana, Carla Woods Goette has been an elementary teacher in Chattanooga. She also has been a summer missionary in New York, California, Israel, Hong Kong, and Brazil; and a Foreign Mission Board missionary journeyman in South Korea. She is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Southern seminary.

### Wilson County acts on office building

The Oct. 15-16 annual meeting of Wilson County Baptist Association included action to continue plans for a new associational office building in downtown Lebanon and to add a church to the association. It was held at Fairview Church in Lebanon and Gladeville Church in Gladeville.

Martha Church in Lebanon, which had reconstituted back to church status, was added to the association. Mike Powell is its pastor.

Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church in Nashville, preached the doctrinal message.

The messengers elected the following 1987-88 officers: Bill Enoch, pastor of First Church in Watertown, moderator; succeeding Bobby Johnson, pastor of LaGuarda Church in Lebanon, who was elected clerk; Nathan Hale, pastor of Cedar Creek Church in Lebanon, vice-moderator; and Jean Jennings, a member of First Church in Watertown, treasurer.

The 1988 meeting will be Oct. 20, at Cedar Creek Church, and Oct. 21 at First Church in Watertown. Robert D. Agee is the director of missions.

The Goettes have one child, Emily Marie, born in 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Holste will work in the Philippines, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

A graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Holste currently is pastor of Calvary Church, Charlottesville, Va. Born in Florida, he also lived in Virginia, Alabama, and Arizona while growing up. A graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., he has served in church staff positions in Virginia and North Carolina.

Born in Oklahoma, Jane Daugherty Holste is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Daugherty, Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan. She also lived in Nashville while growing up and considers it hometown. She has been a secretary, bookkeeper, and preschool teacher's assistant at churches in Virginia and North Carolina. She is a graduate of Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C., and also attended Carson-Newman and Southwestern seminary.

The Holstes have two children: William Shepherd, born in 1982; and Jonathan Dunham, 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. McGinnis will live in Venezuela, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. Prior to seeking appointment, McGinnis was pastor of Central Church, Chattanooga.

A native of Alabama, McGinnis is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He has served as pastor of Calvary Church, Bristol, and in other church staff positions in Alabama and Arkansas.

Also an Alabama native, Sondra Tatum McGinnis has been a nurse in Memphis and in Arkansas. She received the diploma in nursing from Samford and also attended Auburn (Ala.) University.

The McGinnises have four children: Joshua Michael, born in 1977; Jacob Lee, 1979; Rebekah Sondra, 1983; and Lee Everette, 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald D. Rogers will live in South Brazil, where he will teach theology in a seminary and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. Currently, he is pastor of Poplar Heights Church, Jackson.

A native Alabaman, Rogers is a graduate of Carson-Newman and Mid-America seminary. He is a former pastor of Grand Avenue Mission, sponsored by Fifth Avenue Church, Knoxville. He also has served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Arkansas, and South Carolina.

Also from Alabama, Faye Bryant Rogers received the associate of science degree from Gadsden (Ala.) State Junior College.

The Rogerses have one child, Amanda Leigh, born in 1980.

Each of the families will complete a seven-week orientation in Rockville, Va., before leaving for the field.

# Association ousts divorced pastor

By Norman Jameson

CHECOTAH, Okla. (BP) — Muskogee Baptist Association in Oklahoma faced the issue of divorced and remarried pastors, and when its debate ended, Brushy Mountain Baptist Church was disfellowshipped.

Messengers to the association's annual meeting voted 196-48 to amend its bylaws to exclude any church that calls or ordains as pastor or deacon a man or woman who has been divorced and remarried "until such time the doctrinal error is corrected by either resignation or dismissal."

The action of the 51-church association, which required a two-thirds majority, was aimed at Dale Lewis, bivocational pastor of Brushy Mountain Church near Muskogee since August 1986. Last January, the small rural church was recognized as an evangelism pacesetter by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

In the year Lewis has been pastor, the church, which averages 58 participants in Sunday School, has baptized 62 people. Sunday School enrollment has nearly doubled.

The stackpole around which the Muskogee association circled was the interpretation of 1 Timothy 3:2, 12 and Titus 1:6, where the Apostle Paul establishes the guideline that pastors and deacons should be the "husband of one wife."

While opponents of the amendment differed, the prevailing view was that those verses, properly interpreted, indicate only men who never have been divorced and remarried are qualified to hold the office of pastor or deacon.

"He can preach, yes, be a great Christian evangel, yes, but he cannot be a pastor," said Jim Miller, retired evangelist and pastor and now a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, during the one-hour debate.

Amendment proponents said the issue was upholding the Bible or denying its plain commands. Opponents said the amendment enters the broader issue of local-church autonomy. They said such a fine line could not be drawn because in-

terpretation of those passages is not certain and forgiveness and acceptance should prevail.

In the annual sermon the night before, Kevin Clarkson, pastor of Grandview Baptist Church in Muskogee, indicated that if the biblical standard of "husband of one wife" was allowed to be polluted, members could expect to see their churches and children slide into promiscuity, child abuse, and drug use. As difficult as confrontation is, it is the more loving course then to hold aloft a standard that is ignored, he said.

Bob Woods, pastor of First Baptist Church of Muskogee, who was instrumental in Lewis coming to Christ, said the larger issue is church autonomy: "A church calls whomever it feels led of the Lord to call. Only Christ must approve. No one interferes. What if the Lord really did call Dale Lewis into the ministry? And what if Brushy Mountain Church really did feel led of the Lord to call him?"

But Miller said a divorce and remarriage disqualifies a man from the office of pastor, "and God's not going to call somebody who's disqualified."

Lewis, who sat silently among two rows of his church members during the entire debate, said later, "I have been called."

Lewis does not feel disqualified from office, because "I have only one wife," he said. "The Greek literally means 'he is to be a one-woman man.' This was a time when bigamy was common."

Both Lewis and his wife, Alice, were divorced before they married each other 10 years ago. Lewis, who still runs an insurance firm in Muskogee, was not a Christian until after he married his current wife.

"I think this association has just leaned into legalism," Lewis said.

"They've created a situation that's going to require a full-time police force to enforce."

Lewis believes a divorced man who remarries commits adultery. He believes adultery is sin. "But the sin of a failed marriage is as forgivable as alcoholism," he said.

## William Hall Preston dies

NASHVILLE (BP) — William Hall Preston, a pioneer in Southern Baptist student ministry who was instrumental in developing the Baptist Student Union student summer missions program, died of

cancer Oct. 20 in Houston of cancer. He was 91 years old.

Preston retired in 1964 after 37 years as an associate secretary of the student department (now the national student ministry department) of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Along with Frank Leavell, the first secretary of the student department, Preston developed the BSU student summer missions program, and managed it for several years.

Before beginning his career in student ministry, Preston was president of Hall-Moody Junior College in Martin, which later became the University of Tennessee-Martin, and was training union (now church training) secretary for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He is survived by a daughter and two sons. One son, John Preston, is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Farmington, N.M. He was married to the former Nancy Elizabeth Roebuck of Green County, Ala., who died in 1983.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to state convention student departments for student summer missions.

## Interpreters plan for deaf ministry

The annual Workshop for Interpreters for the Deaf will be held Nov. 6-7 in Brentwood at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Building.

Persons will receive technical/professional instruction, learn how to reach/enlist deaf persons, how to keep them coming to church activities, and how to witness to deaf persons.

The instructor will be Donnie Witshire, pastor of Lakeview Chapel in New Orleans, La., a deaf congregation.

The workshop will begin at 7 p.m., end at 1 p.m. and include lunch.

Persons may receive information on reimbursement for lodging expenses and more information on the workshop by contacting the TBC missions department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

# 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.

## Shocking news report

I was shocked to see a news report on television in which the Shelby County Baptist Association was said to have withdrawn fellowship from Prescott Memorial Church, which had recently called a woman as pastor.

Every association has the right, under its own bylaws, to withdraw fellowship from a church, but were there solid, biblical grounds for this particular case?

This associational action puts a bitter taste in my mouth, just as the Judaizers put a bitter taste in Paul's mouth. This action should be called what it really is — Prescott was kicked out!

I grew up in the Shelby County association, and I greatly appreciate the many fine pastors and churches in it. But now, I can only express my extreme disdain with the whole situation. Whether intended this way or not, this action communicates to Prescott Memorial Church that the association denies God's leadership in their calling of a pastor. It communicates to the world, other Southern Baptists, and myself that the association's judgment in this case was unjust.

To disagree is a democratic, denominational right. To act on our disagreements is also a Southern Baptist way. But we must examine our ways by the just precepts of Scripture.

Did the associational messengers consider the New Testament deaconess, Phoebe? What about Galatians 3:27-29, or Matthew 7:1-5? I feel certain that Paul would be disappointed, as are many Southern Baptists and myself, with this action.

I believe in the infallibility and inerrancy of the Bible; but I do not believe in the infallibility of any one person's or group's interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.

Southern Baptists, consider prayerfully what has truly happened in this situation.

Donald A. Davidson  
P. O. Box 687  
Como, Miss. 38619

## A sad day

October 19, 1987, was not only a black day for Wall Street, it was a black day for the Shelby County Baptist Association.

My heart goes out to the Prescott Memorial Church and to their pastor, Nancy Hastings Sehested. This is yet another case when individuals "on the outside" fall victim to a personal agenda and interpretive biases.

It is a great temptation for preachers to want to usurp the role of God. Shelby Baptists, in my opinion, voted to tell the Holy Spirit when and where He can speak, and to whom He can and cannot call to preach the gospel.

Shelby Baptists will rue the day that they ousted this body of believers from the association. I am appalled at such actions! This was truly one of the saddest days of my ministry.

Al Styron  
Temple Church  
1000 S. Cooper  
Memphis 38104

## Thank God for Prescott Memorial

I thank God, father and mother of us all, for Prescott Memorial Church in Memphis.

Claiming the equality of both men and women in Christ Jesus, they will be blessed by Nancy Sehested's ministry as their pastor.

June Holland McEwen  
1414 Continental Dr.  
Apartment 901  
Chattanooga 37405

## Purge is on

Fellow Baptists, the purge is on. Unless you are an avowed right-wing literalist who bows unswervingly to the new Landmarkers from Shelby County, you are guillotine bound.

They are not interested in discussing issues, nor looking for resolutions or consensus. They are looking for witches and heretics to burn. They are not interested in the larger community of faith nor in giving any consideration to any ideas or opinions but their own narrow, one-sided views. They are determined to use every means, fair or foul, to eliminate from this body every employee, church, and member they find personally offensive.

As every botanist, sociologist, and theologian should know by now, no bird can fly — not even the great speckled bird we call the Southern Baptist Convention — without both a left wing and a right wing.

I watched and listened on Oct. 19 (Black Monday) as a hypocritical mob of rabid anti-feminists hid behind some questionable Pauline statements of parochial ecclesiology to ignore the larger truths in God's kingdom of love, equality, and liberty — I watched them so easily dispose of a sister (minister and church) who had struggled for years to discover the will of God. But because Prescott Memorial Church heard God's voice in a more progressive biblical revelation, we were judged unfit for fellowship in the Shelby County Baptist Association.

But through all this defense against Shelby Baptists' search for heretics, what hurt the most was the manifest cowardice of so many like-minded ministers and laymen who not once spoke out publicly in Prescott's favor.

Ben W. Bledsoe  
394 N. McNeil  
Memphis 38112

## Month off for women

As most Baptists believe that the Bible clearly teaches against women as pastors, few will protest the action to determine the doctrinal soundness of Prescott Memorial and the action to expel that church from Shelby County Baptist Association. But these actions have serious implications and are a dangerous precedent. Whenever anyone starts to question the doctrinal soundness of ANY church and to impose doctrinal uniformity, then the unity of the faith begins to unravel.

While there is a risk that doctrinal diversity leads to division and that doctrinal freedom will undermine its own foundation, coerced doctrinal uniformity leads to creedalism and to the loss of freedom for the individual and the local church.

Paul says that in Christ there is neither male nor female, and that for freedom Christ has set us free. A sexist approach or interpretation of Scripture is a yoke which every true believer should reject.

Since the Bible says that women should be silent in church, it would be interesting

if every Baptist woman decided to follow this literal teaching. They would attend Sunday School and church services as usual. Except they would be silent! No talking! No singing! Suppose they decided to do this during the month of November. They could wear a label with the word "MUM." Most Baptist women are hard workers and could use a month's rest. Many Baptist men, including some pastors, do not really appreciate the work women do in the church. So, if men really want to rule and dominate the church, Ladies, let them do it for a month!

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

## Need a distinct voice

In regards to the Southern Baptist representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and their recommendation to "dissolve its institutional and financial ties" with that Church-State agency (B&R Oct. 14), I say "so-be-it."

I, and others, have been convinced for some time that our Southern Baptist Con-

## Stone honors DOM and treasurer

The messengers of Stone Association of Southern Baptists honored the director of missions, a former treasurer, and a late pastor during its annual meeting Oct. 15 at Eastwood Church in Cookeville.

Director of Missions Michael L. Prowse was honored for 10 years of service. A resolution of appreciation was passed for George H. McKay for his service as treasurer and the 1987 associational annual was dedicated to the late Robert E. Lee, a retired minister.

The 1987-88 officers that were elected include Lester S. Flatt, pastor of Caney Fork Church in Cookeville, moderator, succeeding Joseph E. Wiles, pastor of Silver Point Church in Silver Point; Guy Farris, interim pastor of Wilhite Church in Cookeville, assistant moderator; Mrs. Verble Nash, a member of Nash Grove Church in Baxter, treasurer; and Anna Lee Wiles, a member of Silver Point Church, clerk.

The 1988 meeting will be held Oct. 13 at the Tennessee Technological University Baptist Student Center in Cookeville.

## Eastern fellowship for blind to meet

Blind persons will gather to develop their witnessing and ministering skills and to meet with those who work with them at the East Tennessee Fellowship for the Blind meeting Nov. 6 at First Church in Maryville.

Bill O' Cain, a blind insurance salesman who is a member of Robertsville Church in Oak Ridge, and J. C. Carpenter, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention missions department, will speak at the meeting. Allen Justice from Loudon will sing and Bruce Edwards, president of the fellowship and a member of Black Oak Heights Church in Knoxville, will preside.

The meeting is not limited to Baptists. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall and include dinner. There is no charge for participants.

To make reservations, persons should write or call Alvin or Dorothy Blake, 923 Beverly Drive, Alcoa, TN 37701, (615) 983-5651 or Bruce Edwards, (615) 689-7203 by Nov. 2.

vention needs its own distinct voice in Washington, D.C., for various reasons. I am not, nor have I been, for deserting the Baptist Joint Committee as far as Southern Baptist representation is concerned. But, I am convinced that the Southern Baptist Convention can best serve God and our nation in governmental affairs by a distinct entity in our nation's capital.

As the largest and perhaps the most influential, so-called Protestant denomination in the United States, it is indeed long overdue.

J. L. Miller  
Rt. 3, Box 50  
Dickson 37055

## Academic freedom

I am a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary from Strawberry Plains, Tenn.

This is my third year at the seminary and I have had nothing but positive experiences here. In the press lately there have been many reports about the stress and difficulties that the seminaries are under and I simply wanted to write and let you know that some of us are happy that in the past the seminaries have been allowed to exercise academic integrity.

Unfortunately many in the convention think that academic freedom is a threat to Christian life. I must categorically state that my education has not lessened my Christian faith, it has rather made it more vital and effective.

I must plead with those who are concerned about the principles of Baptist freedom, please do not allow those who ignore historic Baptist ideals to overrun and ruin what Baptists have built up over so many years. Attend the state and national conventions and vote for those who will maintain true Baptist ideals of freedom and individual responsibility before God, so that we do not lose what God has graciously allowed us to have.

Jim West  
39 McDowell Road  
Wake Forest, N.C. 27587

## Zimmer retires from Woodmont

Dwayne Zimmer, director of Christian education at Woodmont Church for 16 years, retired Oct. 1, completing 40 years of ministry.

He has begun serving as activities director at Deer Lake Retirement Community in Nashville, where his wife, Sunny, is office manager. He will continue to serve the church as part-time minister with senior adults.



Zimmer

The native of Iowa is a graduate of National Business Training College in Sioux City, Iowa, Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He also served in the U.S. Army.

Zimmer has served as a minister of music and education in churches in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Florida.

He has served as the church training director for Nashville Baptist Association, as a conference leader, and curriculum writer for the Baptist Sunday School Board's life and work Sunday School materials, January Bible study materials, and other periodicals.

He and Sunny have five children and four grandchildren.

## FMB reaffirms policies on divorce, seminaries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A 142-year-old rule against appointing divorced people as foreign missionaries and a 6-month-old policy opening up appointment to graduates of any regionally accredited seminary were reaffirmed during the Oct. 12-14 meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

However, the board said "no" to a Southern Baptist Convention messenger who wanted it to publish 10-year statistics and reasons why people are turned down for missionary appointment.

Responding to a 1987 motion made at the SBC that the statistics and reasons be published in the convention's annual report, the board said it did not view the material on non-appointment as suitable for the report "due to limited space, multiple assignments, and other important and exciting items to report." The board motion added, however, that any Southern Baptist interested in such statistics may request the information.

In reaffirming its stand against con-

sidering divorced people for missionary appointment, the board was reinforcing a stand it has followed since the board was founded in 1845. Last April, a trustee asked questions about the policy, and the board spent considerable time in dialogue about it in August but took no vote.

On Oct. 13 the committee considering personnel matters, which includes half the membership of the board, briefly discussed the divorce issue again and then voted to reaffirm its official policy on divorce.

Despite the frequency of divorce in this country and the fact that some Baptist churches today have divorced people in leadership positions, the board noted that in addition to the biblical concerns about divorce, there are distinctive elements overseas that justify great care in dealing with this question. These include the need for a clear presentation of the Christian ideal in marriage, convictions among national Christians in other countries, and stress factors overseas that require missionaries to be unusually strong in per-

sonal qualities, emotional maturity, and family life.

A few exceptions have been made for Mission Service Corps personnel based on careful study of individual circumstances and the fields where they would be serving.

The action reaffirming the new policy on seminary requirements was taken because trustees, when they took the action last April, voted to review it every six months for two years.

Also, during the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention, messenger Presnall H. Wood, editor of the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, moved that the board reinstate its previous requirement that career missionary candidates attend one of the six Southern Baptist-owned seminaries for at least part of their seminary preparation. This motion was referred to the Foreign Mission Board for study.

In the past, the board had required that career missionary candidates attend one of the six seminaries for at least a year. The action in April dropped this requirement, which opened the door to qualified candidates from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, and

other accredited seminaries without further attendance at a SBC seminary.

Before this decision, the board had appointed Mid-America graduates as well as graduates of other accredited seminaries but had stipulated they must take 26 hours, or one year's study, at one of the six official SBC seminaries.

In April, Parks said the new policy "grew out of a desire on the part of growing numbers of board trustees" to appoint graduates of Mid-America without requiring this additional study. In an overview study of the whole appointment process, Parks said, the board's staff agreed upon "appropriate Southern Baptist identity" as the crux of the matter.

In defining this identity, the board requires that candidates give evidence of "meaningful membership and participation in a Southern Baptist church." But in the new guidelines the board added the concept of: "commitment to and identification with Southern Baptists through fellowship, prayer support, giving, cooperation, and service."

Under the new policy, the board may consider qualified candidates from any seminary whose accreditation is "commensurate with that of our Southern Baptist theological institutions."

## Lolley resigns post . . .

(Continued from page 1)

of their values, their integrity, and their courage."

Robert D. Crowley, a pastor in Rockville, Md. — who was elected chairman of the board of trustees, unseating Chapman, who could have served another year — repeatedly has said trustees have no plans to fire any existing faculty members. However, he did indicate all new faculty members will be inerrantists.

Crowley said he was shocked that the president's resignation was "announced so emphatically to the student body."

"The message that sends is that the decision is non-negotiable," Crowley said in a telephone interview with Todd Ackerman of the Raleigh News and Observer. "Our major task now will be to find someone who will be able to assume the leadership Dr. Lolley so effectively provided."

About the search for a new president, Crowley said, "I would be an imbecile if I tried to tell you I didn't have some names going through my mind. I can assure that whoever he is, he will be an inerrantist."

Other trustees also reacted. Chapman, a retired surgeon in Asheville, N.C., said the resignation came as a surprise, but expressed his regrets and called the situation a tragedy.

"I felt it would be very difficult for President Lolley to keep his own sense of what was appropriate and right after the trustees' meeting Oct. 12-14," Chapman said. "Dean Ashcraft is also a man of high principles."

"I am real surprised at this," said William D. Delahoyde, an assistant U.S. attorney from Raleigh, N.C. "This subject did not come up during the board meeting. . . . Perhaps this is a function of the thought he had given to his administration between the end of the board meeting and now."

Delahoyde reported Lolley had "said to me in the past that he was willing to work with the board. He realized conservatives need to be included in the board." Delahoyde also said he was surprised Lolley reacted negatively to the recent trustee action concerning faculty selection, because the change "enhanced his authority in that area."

"I was not surprised" at the resignation, said Mark Caldwell, a pastor from Hyattsville, Md. "There is no way Randall

Lolley can administer that school under these directives of the present board of trustees. He could not maintain his honor, his integrity — he just could not do it. His announcement that he plans to resign is an act of integrity and honor."

"I'm just bleeding a little bit. I'm a Southeastern graduate myself," said W. Jerry Holcomb, a pastor from Virginia Beach, Va.

He said he was not shocked by the announcement: "I had suspected it in light of the last board meeting. If the deacons I serve with had shown what the trustees showed . . . it would have been fairly obvious that the working conditions would have been very difficult to operate in."

The faculty at Southeastern has no plans to resign en masse, Hester reported: "We do not intend to give up our prophetic voice. We do not intend to give up our academic freedom. We do not intend to abandon this school's 37-year tradition of quality theological education. We intend to continue our classes today, tomorrow, and the months ahead, fulfilling our responsibility to our students."

He added only occasionally in history does this kind of "opportunity come to the faculty, the staff, and the students of a theological school."

"Only occasionally does an opportunity come to join together in proclaiming the truth in the face of a stifling, oppressive, and powerful political movement," he said. "The events of the past 11 days have shaped this campus into the clearest and most determined opposition that New Right fundamentalism in the Southern Baptist Convention has ever faced. The losses of a great president and a great dean make us all the more determined to continue this fight."

Following Lolley's announcement, students gathered outside to pray, to share testimonies and feelings, read Scripture, and sing.

Student Council President Beverly Hardgrove told her fellow students, "Dr. Lolley wrote me a letter last week of one sentence and it was very special, 'We don't know what the future holds, but we know Who holds our future.'"

"I knew last Tuesday (Oct. 13) afternoon in the trustees meeting that something here had died and some idea that we were experiencing had been lost. We are called to a new hope and our hope is in God," she said.

## Prescott Memorial . . .

(Continued from page 1)

tion, accompanied by prayer and the study of Scripture. We are absolutely convinced that God has led Nancy Sehested to us, and we rejoice that she has accepted our call.

"We did not call Rev. Sehested because she is a woman, or in spite of that fact. We called her because she is a richly gifted child of God who is willing to share her gifts with us."

When a messenger called for the vote and discussion was closed, Sehested and another messenger were left standing at microphones.

"Since I am at the center of this," Sehested said, "I would like the opportunity to speak."

Amidst cries of, "Too late, too late," Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church and current Southern Baptist Convention president, appealed to messengers that Sehested be extended the courtesy of speaking.

While asking the messengers to show courtesy by relaxing the rules, Rogers said he planned to vote to withdraw fellowship when Sehested finished speaking.

"Unless you override me, I am going to suspend parliamentary process and do this," Bedford said. His decision was sustained.

"I am full-blooded Southern Baptist," Sehested said. "My mother is a Southern Baptist deacon. My grandfather was a Southern Baptist minister for 70 of his 93 years. My dad is a retired Southern Baptist minister; for 50 years an ordained minister."

"I decided to follow in my dad, in my granddad's, footsteps and become a pastor."

Sehested stated her authority to preach comes "by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, becoming a servant. Following in His footsteps . . . I found a towel with my name on it."

"And who was it that taught me this wonderful freedom of the spirit? . . . My Southern Baptist church, who said God calls each of you, and with God everything is possible — except to be able

to stand behind a pulpit. . . . women can't do that.

"They never said that."

Sehested contended the autonomy of the local church or association was not the question, but whether the Holy Spirit has the right to work in people's lives.

"While we are in this place debating about who can and cannot stand behind a piece of wood; there's a world out there. And the cries of that world are growing louder. There's a world that is desperately in need of all of us," she added.

"Are we going to say to that world, 'No, not all things are possible. A woman cannot preach.' How will the world hear us tonight?"

Prescott Memorial is noted for taking unpopular stands in the past. In the 1950s and '60s, it championed civil rights. Today it is committed to peace and justice issues.

The church still will continue to cooperate with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. The actions of Shelby association have no bearing on those affiliations. And Sehested will continue as pastor of the church.

"We will continue to support Southern Baptist missions and institutions," said Sehested, "as we have in the past."

In other action, the association elected Ray Fowler, pastor of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, as moderator and Arlis Grice, pastor of Balmoral Church, Memphis, vice-moderator. Lowell Adams, pastor-emeritus of Graceland Church, Memphis, was re-elected as clerk-treasurer.

The association also approved a 1988 budget of \$792,036, an increase of 5.4 percent over last year.

Messengers welcomed John B. McBride as their new executive director and honored Gordon Crocker, retiring executive director, at a dinner.

The 1988 annual meeting will be at Ellendale Church, Memphis, on Oct. 18 and Southland Church, Memphis, Oct. 19. Jim Meredith, pastor of Whitehaven Church, Memphis, will preach the doctrinal sermon and Jack Moore, pastor of First Church, Fisherville, will be the alternate preacher.

## SBTS trustees assemble in retreat after meeting

By David Wilkinson

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Blending business with pleasure, trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary followed a meeting of their executive committee Oct. 12 with a day-and-a-half retreat aimed at building relationships among trustees and between trustees and faculty.

In a two-hour business session, the executive committee approved without dissent a series of recommendations from the trustee financial board. The committee authorized:

- Purchase or lease of new vans for the seminary's Bold Mission Thrust ministry which sends students to churches in Michigan and Ohio.

- A one-time salary bonus for all regular full-time and part-time faculty and regular full-time staff members.

- A \$65,000 increase in the seminary operating budget for the current fiscal year, taking funds from reserves.

- Application for membership in a self-insurance fund, a move to cut premium costs for workers' compensation coverage.

- A policy that will continue contributions to seminary employees' retirement accounts regardless of age, in compliance with 1986 amendments to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

The retreat included a session led by

Nashville attorney James P. Guenther on the role of trustees.

A total of 42 of the board's 63 trustees participated in the retreat.

Trustee chairman Perry F. Webb Jr., pastor of First Church of Baton Rouge, La., said the business-retreat combination — held for the second consecutive year — has "made a significant contribution" to the board's deliberations within an atmosphere of denominational strife.

"Trustees come from all sections of the country and we're together only a brief period of time," Webb noted. "Most of that time is spent in meeting our obligation in caring for the business affairs of the seminary."

Trustees, he said "have been drawn close to one another, which makes it easier when we face difficult decisions where there is honest division among us."

Trustee Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Church in Memphis, echoed Webb's assessment of the retreat's value.

Asked whether the retreat is too costly, Allen responded: "I think it costs a lot more not to invest in developing relationships."

In his presentation, Guenther outlined the legal responsibilities and liabilities for trustees in their role as "corporate directors." He urged them to be faithful stewards of their authority, counseling them to resist "pack thinking" that leads to poor decisions.

## Related meetings set for convention week

### Religious educators

The Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association's fall banquet will be held Nov. 9 at First Church, Nashville.

The 6 p.m. banquet costs \$7.50. Reservations should be sent to Tony Long, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 620, Columbia, TN 38401 by Nov. 2.

Persons can become members of TBREA if they are residents of Tennessee and engaged in a full-time religious education work in a church or Baptist agency. The \$10 membership fee can be mailed with the banquet reservation.

### Church Musicians

The Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference and its members who make up the Tennessee Baptist Chorale will meet during the TBC annual meeting.

The chorale will rehearse at Immanuel Church in Nashville from 1:30-4:45 p.m. on Nov. 9 which will be followed by a conference business meeting and a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Ken and Lois Holland, musicians from Nashville, will be performing. The cost is \$7 per person.

The chorale also will rehearse on Nov. 10 at 5:15 p.m. for the performance during the convention's evening session.

Reservations for the banquet, due Nov. 2, and other information can be obtained from the TBC church music department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

### Recreators association

The annual luncheon meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Recreators Association will be Nov. 10 at noon. It will be held at Bonanza Restaurant in Nashville near Interstate 24 and Harding Place.

Don Mattingly, consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department, will speak on "Recreation Extras: A Prescription for Family Fun and Togetherness."

Friends, church staff members, and spouses also are welcome.

### Retirees' reception

A reception honoring retirees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will be held following the Nov. 10 sessions of the convention meeting at Radnor Church in Nashville.

It will be in the church's fellowship hall at about 9:25 p.m. Convention messengers and guests of the retirees are welcome.

### Crockett County acts to help Michigan

Crockett County Baptist Association acted at the fall meeting Oct. 5-6 to provide \$1,200 for a new church project in Lansing, Mich., to support the sister-state relationship with Michigan. The meeting was held at First Church in Alamo.

David Green, pastor of Cairo Church in Alamo, was elected as moderator, succeeding Jim Austin, a member of First Church in Maury City; and Mickey Hanks, pastor of First Church in Maury City, was elected assistant moderator. Other officers for 1987-88 are Delma Austin, a member of First Church in Maury City, treasurer; and Mrs. R. V. Via, a member of Cross Roads Church in Bells, clerk.

The association's director of missions is Herbert R. Higdon and its next meeting will be Oct. 3-4, 1988, at Barker's Chapel in Friendship.

### Ministers' wives

The annual Tennessee Baptist ministers' wives fellowship luncheon is scheduled for Nov. 11 at the Park Suite Hotel in Nashville. Wives of denominational and church-related personnel and their friends are welcome. It will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The featured guests are Sylvia Harney Widick who will do a dramatic presentation, and J. J. Lee, a contemporary gospel music singer-songwriter, both of First Church in Franklin.

The theme of the luncheon is "Hospitality in the Home." Transportation will be available from the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting at Radnor Church in Nashville.

The tickets, which will cost \$12, will be available during the convention meeting, or from Patti White, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1626, Franklin, TN 37064.

### TBC/Venezuela partners

On Nov. 11 during the TBC meeting, a fellowship will be held for Enrique Damaso, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central of Caracas and first vice-president of the Venezuelan Baptist convention, partnership volunteers, and missionaries to Venezuela. Persons interested in the partnership also are invited.

It will be held in the fellowship hall of Radnor Church in Nashville from 5:30-6:45 p.m.

### Alliance

A fellowship for members of the Southern Baptist Alliance and other interested persons will meet on Nov. 9 at 9 p.m. in the Virginia Room of the Park Suite Hotel in Nashville.

Persons may contact Marvin Cameron, pastor of First Church in Gatlinburg and Tennessee coordinator for the alliance, for more information.

### SWBTS alumni

On Nov. 11 during the TBC meeting, the annual luncheon for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends will meet at 12:15 in the White Dining Room at Belmont College in Nashville.

Malcolm McDow, associate professor of evangelism at the seminary, will speak.

Tickets, which cost \$8, may be obtained from Charles W. Sullivan, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 467, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

### SBTS alumni

Bill Hendricks of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will address the luncheon of the seminary's alumni and friends. It is set for Nov. 11 at 12:30 p.m. at Judson Church in Nashville.

Tickets may be obtained from Ray Cleek, First Baptist Church, 227 East Main Street, Lebanon, TN 37087, for \$7.50. They will cost \$8 at the TBC meeting.

### Belmont alumni

A dinner for Belmont College's alumni and friends will be held on Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. or immediately following the afternoon session of the TBC meeting at Radnor Baptist Towers in Nashville.

Tickets, which cost \$8, may be purchased from the college's convention booth or by contacting Belmont College, 1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212-3757.



ONE OF 13 ASSOCIATIONS — In recognition of receiving the standard associational award, Greer Ruble (from left), TBC Sunday School department director, presents a certificate of appreciation to Gary Gerhardt, Holston Valley Association's Sunday School director, John Parrot Jr., associational moderator, and Charles D. Earl, director of missions, also were present.

## TBC leads SBC in receiving associational standard award

The Tennessee Baptist Convention leads the Southern Baptist Convention in achieving Standard Associational Sunday School recognitions during 1986-87.

Tennessee has 13 associations that have received the standard award, which has 21 requirements built around five areas: organization, planning, programming,

training, and administration.

The state only had one association earn the standard award during 1985-86, noted Cliff Burchyett, associational Sunday School specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The associations receiving the awards are Beulah Association, Bradley County Association, Carroll-Benton Association, Crockett County Association, Gibson County Association, Haywood Association, Holston Association, Holston Valley Association, Knox County Association, Madison-Chester Association, Nashville Association, Shelby County Association, and Western District Association.

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## BSSB approves editors for new Bible commentary

NASHVILLE (BP) — A slate of six consulting editors and two alternates for a new conservative, multi-volume Bible commentary was approved without opposition during a called meeting of the trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board Oct. 22.

After 25 minutes of discussion, trustees approved in a voice vote the slate presented by the administration. Three consulting editors will work with the Old Testament portion of the commentary and three with the New Testament, along with one alternate for each testament, who would serve if an editor could not complete the assignment.

The commentary, to be written by biblical inerrantists, was approved by the trustees in February 1987, with the first volume expected to be released in 1991.

In the motion which instructed the board to proceed with a new conservative commentary "with haste," trustees were specific in their instructions about the content, saying the multi-volume work "is to reflect a strong scholarly defense of the traditional authorship of the biblical books, Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, and a presentation of an apologetic for creationism in the introduction to Genesis."

Trustees also said: "All authors in-

involved in the writing of this commentary should hold to the position of inerrancy."

At their August 1987 meeting, trustees reserved the right to approve consulting editors for the project and named Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, Texas, as the first of six.

Patterson will serve on the New Testament team.

Other consulting editors for the New Testament are Robert Sloan, associate professor of religion at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Curtis Vaughan, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. The alternate editor for the New Testament is Richard R. Melick Jr., professor and chairman of the New Testament and Greek departments at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

Consulting editors for the Old Testament are L. Russ Bush III, associate professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern; Kenneth Mathews, professor of Old Testament and Semitics, Criswell College; and Larry L. Walker, professor of Old Testament and Semitic languages at Mid-America. The alternate is Duane A. Garrett, assistant professor of Old Testament at Mid-America.

James Clark, senior vice-president for publishing and distribution, said more than 20 nominees for consulting editors came from trustees and an advisory group including SBC President Adrian Rogers and nine former convention presidents.

"We tried to choose scholars representing a balance of skills needed to do the work," said Clark. Balance was sought in linguistic skills, biblical expertise, scholarship assignment, and editorial skills.

Clark said Michael Smith, general editor for the commentary and chief editor of general religious books in the Broadman products department, interviewed many whose names were suggested concerning their commitment to the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy and the place of the Bible in their lives.

Clark said the consulting editors will recommend writers and suggest possible names for the commentary in addition to editing the material. All three editors on each team will read all of the material related to the Old or New Testament.

Bill Tisdale, pastor of First Baptist

Church of Henderson, Texas, asked whether eschatological views (concerning the end of time and the second coming of Christ) were considered in selecting consulting editors.

Dean Mathis, pastor of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church of Hobbs, N.M., and a member of the Broadman Committee which unanimously recommended the

editors to the full board, said he believes the editing process and the editors' mutual respect for each other will enable them to be fair to differing views.

A total of 62 trustees on the 85-member board attended the meeting which was the third called meeting of the full trustee board in the last 35 years. Others were held in 1954 and 1977.

## Dallas Baptist president, W. Marvin Watson, resigns

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP) — W. Marvin Watson Jr., bowed to a year of mounting pressure and resigned Oct. 21 as president of Dallas Baptist University during a special called meeting of trustees.

The resignation will be effective almost immediately, Watson told the Baptist Standard, although he told the trustees he will take a few days "cleaning out my desk."

After an executive session where trustees discussed the resignation for more than an hour, trustee Frank Monroe of Dallas said the trustees had accepted it and had named Jerry F. Dawson, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Education Coordinating Board as interim chief executive officer of the institution.

The 63-year-old Watson, who came to the beleaguered school in 1979 and led it from the brink of financial disaster, told the trustees in the called meeting that he has "been charged with everything except murder" and that there are certain people on campus, faculty and deans alike, that believe that I should leave."

"You cannot have a divided institution," he said. "There is no reason to think that they're going to leave, so we (he and his wife, Marion) have decided it is much easier for us to leave."

He said he had given Monroe a letter of resignation July 1, but the chairman had declined to act on it at the time. Watson also noted that on at least two other occasions he had asked the trustees to begin to seek his successor.

Watson's autocratic management style has long kept him at odds with the faculty. But about a year ago, one faculty member, James Parker, wrote to the trustees protesting the school's involvement with the Napoleon Hill Foundation,

claiming the foundation's views were contradictory to DBU's statement of faith. The DBU's-Hill link was subsequently dropped.

Parker also charged that new faculty and staff were required by Watson to give 5 percent of their salary back to the university, that faculty and staff were required to sign up for "phantom courses" which they did not attend in order to inflate the school's enrollment figure to increase Cooperative Program allocations, and that faculty and staff member's salaries were cut if there were not enough students to give them a full teaching load. A special committee of the trustees was named to study the charges. Parker's contract was not renewed for the current school year.

Over the last year, several anonymous letters had been written to trustees, to the Dallas media, and others. Two weeks ago a four-page singlespaced letter, outlining various charges against Watson, was sent to the Baptist Standard and the trustees. An ad hoc group of the Dallas Baptist Association has met with Watson during the year about the charges and reportedly hired a group of faculty members recently to hire a private investigator to probe the main matter.

Watson, in his remarks to the trustees, referred to a "ream" of materials the trustees had been sent over the last year. He noted that he and Mrs. Watson had committed \$1.8-million to DBU and will continue to support the school as long as it champions biblical inerrancy and the free enterprise system.

## Haywood adopts Michigan support

All of the 1986-87 officers were re-elected during the fall meeting of Haywood Baptist Association, which was held Oct. 13 at Calvary Church in Brownsville.

The 1987-88 officers are Ronnie Davison, pastor of Calvary Church, moderator; James Daniel, pastor of Harmony Church in Whiteville, vice-moderator; Mrs. J. C. Williams, the association's office secretary, treasurer/clerk; Dewey Jones, a member of Holly Grove Church in Bells, assistant treasurer; and Robert Smith, a member of Brownsville Church in Brownsville, historian.

The messengers voted to allocate \$1,200 for a church planter in the eastern part of Lansing, Mich., to support the sister-state relationship with Michigan.

The association received recognition by Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc. as an honor association for its support.

The 1988 meeting will be Oct. 18 at Allen Church in Brownsville. Charles Pratt is the director of missions.

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## Alton Reed dies

DALLAS (BP) — R. Alton Reed, president emeritus of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and former pastor of Park Cities Church, died Oct. 16 following heart surgery. He was 81.

Darold Morgan, who succeeded Reed as president of the Annuity Board, called Reed "one of the great denominational statesmen who set the pattern for growth and cooperation in the Southern Baptist Convention. His life was characterized by integrity. No shadow ever crossed his path."

Under Reed's 17-year tenure as president of the now \$2.1-billion denominational pension board from 1955-72, the agency began employing money managers to invest retirement funds for competitive returns. Morgan said the board's adoption of this philosophy of 'manager of managers' has proven to be a vital link in the Annuity Board's stability and growth."

Reed was pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas from 1940-47. In later years, he taught a Sunday School class and in 1986 was president of the Best Years Group at the church.

Born in Henderson, Texas, Reed was a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

While serving as pastor of Cockrell Hill Baptist Church in Dallas, Reed was chief announcer at KRLD radio from 1930-34. In addition, he was pastor of Carlisle Baptist Church in Henderson, 1934-37, and Lamar Avenue Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, 1937-40. In 1947, he became director of radio and public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

In 1953 he joined the staff of the Annuity Board as associate secretary and director of public relations and was elected chief executive officer in 1955.

The family requests that memorial gifts be made to the Memorial Fund of the Annuity Board or the Building Fund of Park Cities Church.

Reed is survived by his wife, Helen Barker Reed and daughters Caroline Reed Wicker and Annelie Reed Burton of Dallas. He had seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

## WMU selects Acteens panelists

The 1987-88 Tennessee Acteens Advisory Panelists have been selected by a committee of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union members.

The panel is "a way of recognizing outstanding Acteens and getting input from them," explained Donna Maples, associate of Tennessee WMU based in Brentwood.

The Acteens selected include Sheri Edgington, a Queen Regent of Fall Creek Church in Norene; Dacia Hall, a Queen Regent in Service of First Church in Martin; Elizabeth Wallace, a Queen Regent of First Church in Andersonville; Regina Flatt, a Queen Regent in Service from Nash Grove Church in Baxter; Amy Rushing, a Queen from Shiloh Church in Kingston; and Andrea Waller, a Queen with a Scepter from First Church in Bolivar. The alternates are Renee Hurd, a Queen with a Scepter of McKinney's Chapel Church in Rogersville; and Missy Parsell, a Queen Regent from First Church in Dickson.

Scheduled to participate in the WMU

Annual Meeting, Acteens Summit, and other WMU gatherings, the panelists must be in the ninth grade or above and be working on Studdiact, the Acteen individual achievement program.

## Big Emory meets

During the annual meeting of Big Emory Baptist Association on Oct. 15, Huel Hooker, pastor of Childs Memorial Church in Harriman, was elected as moderator. The gathering was at Walnut Hill Church in Harriman and Cedar Grove Church in Kingston.

Hooker succeeds Jack Crass, pastor of Eureka Church in Rockwood. Other 1987-88 officers are Billy Edmonds, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church in Coalfield, assistant moderator; George Wadlington, minister of music at South Harriman Church in Harriman, treasurer; and Mark Scarbrough, pastor of Deer Lodge Church in Deer Lodge, clerk.

The 1988 meeting will be Oct. 13. J. William Bargiol is the director of missions.

# Houston Baptists oppose endorsement of candidates

DALLAS (BP) — In response to the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee's recent endorsement of Robert Bork

for Supreme Court Justice, Houston-area Baptists approved a resolution affirming the "historic tradition of non-

endorsement" of political candidates and judicial nominees by Baptist churches and denominational entities.

In spite of a failed attempt to table the matter and a question of parliamentary procedure, the resolution was approved 106-60 at the 147th annual meeting of Union Baptist Association at Westbury Baptist Church in Houston.

The resolution, submitted by John Leland Berg, pastor of West Oaks Baptist Church in Houston, was the fifth and final resolution approved at the meeting of the largest association in the Southern Baptist Convention, with 390 congregations and more than 250,000 members.

Berg's resolution pointed to the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee's endorsement of Bork and noted, "Although the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies have historically taken positions on legislative issues, they have traditionally refused to endorse political candidates and/or judicial nominees."

The resolution said endorsements may "hamper our gospel witness" and contribute "to the divisiveness within our convention." It also expressed concern that "an individual so endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention and/or one of its agencies may hold to or shift to positions that Southern Baptists traditionally have opposed."

"Be it resolved," the resolution concluded, "that we encourage the Union Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention, and their agencies to honor and uphold our historic tradition of non-endorsement of individuals for political offices or judicial service."

After the resolution was introduced at

the associational meeting, Paul Pressler, a Houston judge, spoke against it. He then moved to table the measure. The motion to table was approved by a simple majority, 82-70.

However, Moderator Mario Hernandez of Emmanuel Latin American Baptist Church in Houston, in consultation with Parliamentarian D. Tommy Harrison of Richmond Plaza Baptist Church in Bellaire, ruled; based on Pressler's remarks, Pressler's true intent was to limit debate, not table the resolution for future consideration, and thus the measure would require a two-thirds majority.

After further discussion, the resolution was brought to a vote and approved. Pressler called for a point of order, appealing to the section of Robert's Rules of Order concerning "the motion to lay on the table," but he was ruled out of order.

"It was divisive. We did not have the facts before us," Pressler said later, explaining his reasons for seeking to table the resolution. He protested the decision of the chair, saying "there is no way under any circumstances" that the ruling made was in keeping with proper parliamentary procedure.

Parliamentarian Harrison, citing the Robert's Rules section on "misuses of the motion," said a motion to table cannot properly be used "with the intention of either killing an embarrassing question without a direct vote, or of suppressing a question without debate." He went on to note, "Only a two-thirds vote can rightfully suppress a main question without allowing free debate."

"Clearly he wanted to limit debate," Harrison said, noting the remarks Pressler made prior to the motion to table.

## Midwestern trustees reject requiring faculty statements

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — An effort to require seminary administrators and faculty members to submit written statements of their theological positions regarding the Bible was defeated by trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during their Oct. 19-20 fall meeting.

The trustees unanimously adopted a recommendation by their executive committee to have the trustee instructional committee "study carefully the recommendations of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, to receive and consider input from the trustees, and to work closely with the seminary president and trustee chairman in formulating and recommending appropriate action and/or response for consideration by trustees" at their April 11-12, 1988, meeting.

By a vote of 19-8, trustees tabled the effort by Jack D. Amis, a medical doctor from Hopkinsville, Ky., to require that "the president, his administrative staff, and members of the faculty each provide in writing a statement of his theological position with regard to the Baptist Faith and Message statement regarding the Bible as being truth without any mixture of error and give his position in regard to the examples of diversity of opinion, 1-4,

under Section 1, 'Sources of the Controversy' in the Peace Committee's report."

Those examples state that Adam and Eve were real people, that the miracles of the Bible are historical events, that biblical books were written by the attributed authors, and that historical narratives in the Bible are accurate.

Amis' motion also asked that the "main business" of the trustees' spring meeting be the Peace Committee report and the institution's response to it.

For more than 50 minutes, trustees debated Amis' motion. After voting to divide the motion into two parts, the trustees eventually passed an amended motion declaring the board's intent to "allow adequate time" to explore the Peace Committee report and the seminary's response during the April meeting.

The section requesting the written statements was postponed until after the trustee executive committee could bring its report, which also included its proposal for dealing with the SBC Peace Committee report.

In proposing the executive committee's recommendation to refer the Peace Committee report to the instructional committee, trustee chairman Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Ga., said: "The president and I did not want to be presumptuous and prepare a report for your consideration. We decided it would be more appropriate for us to recommend a process which would allow for input from each trustee before a response is prepared."

After trustees voted to adopt the executive committee recommendation, they returned to the discussion of Amis' request for written statements.

"I'm not out to get anybody or to fire anybody," Amis told the trustees. He said it was not even necessary for faculty and administrators to sign the statements. "I just believe if a man believes something he ought to be able to stand by it."

Amis said there was no way for the trustees to know what actions needed to be taken until they learned where the administrators and faculty members were in their beliefs.

Midwestern President Milton Ferguson reminded the group that every member of the faculty signed the Baptist Faith and Message Statement when each was elected to the faculty. He told the trustees that following the Southern Baptist Convention in June, the faculty voluntarily communicated to the president their willingness to reaffirm their commitment to teach and live by that statement of faith. Ferguson also cautioned the trustees against any action that could communicate suspicion or mistrust of faculty and staff.

After defeating an attempt to refer the matter to the instructional committee, the trustees voted 19-8 to table Amis' motion.

Trustees also participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for seven new buildings providing 28 apartments for student housing. The project, to be constructed on the seminary campus by the Seminary Housing Corporation, will cost more than \$1-million. The debt on the project will be retired through rental fees.



**HONORED** — Carl T. Bahner, emeritus professor of chemistry and research coordinator at Carson-Newman College, was honored Oct. 16 at a luncheon and chemistry symposium. President Cordell Maddox announced the establishment of the Carl Tabb and Catherine Bahner scholarship fund.

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## One Word More

By W. Fletcher Allen

For days and days the prison train had carried the pitiful mass of women further into the dark heart of Nazi Germany. It was during the darkest days of World War II.

For the women, it was beyond misfortune or tragedy. They all had a sense of finality about life.

They had been snatched from their homes in towns and villages and from the farms of Holland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and other captive nations.

At last the train clanked to a stop and after two more days of standing in the cold rain, sleeping in mud, the prisoners were marched to a barracks. Their strained eyes told them what their minds had dreaded. No, they did not want to believe it.

They had arrived at their destination, despicable Ravensbruck, the place of no hope. Ravensbruck, one of the worst Nazi slave labor camps.

The two sisters from Haarlem, Holland, struggled inside their new "home" with the other prisoners.

They found a corner and flung themselves to rest for a moment on the rancid straw. One felt a sting on her leg, then another, and then scores of biting stings. "Betsie," she cried to her sister, "fleas, the place is swarming with fleas!" And as fleas covered them she cried even louder, "How can we live in such a place!"



Allen

Betsie replied, "Show us, O Lord, show us how." It was a prayer. Then, looking at her sister, she said, "Corrie, Christ already has shown us the answer. Remember the Bible reading this morning? Read it again!"

And so Corrie ten Boom again read from First Thessalonians: "Comfort the frightened, heal the weak, be patient with everyone. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus."

The sisters argued for a minute, then Betsie had her way. They knelt beside that filthy platform, and thanked God for ... fleas!

Why? Why thank God for fleas?

And what good did fleas bring Corrie and Betsie ten Boom? Well, you see they had always tried to have a place for prayer — even in the prison camps. A special prayer room would allow them to have precious minutes of peace and quiet — and even to provide a witness for other prisoners, many of whom were destitute without Christ.

Weeks went by and they felt bolder and bolder about reading the Bible and praying with fellow prisoners.

But a strange thing happened. No guard ever bothered them there in that squalid Ravensbruck barracks ... because, as one later told them, the place was swarming with fleas!

And anyone silly enough to read and pray in a room infested with fleas — well, let them!

# Tennessee

## LEADERSHIP...

James Stevens is now minister of music for Edgefield Church in Nashville. Daniel Martin is the pastor.

John Larry Phillips resigned as pastor of Lockeland Church, Nashville, effective Oct. 4.

Central Church of Alcoa has called Hubert Bundon as music director. Charles Bryan is pastor of the church.

Gary Bates Jr. has resigned as minister of music at First Church, Donelson, where Roy Fisher is pastor. While working in the family business, Bates intends to continue helping with revivals and leading music in an interim and supply capacity.

First Church, Nashville, where Charles Page is pastor, has a new staff member. Russ Roach is working in the areas of evangelism and discipleship.

Rod Collins, minister of youth and young adults, began his ministry Oct. 4, at First Church, Manchester. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Jerry Tracy is pastor of the Manchester church.

## PEOPLE...

Alan Wolfe was ordained as a deacon at Falling Water Church in Hixson, on Oct. 4. David Stubblefield is the pastor.

Rex Chitty was ordained as deacon at Avondale Church in Chattanooga on Oct. 11. William Henderson III is pastor of the church.

First Church, Church Hill, recently ordained deacons including: Tim Parker, David Parker, T. H. Roberson, Landon Roberson, Coy Owens, Wallace Owens, Lynn Parker, and Carter Parker. Gary Gerhardt is pastor of the church.

First Church, Dresden, where James Gaines Jr. is pastor, ordained Richard Bennett as a deacon on Sept. 20.

Leroy Crouch Jr. was recently licensed to preach at Northwood Church in Nashville. Marion Smith is the pastor.

## CHURCHES...

The 300 members of Corryton Church in Corryton, have raised \$30,000 more than the \$210,000 needed to complete a new

education-office wing. The wing should be open in December according to Rocky Ramsey, the pastor.

First Church, Manchester, burned a note of indebtedness Sept. 27. A new sanctuary was built after a 1981 fire. Jerry Tracy, present pastor of the church led the service along with Wade Darby, Phil

## McIntyre retires from BSSB post

NASHVILLE — Ralph McIntyre, special assistant to President Lloyd Elder at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, retired Sept. 30.

The former pastor of Brainerd Church in Chattanooga also had served as director of the church and staff support division and as Bible teaching division director for the past 10 years at the BSSB.

Previously he had served 31 years as a pastor. During the time Robert G. Lee was pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, he was associate pastor and assistant to the pastor at the church.

His work at the BSSB involved stints as interim director of the church music, church media library, church administration, and Sunday School departments while he led the search for permanent directors. He also spearheaded efforts to create the special ministries department.

In retirement, McIntyre plans to continue preaching and speaking, and hopes to do volunteer mission work, perhaps overseas, in 1988.

Tarpley, Tex Hively, Dick Stout, Bill Simmons, Bill Strike, and Warren Walker.

## REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS...

Rugby Hills Church, Memphis, will have revival services Nov. 1-5. Mike Owens is the pastor. Phil Glisson of Memphis will be the evangelist.

## REVIVAL RESULTS...

East Union Church of Jackson, recently held a witnessing training revival Sept. 24-30. Leonard Sanderson, from Pineville, La., led. There were 15 additions to the church, as well as several other decisions. Calvin Moore is the pastor.

## Dan C. Hall dies

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — Dan C. Hall, director of the church music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 23 years, died in his sleep Oct. 16.

Hall was director of associational work for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department for eight years before returning to his home state. He was a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Mera, and five children.

## Draper denounces gambling, Texas faces referendum

DALLAS (BP) — Gambling is a "ruinous exploitation" of the poor and is a direct violation of scriptural teachings, according to James T. Draper Jr., former Southern Baptist Convention president.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, spoke on "The Mandate to Defeat Gambling" at a mid-October anti-gambling rally in Mesquite, Texas. About 150 east Dallas County residents attended the rally, sponsored by the Mesquite Political Action Committee.

In a Nov. 3 binding referendum, Texans will vote on the legalization of pari-mutuel gambling on dog and horse races. Pari-mutuel wagering on horse races has been illegal in Texas since 1937.

Addressing the social impact and spiritual implications of gambling,

Draper said, "The Bible clearly prohibits the kind of gain that is gotten from gambling."

He noted gambling redistributes wealth but creates no new wealth; it is a regressive form of taxation; it creates a climate for crime; and it creates a new generation of compulsive gamblers.

"Gambling stimulates covetousness, greed, and materialism. The gambler breaks at least two of the Ten Commandments: 'Thou shalt not covet' and 'Thou shalt not steal,'" he said. "If the gambler wins, he is a thief. If he loses, he is a fool. Gambling is nothing but theft by mutual consent."

Draper went on to say gambling violates the commandment of Christ to "love thy neighbor," runs contrary to the principles of Christian stewardship, and cannot be reconciled to belief in the sovereignty of God.

"Faith in a sovereign God is incompatible with the worship of 'lady luck' that is involved in gambling," he said.

Weston Ware, associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, urged the east Dallas County citizens to "get out the vote" on Nov. 3, particularly among their fellow church members.

"If people in our churches do not care, then we do not deserve to win on Nov. 3," he said. "But I believe that we do care and that we can win because we are working together."

Ware encouraged those in attendance at the rally to raise money for the anti-gambling effort, encourage absentee voting among senior adults and shut-ins, conduct a telephone campaign, and provide transportation to the polls on Nov. 3.

## Crocker to retire from Shelby Co.

E. Gordon Crocker, executive director of Shelby County Baptist Association based in Memphis, will retire Dec. 31 after 23 years of service.

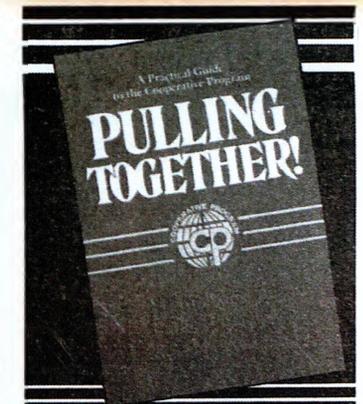
During the Oct. 12 annual associational meeting, Crocker was named executive director emeritus, given a sabbatical that began Oct. 20, and a monetary gift. John B. McBride, who was elected executive director Sept. 21, will begin Nov. 1.

Crocker reported that the most significant changes he has seen are the increase in the associational budget from about \$140,000 to \$790,000 and the increase of ethnic congregations from one to 15. He assisted the association in buying its present office building and building two lodges at Cordova Baptist Camp, the associational camp. He also noted that a chaplain position for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital that was partially funded by the association for five years is now funded by the hospital.

The native of Carroll County graduated from Union University in Jackson and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Crocker served as pastor of Salem Church in Henning, Barker's Chapel in Crockett Mills, Enon Church in Halls, Luckett Church in Luckett, and Leclair Church in Memphis, and churches in Texas. He also was a missionary in Ecuador and a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention committee on the journal in 1963.

He and his wife, Bettye Williams Crocker, plan to do short-term mission projects during retirement.



The term Cooperative Program is a familiar one for most Southern Baptists. But how much do you really understand about its purpose and function?

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Robert A. Baker, author of *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People, 1607-1972*, resides in Fort Worth, Texas. Daniel Vestal is pastor of First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas.

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## Tennessee/Venezuela prayer net partnership

—Missionaries celebrating birthdays: Margaret Bondurant, a church/home worker in Caracas on Nov. 1, and Margaret Vassar, a church/home worker in San Cristobal.

—Pray for Carmen Lopez, member of Primera Iglesia Bautista, San Antonio de los Altos, and her husband who is not a Christian.

—Marta is a young woman from Honduras who is serving in the Modibla program, a two-year program in which volunteers assist churches in discipleship.

—Faith and Neisa Pamphile are sisters who are serving in key leadership positions in the Venezuelan Baptist Convention. Faith is a seminary student and works with youth. Neisa is the GA director and works with churches in other roles.

## BTN announces changes, new programming

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE — After more than three years of providing video education resources to the denomination, the Baptist Telecommunication Network is planning to offer numerous programs and changes based on subscribers' suggestions, according to Joe Denney, manager of the telecommunications department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

One area of change will be the scheduling of 15 to 20 percent of total programming during the 1988-89 year based on "market demand," or popular subjects which have been frequently requested.

Discussions are in progress now with entertainers and preachers to offer a few hours of inspiration/entertainment as early as the spring of 1988, with regularly scheduled programming beginning in the summer of 1988.

Other areas for requested programming relate to personal enrichment, Bible study, and work with children. Denney said personal enrichment programs for couples, families, and senior and single adults will be primarily for use at home.

Research has shown that the programs used most often in churches are those which aid in preparing Sunday School lessons. Some programs which are not as widely used will be dropped to add frequently requested programs, Denney said.

"The annual live telecast of the Southern Baptist Convention will be continued because more people can watch the SBC on BTN than are able to attend," Denney said.

Denney said other efforts are planned to make more churches aware of BTN.

First, free satellite receiving equipment will continue to be available to churches which sign a five-year subscription contract. Annual subscription rates for churches range from a minimum of \$396 for churches with 149 or fewer members to a maximum of \$2,096 for churches with more than 1,920 members.

Toppen Services of North Little Rock, Ark., the authorized marketing company for BTN, contacts churches by telephone to sell subscriptions.

Also, a new arrangement has been implemented to pay \$100 to BSSB employees, state convention employees, directors of missions, and church staff members who deliver a signed subscription contract from a church to the telecommunications department.

A subscription rate increase for associations will begin next year, but they can receive a free subscription if about half of the churches in the association subscribe to BTN. Rate reduction credits for each subscribing church are provided to lower the association rate up to the cost of a free subscription.

This year, the BTN associational rate structure ranges from \$696 to \$3,756. That associational rate will be increased by approximately 20 percent annually through 1992.

Information regarding programming, rates, commissions, or subscriptions to BTN is available from the BSSB Telecommunications Department, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234.

## BWA names director of women's work

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Elizabeth (Beth) Hayworth-MacClaren of McLean, Va., has been named executive director of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance based in Washington, D.C., which is involved in work in 143 countries.

MacClaren has been Minister of Outreach and Adult Education at the McLean Baptist Church in McLean, Va., since 1979. She will assume her new post on Nov. 2, the date for this year's observance of Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer.

MacClaren served as associate director for the Baptist student departments in Kentucky and Louisiana.

From 1965-73, she was assistant to the director of information services at the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. She also has worked as a congressional legislative assistant and as a local church director of Christian education in Washington, D.C.

She was educated at Bryce Commercial College and Mars Hill College, both in North Carolina. She is also a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

## Tax expert speaks at Belmont

NASHVILLE — Lower tax rates that will go into effect next year make 1987 the perfect time for philanthropists to contribute to charitable organizations, according to national tax expert Winton Smith.

Smith, a Memphis attorney and consultant for the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, presented a seminar on tax-wise giving at Belmont College in Nashville Oct. 14.

The income tax rate for many people will decrease in 1988 under the new laws, therefore charitable contributions should be made this year to take advantage of the deduction under the higher tax rate.

"The highest tax rate this year is 38.5 percent, but next year it drops to 28 percent," Smith said. "So if you make a \$100,000 gift this year, that gives you a

deduction that protects \$100,000 of income, and you save \$38,500 in taxes."

"But next year, you'll only save \$28,000 in taxes if you make the same contribution," he said.

Although charitable contributions provide donors with substantial tax deductions, Smith emphasized that gifts are made "because people believe in and want to support charitable organizations."

He outlined a number of contribution techniques that can "allow a person to maximize the dollars he or she gives."

One of the best methods of giving is to donate appreciated assets, he said. Real estate or stocks that have greatly appreciated in value can be given to a charitable organization without the donor having to pay a capital gains tax normally levied on appreciated value.

Smith said it is important for prospective donors to discuss all giving options with their lawyers to determine which would be the most beneficial for both the charitable institution and the donor.

The seminar on tax-wise giving will become an annual event at Belmont.

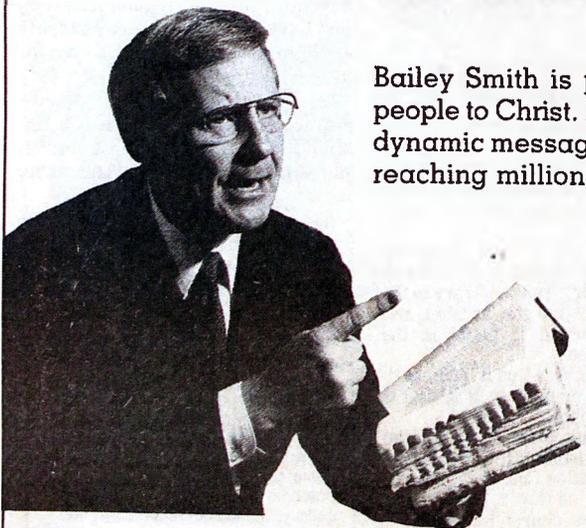
## Knoxville BSU sets anniversary event

To celebrate its 50th year of service, the Baptist Student Union at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, will hold an Alumni Homecoming Dinner on Nov. 14.

Bob Hall and Bill Choate, BSU directors for the Knoxville university, will be directing the event.

Alumni may receive more information by contacting the BSU, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1811 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916.

## POINTING THE WAY...

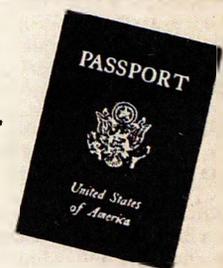


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If you think of questions pertaining to foreign missions while watching the teleconference, be sure to phone them in.



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## Our Investments



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

The financial world has been in a state of crises over the recent downward plunge of the stock market. Investors all over the world were wringing their hands in despair as fortune after fortune was lost.

Perhaps, many of them have never read Jesus' advice to investors. Here's what he said, "Don't store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value, and are safe from thieves. If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there, too." Matt. 6:19-21. (TLB)

Our staff has been busy this month reporting to our investors. We have covered the state reporting to the annual meetings

of our Baptist associations. How encouraging it is to report that the investment we are making in the lives of children cannot be eroded or stolen away.

Some of our investment of love, time, money and materials may not reap an immediate return. But we hold to the firm conviction that what we invest in the lives of children will reap a profit in the life of that child some day.

This has been a pivotal year in the life of our Baptist Children's Homes. We are thankful for the Baptist investors who make the work with our children possible. There are three new projects that we want you to pray with us about. First, the enlarging of our fine Jennings ministry to older girls at Memphis. Our trustees are

studying plans for the building which we hope to begin before the end of the year. Second is our Boys' Ranch. Our advisory committee will be meeting in early November to formulate plans for this much needed facility. Finally, we are looking for the appropriate location for the home for status offenders in Kingsport. These are new opportunities to invest in that which is eternal.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for believing that our God is the God of hope for orphaned, abandoned, abused and dependent/neglected children. Thank you for investing in their lives.

## Foster families provide love and support in special Children's Homes ministry

Since February of this year, Helen Houston has had six children- a fact which might sound impossible, unless you knew one more very special piece of information: Helen is a foster mother.

"Most of my children are grown, and some people wonder why in the world I want to go back to the round-the-clock demands of little babies," said Helen, a resident of Greeneville. "But the rewards I receive are far greater than any work I do. It makes me feel good to know I'm playing a small part in a child's life."

Helen and her husband, Robert, are foster parents for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, a statewide ministry for abused, abandoned and neglected children. Although most children receive care in a group home on one of the seven TBCH campuses across the state, preschoolers and some older children are eligible to receive the individual support and care of a Baptist family.

Some families join the foster care program soon after learning of the great need for caring families. Others are introduced to the program gradually, as was the case with Roger and Shirley Greenup of Brentwood.

"Faye Ramsay, a social worker at the Children's Home, talked at our church about the needs of these children," remembered Shirley, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church. "I talked with her, and the week before Thanksgiving she called to see if we would sponsor a child for the holidays."

Through the sponsorship program, an approved family is able to take a child into their homes on certain weekends. While the child still remains a resident in a group home on the TBCH campus, he or she is exposed to the loving environment of a Christian home.



Pictured enjoying an afternoon at home are Shirley Greenup with her foster child, Charles, and her daughter, Carrie.

It was in this way that 12-year-old Charles Brannon became a part of the Greenup family. He even knew of Carrie, the Greenup's nine-year-old daughter, since he attended the same elementary school.

With each weekend visit, the relationship grew between Charles and the Greenups. On July 9 of this year, Roger and Shirley were able to become foster parents to Charles.

"I think the time we spent as sponsors helped Charles- and us- with the transition," said Shirley. "At times, it's been a little rough around the edges because we know this is it. It's not just a weekend where everyone is on their best behavior. You have the give and take of normal family life."

George and Debbie Hannah of Memphis have learned almost too well about the give-and-take of caring for a foster child. In addition to their own three children, they are therapeutic

foster parents to a 17-year-old girl from the TBCH Jennings ministry in Memphis. This special ministry offers support to adolescent girls with emotional and relational problems.

"There have been times when I wonder why I'm doing this," admitted Debbie, a member of Whitten Memorial Baptist Church. "But I feel strongly that the Lord wants us here. I feel there is a real need for her to see a Christian home where a husband and wife love one another."

Anita Sutton, special program director for the Memphis TBCH campus, says the families in the therapeutic foster care program face very unique challenges.

"These aren't run-of-the-mill kids," she said. "These girls have more emotional problems, and require very dedicated care."

Debbie Hannah readily agreed. "At first I felt that all you would have to

give was a lot of love. But to make things work, it requires a lot of structure and discipline. It's hard, but I know that if we just keep trying, that we will make a difference in this young woman's life."

The Hannahs learned of the foster parenting program through Debbie's father, Will Moore, who is a house parent at the Memphis TBCH campus. The Houston and Greenups heard of the opportunity through their churches.

"That's the one thing I wish, is that more people knew of the ways they can help these children," said Shirley Greenup. "These are regular kids- they don't have leprosy. They've just had a hard life and need a little extra love and attention."

And even though it can admittedly be difficult, at times, to adjust a routine family life to the addition of another child, foster mother Debbie Hannah, for one, said it's well worth the effort.

"If you feel the Lord is calling you to serve in this way, then I would recommend it," she said. "I'm dedicated to this program. I've seen the difference it can make in a child."

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# Church celebrates rescue of toddler trapped in well

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Thanksgiving came a month early for Harold McClure and the other members of Cotton Flat Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, as they celebrated the rescue of McClure's granddaughter, Jessica, from an abandoned well.

Strengthened by worldwide prayer support, volunteers worked around the clock

Oct. 14 to Oct. 16 to free the 18-month-old toddler who was trapped 22 feet underground in an abandoned well. The 58-hour nightmare ended at about 8 p.m., Oct. 16, when Jessica was brought to the surface.

While Jessica's parents visited with Vice-president George Bush by the child's bedside at Midland Memorial Hospital Oct. 18, Harold McClure joined in a praise service at Cotton Flat Baptist Church.

Jessica's father, Chip, and her paternal grandparents are members of Cotton Flat. Her mother, Reba, is a Church of Christ member.

"Everyone involved is on a mountain-top right now. Everybody is giving God the credit," said Cotton Flat Pastor Ross Payne. He devoted his Sunday morning sermon to thanksgiving, and all of the hymns sung were praise songs.

"I think we just about had a world revival," said Harold McClure. "We got calls from all over the world — Australia, Italy, lots of places — telling us people were praying."

Pointing out that Jessica is the youngest of his 15 grandchildren, McClure said the

rescue effort was "quite an ordeal" for all the family. However, he said the family drew strength from the prayers that were offered on their behalf.

"It was hard watching on television, seeing what was going on at the well and thinking of our little granddaughter down there," McClure said.

"But we knew God was with her." While emphasizing support for the

McClures and help for little Jessica was a community wide effort crossing all denominational lines, there were several members of Cotton Flat Church involved directly in the rescue effort, said Randy Taylor, minister of youth at the church.

Bill Welch, a deacon at Cotton Flat who operates a "rathole" drilling rig, and his son, Chris, stayed at the well site with equipment on standby in case any of the other rigs experienced mechanical failure.

Another Cotton Flat member, Jim Cates, owner of a machine shop in Midland, stayed at the accident scene sharpening drill bits throughout the rescue effort.

"There have been so many volunteers, it's hard to single certain ones out," said Taylor. "The whole community — for that matter the whole world — has been here in their thoughts and prayers."

Taylor said that at one point the original rescue team was approaching exhaustion and an appeal went out for additional workers. Within 10 minutes, he said, about 200 men were at the well, offering to dig.

"God's hand was on this throughout the whole thing," said Payne. "It's marvelous when you see Christians pulling together to do something, but this went beyond that. There were people who you aren't about to get in church working on this. Only the Lord can bring people together like this."

## Tennessean speaks at historic first

Tennessee Evangelist Steve Nelson of Collierville preached recently at a historic first in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

For the first time in the history of Southern Baptist mission work overseas, a worship service was held inside a Baptist chapel located within the walls of a federal prison.

Missionary Charles A. Collins, who works with prison ministry in Guatemala, translated Nelson's message into Spanish for about 65 persons present. While most of the crowd were prisoners, about 20 were from First Church, Quetzaltenango.

The chapel has not yet been completed due to a national construction workers' strike. The chapel will be dedicated formally when the construction is complete, according to Collins.

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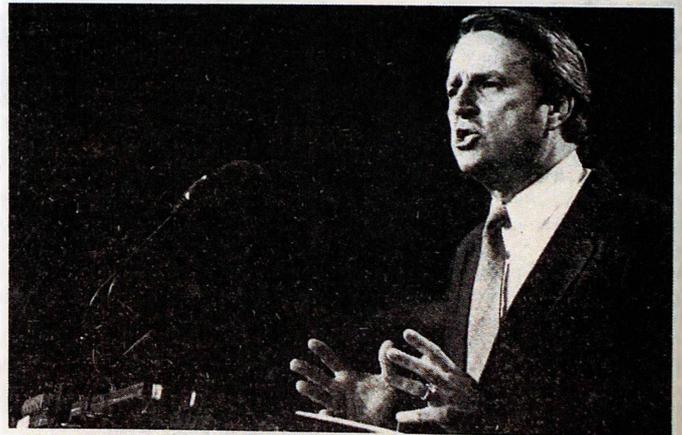
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She wrote for many composers, but William H. Doane was the man who set so many of her poems to music. In 1868, Mr. Doane came to her requesting that she write a hymn on the subject of being safe with Jesus. While he waited Miss Crosby wrote a complete poem in less than half an hour. This poem became her first nationally successful song "Safe In the Arms of Jesus." Even today this lady's song titles read like a hit parade of religious music. Tillit S. Teddlie called her third verse of "Rescue the Perishing" the best verse ever written. Although she did not begin her hymn writing career until after the age of forty, she produced more than eight thousand hymns. Miss Crosby passed away on February 12, 1915. William H. Doane died on December 24th of the same year.

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- TO THE WORK
- RESCUE THE PERISHING
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY
- CLOSE TO THEE
- PASS ME NOT
- HOLD THOU MY HAND
- TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS



- I SHALL KNOW HIM
- REDEEMED
- WILL YOU COME?
- 'TIS THE BLESSED HOUR OF PRAYER
- WILL JESUS FIND US WATCHING?
- PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!
- TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS
- THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET
- SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- SAVIOR, MORE THAN LIFE TO ME
- WELCOME FOR ME
- SPEED AWAY
- SOMEDAY THE SILVER CORD WILL BREAK

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### "It Is No Secret What God Can Do"

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO</li> <li>• THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD</li> <li>• TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD</li> <li>• WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN</li> <li>• I WANT TO KNOW</li> <li>• BECAUSE HE LIVES</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMAZING GRACE</li> <li>• HE SET ME FREE</li> <li>• BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC</li> <li>• THIS OLD HOUSE</li> <li>• PEACE IN THE VALLEY</li> <li>• HOW GREAT THOU ART</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHERE COULD I GO?</li> <li>• JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE</li> <li>• HE'LL UNDERSTAND AND SAY<br/>"WELL DONE"</li> <li>• PRECIOUS MEMORIES</li> <li>• WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN</li> </ul> |
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BIBLE BOOK SERIES  
Lesson for Nov. 1

# Noah and the flood

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

Basic Passage: Genesis 5:9 to 7:24  
Focal Passages: Genesis 6:5-9, 13-19; 7:19

All of us have our faults. That is, with this possible exception of your children or grandchildren. I hope you know I'm kidding about that. But then again you may be one of that growing number of parents who are unable or unwilling to see faults in their children.

The notion that one's children have no faults is an old idea; but it has only been really popular in the latter half of this century. God has known since the days in Eden that His children had their faults, their sins. Still, God loves us with an unfailing love as is illustrated by our biblical text for this week.

### God sees our sin

It seems to have always been a fact that if man goes out on his own he ends up in sin. God set before His creation a whole world of possibilities for good and evil. The sad story of history is that we have, time after time, chosen the evil.

Like a child left alone with a healthy meal and some junk food before him, we have all gone for the junk food and turned our backs on the things which would have done us the most good. We have sinned and have hurt ourselves in the process.

God's love does not blind Him to our failings. He has always been able to see us for what we are. The Bible tells us that He looked down into the world in those early days and saw the exceeding wickedness of it.

Let us remind ourselves that there was not a sin in those early days that is not present today. And we can be just as sure that God is aware of the wickedness of people today. He is aware of your sin and mine. Not even those secret sins we hide from others are hidden from His gaze. He knows us very well.

### God offers His mercy

Noah was a good man. This was especially true when compared with others of his times (6:9). Perhaps you have known people like him. He was a man of integrity. He was one none could say anything bad about.

But that was not the reason God came to him at first. God does not come only to the good people to offer salvation. Salvation is offered to all. All have sinned. All deserve to die. But God offers salvation even to the worst of sinners.

God came to Noah, I think, because Noah was the only one God found willing to hear and obey. It is not unlikely that God gave a warning to everyone. Only Noah was willing to listen. God offered His mercy to this good man.

The mercy He offered Noah was not unlike the mercy God offers to all. The



Nail

mercy was based on Noah's willing to hear and obey God. God told Noah to build an ark, a big boat. He told him to gather animals and provisions enough to last through the judgment and to start over.

I am sure of this one thing: had Noah failed to do as God commanded him to do, he also would have been drowned in the rains which were coming. God does not automatically save anyone. He offers us salvation because of His mercy. In spite of His love for us, He does not force salvation upon anyone. He loves us enough to allow us to choose the way we will go, even if it means destruction.

The instrument of God's mercy was the ark. Noah and all his family and all the animals he gathered were to be preserved from the judgment on sin which was to come. God provided the way. Noah and his family acted on it and received deliverance.

### God brings judgment

It has not been unusual in the years of my ministry to have people ask, "How can a loving God send people to hell?" People who ask this question seem to have done little reading in the prophets of the Old Testament or of the life of Jesus as recorded in the gospels of the New Testament.

In those passages we are allowed to see something of the heart of God which draws no pleasure from destroying the wicked. Instead we see that even the wicked are God's children because He created them. It surely pains His heart to have them refuse the deliverance He offers.

The floods came upon the ancient world of Noah. It came as God's judgment upon sin. Judgment always does come. It is delayed most of the time to give the wicked every opportunity to turn from their wicked way and be saved. But it does come.

There are many today who live in sin even though they know there is God. Their intention seems to be to go on living in the darkness of sin and then depend upon God to forget all about it after they die.

As Noah built the ark, many may have scoffed at the idea of coming judgment. But after the door of the ark was closed by God and it began to rain, the time for accepting the mercy of God was gone.

It is likely that there were many repentant people splashing about in the rising waters of the flood. It is also likely that there will be many repentant souls in eternity apart from God. Judgment does come. Once sentence is passed by God there is no appeal.

Each person is offered God's mercy. Not all have been willing to receive it and act upon it. This offer expires at a time not known to us. Let us encourage others to receive His hand of mercy.

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UNIFORM LESSON SERIES  
Lesson for Nov. 1

# Jacob returns home

By John N. Meadows, professor  
Union University, Jackson

Basic Passage: Genesis 30:25 to 31:55  
Focal Passages: Genesis 30:25-28; 31:1-7, 17-21

Last week's lesson dealt with the dramatic story of the stolen blessing and the consequence that, as some said, "a fearful Jacob was forced to flee far from his brother's fury." This week's passages deal in part with the second phase of Jacob's life — the far country experience.

After a few days on the road (namely, the "ladder" encounter at Bethel from which he would never escape, 28:11-17; 35:1), Jacob arrived in Haran, where a beautiful love story developed: the courtship and marriage (eventually!) of Jacob and Rachel (Genesis 29). It was love at first sight on Jacob's part. We are not told how Rachel felt. Does the fact that Jacob chose later to be buried with Leah (49:31) suggest that he "wised-up" during his years of marriage?

The account of Jacob's struggles with his father-in-law are anything but beautiful. Not that Jacob became the victim of the same brand of deception he had foisted on Esau and Isaac. He met more than his match in Uncle Laban! Had not the Lord elected to bless him, he would have accumulated very little of his own. God was not "getting even" with Jacob; He was refining him. But before the metal is cast, the dross must be removed. In a far country the purging of Jacob began — and continued for over twenty years.

In the face of adversity, Jacob persevered. And being caught between two competing wives on one hand and his shekel-minded father-in-law on the other must have taught him what it is like to be "victimized." Yet he remained in Haran and became a man of wealth and the head of a sizeable family. Let us not use Jacob (or Abraham) as a proof of health-and-wealth theology. Such was not the concern of the Savior and ought not be the focus of His followers (Hebrews 12:1,2; 13:13,14).

One day Jacob heard God's call to return to the land of his father (31:31). But why leave? After all, he was getting richer and richer. It was the prospect of trouble with Laban's sons that made Jacob open to the call of the Lord. Otherwise he might never have left. But give him his due. Jacob was not satisfied with wealth and prosperity. Early on at Bethel (28:20) the hope of getting home was so dominant he was willing to tithe on everything just to assure it. Because of Bethel (28:11ff.), his aspirations went beyond material matters, even though his maneuvers were often quite earthy. There is hope for such as he — but not for Esau's visionless kin. And we cannot blame Jacob for angrily claiming what he had earned after fourteen years of Laban's "revisions" of their work agreement (31:36ff.).

Jacob must have had mixed emotions about going home. He would avoid trouble with Laban, who seemed to have

turned against him (31:2,5), but he would have to face Esau. And what kind of reception would he get from his father whom he had deceived but to whom he undoubtedly longed to be reconciled? In the midst of this quandry, God spoke to him.

The outward facts, not a sufficient guide in themselves, only drew his attention to the inward voice. Jacob was called as well as driven to leave. Note that he told Leah and Rachel — who were also at odds with their father — that God had protected him (31:5). That knowledge was the decisive factor in his decision to leave. He had not overcome his penchant for trickery (i.e., sneaking out on Laban), but he aspired to gain that which only the God who protected him could provide — the blessing promised to him and his fathers.

It is notable that the same Lord who had called Abraham to leave country and kindred (12:1) told Jacob to do just the opposite. Each generation must discern for itself what the will of God is and where it is to be lived out. But let those of every age understand that the world has a way of financially rewarding, blinding, and binding those who aspire to be servants.

Observe also that Jacob spent most of his life contending with or running from someone or something (e.g., Esau, Laban, famine). Not long before his death he told Pharaoh that the days of his life had been few and evil (47:9). The sad parallel between the personal life of Jacob and that of the nation named for him is all too plain — blessing was unrealized because of rebellion and flight. Wherein do we rebel? From what are we running? Are we contending for something worthwhile or is our outward contentiousness a by-product of our inward unwillingness to let God lead us where we do not want to go?

Consider also a lesson about the Lord's loving sovereignty in our lives even in the face of our fevered follies. He allows us to reap what we sow. But often, unbeknown to us, he does so in a redemptive way. What more effective means to enlighten a liar on the error of his way than to let him feel in his own life the painful consequence of another's untruth? How better to enlighten the manipulator on the ignobility of his deeds than to subject him to a double-dealing practitioner of a "kleenex" esteem for others in which people are viewed as disposable? But how teachable the moment when one who uses and abuses others discovers what "it" means! It is then that the Lord instructs him — and he turns homeward.

## Mooty serves as pastor

Tom Mooty began his ministry at First Church, Wartburg, Oct. 4

Mooty previously served as pastor of West End Church in Newport. He has also served as moderator of East Tennessee Baptist Association.

He is currently attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Extension at Carson-Newman in Jefferson City.



Mooty

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**LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES**  
Lesson for Nov. 1

# Freed to love

By William F. Northcott, associate pastor  
West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson

Basic Passage: Galatians 5:1-15  
Focal Passage: Galatians 5:1-14

Soren Kierkegaard tells a story about a man who escapes from an insane asylum. He is fearful of being "found out." He decides to disguise his insanity by pronouncing a generally accepted truth that would prove to all who heard him that he was sane. Finding a rubber ball in the street, he put it in the back pocket of his coat. As he walked, it bounced against his hind parts and reminded him to pronounce to passersby the truth, "The earth is round, the earth is round..." Needless to say, he was recognized as insane and returned to the asylum.



Northcott

What happened? The earth is round. The man told the truth. But, as one writer observes, "the truth is not enough. There is something nonsensical about the truth in the mouth of one whose life has no evidence of participation in that truth."

I wonder if Kierkegaard was not saying something about profession and practice. As Christians, we are concerned not only with orthodoxy (right belief) but with orthopraxy (right practice), as well.

It is instructive to note that most of Paul's epistles begin with doctrine and end with application. Faith and action are important for Paul. For example, in chapters 1-4, Paul treats the doctrinal subject of Christian liberty. In chapters five and six, he deals with how one lives in the context of Christian freedom.

**Freedom in Christ**  
(Galatians 5:1-6)

Paul affirms that Christ is the great liberator. We experience freedom in personal relationship with Christ. It is interesting to observe that in the Greek there is a definite article before the word freedom, which suggests a distinctive kind of freedom. It is the special freedom experienced only by those whose lives are related to Christ.

The word used in this verse to express the idea of freedom is used (in slightly different Greek form) in "certificates of sacral manumission which were given to slaves who purchased their freedom." The slave pays for his own freedom by depositing money in the temple of his god. The priest of the temple then transfers the funds to the god "for freedom." The slave then becomes the property of his god. You can imagine that a slave who has gained

his freedom will be very careful not to allow himself to become enslaved again.

In contrast to the slave who has to provide the money for his deliverance, the Christian depends entirely upon God's grace-gift through Christ. Similarly to the slave, the Christian must be vigilant in fulfilling the purpose and potential of his freedom, avoiding at all costs a relapse into the bondage of legalism.

In Paul's thinking, law and grace are mutually exclusive. Verses 2-6 comprise a strong warning to the Galatians against mixing grace with law. The Judaizers were saying that salvation equals Christ plus... Circumcision appears to be the primary issue. You will remember that circumcision was the Old Testament identification sign of God's covenant people. In unequivocal terms, Paul declares that if any of the Galatians receive circumcision, Christ will be of no profit to them (v. 2), they will be bound to keep the whole law (v. 3), and they will fall from grace (v. 4).

For our purposes, let us focus on the idea expressed in verse 4. In religious circles today, when people talk about "falling from grace," they usually think of losing their salvation. This is not at all the idea Paul introduces in this verse. In fact, other translations more accurately reflect Paul's intent. Today's English Version reads, "You are outside God's grace." Paul is not saying Christians can

lose their salvation. Rather, he is saying that there exists the possibility of abandoning the way of grace in order to adopt the way of law. The idea being expressed is that the Galatians, at least potentially, may choose to live their lives in the sphere of the law's influence instead of in the sphere of God's grace. The bottom line is captured in the question: "How is one saved?" Paul answers, "By Christ and Christ alone." When anything else is added, the effectiveness of Christ is negated because it is a reversion to dependency on the law.

**Confidence in Christ (Galatians 5:7-12)**

"Running" is one of Paul's favorite words to describe the effort required to reach the goal of Christlikeness (2:2; Romans 9:16; 1 Corinthians 9:24-26; Philippians 2:16; 3:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:1). Here, he says the Galatians have been hindered in their race. The source of the problem is obviously the Judaizers, and the essence of the hindrance is their insistence upon adding law to grace. In spite of the real and imminent danger, Paul exudes optimism in the ultimate outcome of the matter. Paul has identified the problem; he has issued a warning; and now he writes a word of encouragement. He affirms them by expressing his confidence in them, through the Lord.

In other words, the rationale for his confidence is not based so much on his faith in them as it is his faith in Christ. Paul's faith is in the holding power of Christ. As one commentator observes, this is much more than the confidence one places in a friend. "It is his assured expectation that the Christ who has set the Galatians free will keep them so forever by conforming them more and more to His mind and Spirit."

The righteous indignation of Paul is sur-

faced in verse 12. The verse could well be translated, "I wish that those who are upsetting you would even emasculate themselves!" It is as if Paul is saying, "If circumcision is so important to the Judaizers, why do they not carry their cutting to greater lengths and actually castrate themselves, as the priests of Cybele do?" This is hyperbole - exaggeration to make a point.

**Freedom of love (Galatians 5:13-15)**

I believe it was Augustine who said, "Love God and do what you want." While it may be dangerous to subscribe fully to that idea, the thrust of his remark is arresting. It would seem that Paul, in verses 13-15, is saying something similar to that.

Paul says that freedom we have in Christ is not license to do whatever we want to, without consideration of others. The freedom that Christ offers is always informed by love - love of God and love of others. Paul perceived two potential dangers which threatened the Christians in Galatia. One, as we have seen, was the threat of legalism, championed by the Judaizers. The other, equally dangerous, was libertinism - the view that since Christ has set me free, I can do whatever I wish. And often that view eventuated in moral chaos. However, when freedom is informed and controlled by genuine Christian love, it always acts with sensitivity and caring.

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# Missionaries gear up for '88 Seoul Olympics

By Erich Bridges

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — The 1988 Summer Olympics begin next September in Seoul. Marathon runner David Bishop is ready.



**SHARING OPPORTUNITY** — Missionary and athlete David Bishop, who runs daily where he is, stops to talk to some curious pedestrians on a Korean street. Bishop is coordinating a variety of sports ministries leading up to the 1988 Summer Olympics in South Korea.

## Baptists aid flood victims

DHAKA, Bangladesh (BP) — The worst flooding in 40 years has submerged much of Bangladesh, and Southern Baptist missionaries want to build or repair as many as 1,500 houses for victims left homeless by the disaster.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released nearly \$381,000 in hunger and general relief funds for the project Oct. 2. Another \$250,000 likely will be sent in upcoming months.

Most of the money will pay for construction and repair materials for the houses and a food-for-work arrangement that will feed hungry and homeless flood victims while they build homes for their families. The Bangladesh missionaries estimate 500 houses can be built at about \$500 each and another 500 repaired with the funds already released.

The relief also will provide for food, seed, livestock vaccines, fertilizer, school and road repairs, and 30 tube wells in areas where flooding has destroyed clean water sources.

The missionaries will work primarily in the flooded western districts of Gopalganj and Madaripur and in the Comilla district, which is southeast of the capital city of Dhaka.

"The government approached the (Southern Baptist) mission about rendering some kind of help," reported missionary R. T. Buckley of Picayune, Miss. "Our missionaries will work with local government officials in determining the recipients of those houses and other programs we might be involved in."

Buckley said 51 of more than 60 districts in the nation had been declared disaster areas. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in the open on roadsides and high ground in badly flooded areas.

Bishop, a Southern Baptist missionary and an avid athlete, won't be competing in the Olympics. But he's leading other missionaries and Korean Baptists in a wide-ranging effort to provide ministries before and during the Games, scheduled Sept. 17 through Oct. 2, 1988.

Bishop and his colleagues already are teaching English to staff members of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee. Next year they hope to work with the committee as guides and interpreters during the Olympics. They also hope to operate a Christian hospitality center for foreign visitors near the Olympic athletes' village or the main stadium in Seoul.

About 25 Southern Baptist missionaries have participated in the English teaching clinics for Korean Olympic committee staffers, which began early this year. Most of the Koreans have studied English before but are sharpening their conversational skills as they prepare for the 250,000 foreigners expected during the Games.

"It's sort of a lifestyle witness opportunity with the people who are planning to put on the Olympics, some people who are very influential in the country," said Bishop, a 37-year-old native of Greenville, S.C. "We've gained a trust level with them. I really believe they're going to call on us more and more for help as we get closer to the Olympics."

Park Seh Jik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee, is an active Baptist layman and deacon.

In July the missionaries' "students" staged an English drama before about 2,500 Olympic workers and officials. "We coached them in the English pronunciations and so forth," Bishop said.

The drama was written to simulate situations they will encounter during the Olympics, like airport welcoming committees and checking in at the athletes' village. President Park of the organizing committee and other ranking officials were there and seemed impressed, Bishop reported. They gave the Korea Baptist Mission a letter of appreciation for their efforts.

Koreans view the Olympics as a historic opportunity to show the international community that South Korea has emerged as a world-class nation. They've spent several billion dollars preparing for the Games. Officials, politicians, and most citizens seem determined to make the event a spectacular success, despite

the current political turmoil and North Korea's continuing threats and demands for co-host status.

"The student demonstrators, the political parties, labor — they all recognize that the Olympics have to be held here," Bishop said. "Nobody wants to hurt that possibility."

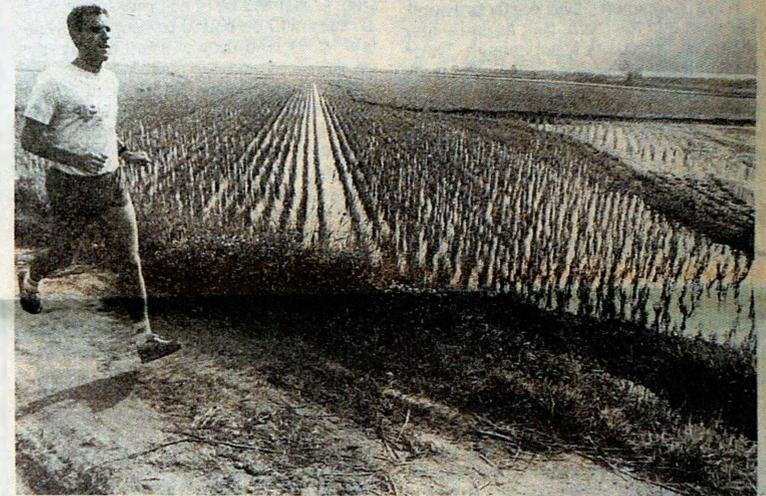
They're also determined to make visitors feel at home. Everyone from taxi drivers to executives is studying English and other languages to make it easier for foreigners in Seoul. As in any Olympics — and especially on the volatile peninsula — security is the first priority. But close behind is communication.

"They fear that Korea is going to be known as the place where communication was difficult," Bishop explained. "So they're working very hard, and the International Olympic Committee is pushing very hard, to have good language services. This is an area we are finding we can help with."

Many of the missionaries who have taught English to Olympic workers already have volunteered all their time during the two weeks of the Olympics to provide language skills or other services as needed. Others will work at the proposed Christian hospitality center if the right site can be obtained. At the center, Bishop reported, ministries will include "just your basic things — distribution of tracts, offering crisis assistance, maybe helping with food and doing what we're doing in Jesus' name."

Korean Baptist churches and associations also are participating in sports-related ministries and evangelistic rallies. The rallies usually feature Korean Christian athletes, including gold medal winners from last year's Asian Games. They demonstrate their skills, hold sports clinics or exhibitions, and give their Christian testimonies.

"The emphasis is that it's exciting to be an athlete, it's exciting to be involved in sports, but it's not as exciting as the relationship with Christ," Bishop said.



**GETTING IN SHAPE** — The 1988 Summer Olympics begin next September in Seoul, Korea. Marathon runner David Bishop (shown running through a field of flooded rice paddies) is ready. Bishop, a Southern Baptist missionary, won't be competing in the Olympics, but he's leading other missionaries and Korean Baptists in a wide-ranging effort to provide ministries before and during the Games.

## SWBTS student saves policeman

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Michael Connell got an unusual opportunity to put his theology into practice after leaving class at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Connell rescued a Fort Worth policeman who was struggling with an armed robber in an alley outside a liquor store. At least 50 other people witnessed the struggle, but only Connell and one other man came to the officer's aid.

A police spokesman said Connell may be recommended for a citation from the city. Connell was driving home to Streetman, Texas, from Southwestern when he noticed officer R. W. Reed's car parked behind the liquor store. Connell said he saw the door open and Reed on the ground struggling with a man.

Connell heard the officer yell for help and ran to his aid. Officer Reed said the incident began when he spotted a man wearing gloves and a bandana mask walking toward the liquor store. Since the store had been robbed three times recently, Reed suspected the man was attempting to hold up the business again.

Reed got out of his car, spotted a gun in the man's back pocket, and yelled for the man to stop. When the suspect ran away, Reed pursued him.

The officer caught the man and they began to fight.

During the struggle, Reed managed to take the suspect's gun and throw it under the police car. But as the two men wrestled on the ground, the would-be robber grabbed Reed's gun from the holster. When the suspect pointed the gun at Reed's face, the officer blocked the trigger with his finger.

That's when Connell ran to the aid of the policeman.

"I just ran in to help," Connell said. "I didn't think about it."

Connell held the man's legs while Reed handcuffed the suspect. According to Reed, the suspect was on drugs — "wiped out to the top" — which made him out of control. "He was all I could handle," Reed said.

Reed said none of the other 50 people watching the fight responded to his call for help. "That doesn't give you much faith in your fellowman," he said. "But when you've got a guy like Mike who is willing to do something, it's a lot better."

"Mike knew it was a life-threatening situation and it says a lot for him and the type of person he is that he was willing to get involved," Reed said. "It shows that there are still some people who care."

But the seminary student doesn't consider himself a Good Samaritan. He was just responding to someone in need, he said.