

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Photo gets responses

News "gets around."
A recent issue of the Baptist and Reflector contained a photo of telephones piled in a Baptist Building hallway. The photo's intent was to give a brief progress report to Tennessee Baptists — that the new building is nearing completion, and that a new telephone system had been installed.

Calls and letters of inquiry poured in from Tennessee and other states — about the disposition of the phones.

The Baptist Building, which is being renovated even as the new Baptist Center is under construction, has a new phone system. The new system gives added "attractions" to the telephone program, including some "direct dial in" lines to the offices as well as a central switchboard.

The system provides better communications within the building, and for those outside.

The outplaced system, an AT&T dimension switchboard and about 150 phone units, are for sale. They will be advertised in four metro newspapers, and will be offered only as a system.

Offers to purchase should be made by calling Marshall Gupton or others at the executive offices, Baptist Building, Brentwood, 371-2062.

New approach to SBC budget to be discussed at Feb. 20-22 meeting

By Al Shackelford

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Executive Committee will consider a new approach to convention budget planning at its February meeting, said William Harrell, chairman of the committee's program and budget subcommittee.

Using the new approach, the basic budget goal each year will be based on the amount of Cooperative Program receipts in the last budget year completed, Harrell said. The Cooperative Program is the denomination's unified budget, which finances missionary, evangelistic, educational, and church-starting endeavors around the world.

"This takes the challenge of an increased budget away from a committee and places it on people of the Southern Baptist Convention, who will determine by their gifts what will be the Cooperative Program budget goal for the following year," said Harrell, pastor of Abilene Church in Martinez, Ga.

At its Jan. 18-19 meeting, the program and budget subcommittee responded favorably to a request for change from the SBC Inter-Agency Council, composed of the executives of convention entities. "As chairman of the subcommittee, I am extremely thankful for the leadership and statesmanship demonstrated by the

Inter-Agency Council in its presentation of a suggested means to eliminate the problem we are facing with our budgeting," Harrell said.

"The dilemma came because during years of high inflation the SBC set growth goals that could not be maintained when the economy slowed down and 'our receipts and overall growth did the same,' he said. "Our problem began when we did not fully recognize this slowing process, and we continued to budget as if inflation was still at the double-digit rate."

Consequently, the subcommittee's recommendation will be to change from a "goal-oriented" budget to a "performance-oriented" budget.

"We have been budgeting based on a goal set by our committee and then recommended to the SBC by the entire Executive Committee," Harrell said. "Now we will be recommending budgets based on past performance by the entire convention."

"This coming year, we are going to have to 'bite the bullet,' but it will be worth it in the long run as we work toward a positive, realistic approach to budgeting which will be fiscally sound," he added.

Hollis Johnson, chairman of the Inter-Agency Council and president of the Southern Baptist Foundation in Nashville, said, "I feel the IAC came

together in addressing the situation with the best possible recommendation. In the process, the IAC solidly reaffirmed and recommitted to supporting and promoting the Cooperative Program. The IAC appreciated being asked for our observations."

Harrell responded, "It should be noted that the very people who most will have to 'bite the bullet' are the same ones who are recommending this approach. I commend the IAC for their unselfish attitude and for their contributions as we work together to solve the problems surrounding our budgeting process."

Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., said he joined with the IAC in recommending the new Cooperative Program budgeting approach.

The president of the Seminary Presidents' Council, Roy L. Honeycutt, said: "The new format for the operating budget assures fiscal stability in operating funds and in the best sense is 'a unified budget' characterized by growth, balance and fairness." Honeycutt is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

SACS delays decision on Southeastern

By Marv Knox

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has delayed until December its decision on continued accreditation of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Two accrediting agencies — the Southern Association and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada — are investigating the Wake Forest, N.C., school following 16 months of controversy.

Conservative trustees changed the school's faculty-selection process during their October 1987 meeting, vesting more responsibility with the president and trustees.

President W. Randall Lolley and seven other administrators subsequently resigned. Lolley cited the policy change — which he said ensures that only Biblical inerrantists can be added to the faculty and disallows faculty leadership in selecting new teachers — as the reason.

Consequently, the Association of Theological Schools sent investigators

to Southeastern in March 1988. A Southern Association fact-finding committee followed in September.

The initial Association of Theological Schools report on Southeastern called the seminary "a very troubled campus and divided institution." It added, "The provisions and principles internal to an academic institution have been severely threatened and in some instances abrogated."

The Southern Association committee's report said Southeastern does not conform to some accreditation standards in matters of faculty selection, academic freedom, and organization and administration. And while it did not cite violations regarding the effectiveness of the institution, it raised "serious questions" concerning that issue.

A committee of trustees has responded in writing to both reports, dealing with the criticisms "point by point, paragraph by paragraph," said trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley.

The Southern Association announced its intention to defer action on Southeastern until December in a let-

ter to Southeastern President Lewis A. Drummond from James T. Rogers, executive director of the association's commission on colleges.

Rogers cited three reasons for the delay: the seminary's response to the association's fact-finding committee was not received until Dec. 10, the day

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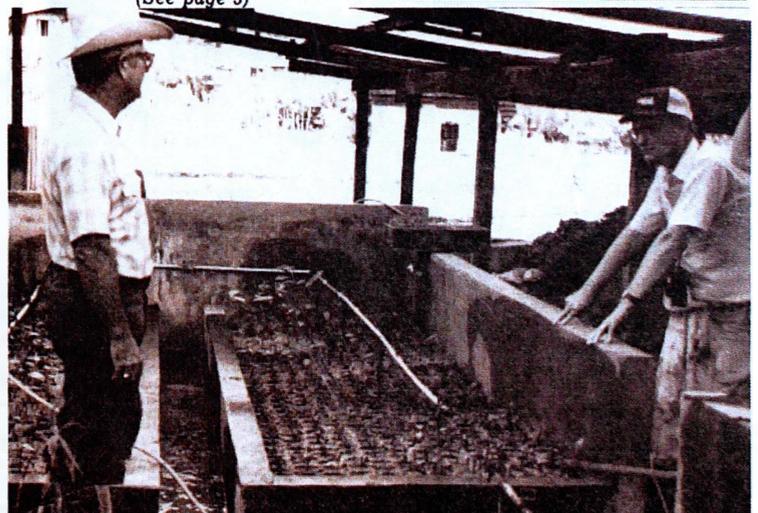
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IRRIGATION AT WORK — Proper watering is necessary for this small plant project at the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center, Philippines. Harold Watson, Southern Baptist Missionary and director of RLC, explains the system to Dennis Pulley, Ripley, one of several Tennesseans who visited the island nation. Additional photos on page 3.

MOVING? Cut out and mail this address label to the Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 along with your new address.

Editorials

Room for all at God's table — February 12

Last week's Baptist and Reflector carried a wrapup of the Christian Life Commission's conference on race relations held in Nashville.

The conference's only weakness was that so few attended.

The CLC's history on race relations has been peripatetic, probably because the commission often was rapped for doing anything — and rapped for doing too little. Some would rather there have been no effort toward stamping out racial prejudice — others frequently jabbed the CLC for not moving like a bulldozer.

So this conference is late — but not too late. While some might consider it "a drop in the bucket," we see it as a major step.

Racial hatred is not the only sin Americans (and Southern Baptists) are guilty of — but it surely is one of the most deadly and pervasive. It kills the soul, as well as the person, and it is as enduring as any resurgent group trying to overthrow a government.

Racial injustice and prejudice is not isolated to white and black cases. As we prepare to observe Race Relations Sunday throughout the Southern Baptist Convention on February 12, black and white conflict is not all

we need to resolve.

We are prone to think "black and white" when the subject of racial prejudice arises. We are haunted by national disaster promulgated by civil war. We ponder the reasons for it, and sometimes we substitute something that sounds nice and almost plausible in place of the real reasons.

As denigrating and destructive as black vs. white actions are, we must not forget other racial prejudices which are just as wrong, just as sinful, just as destructive.

Are Native Americans accepted? Are they free? Are they treated with dignity and respect?

Statistics on the front of a daily paper last week reminded us that incidents of anti-Semitism rose to a five-year high in 1988, with reports of harassment incidents up by 41 percent and vandalism up by 19 percent. While this kind of tragedy technically may not be racial — it is certainly a close cousin.

And, how many of the "boat people" from Vietnam did we welcome with open arms — even temporarily? Why are refugees cramped into crowded centers in the Philippines waiting for some place to live?

Segregation was a way of life for many of us. Drinking from separate public water fountains was more than a synthetic effort at cleanliness — it was blatant racism. So with separate waiting rooms in public buildings and doctors' offices, and two standards for wages, civil services, schools. And churches?

Tennessee is not the only place in America where KKK members parade on main streets.

Prejudice is not pretty. It is based on false pride and feeds on ignorance and fear.

We do not claim answers to all the problems of racism, any more than we pretend to know a solution to man's sinful nature. We do believe, however, that eradication of this evil can only happen when we follow Jesus Christ so closely that all people become our brothers and sisters. When we achieve that blessed state, by the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, not only will we be color blind — we will see as Jesus said, "inasmuch as you did it unto Me."

The Christian Life Commission's conference on race relations advanced Southern Baptists one small step on a tough but right road. More steps will be taken as we the sheep follow the Shepherd. — WFA

All people are created in the image of God

By Robert M. Parham

Racism remains an entrenched moral problem in our world, and we Christians need to be aware of it and to respond accordingly.

We see racism in such acts as the burning of crosses recently on the front lawns of four suburban black families in St. Louis and in the slurs scrawled on posters at the prestigious Stanford

University.

Across the ocean, racism appeared in the East African nation of Burundi when the majority ethnic group, the Tutsi, violently drove out thousands of Hutus, members of the minority ethnic group. Racism appears in the apartheid regime of the Republic of South Africa, where minority whites subjugate majority blacks. It reappears in Israel in the clashes between Israeli

soldiers and Palestinian refugees. It even appears in the spreading unrest among the 100 ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

So, what is racism? Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary says racism draws its meaning from the noun "racialism" which refers to "a doctrine or feeling of racial differences or antagonisms, especially with reference to supposed racial superiority, inferiority, or purity; racial prejudice." Racism then refers to a "program or practice of racial discrimination, segregation, persecution, and domination, based on racialism."

The Bible says racism is morally wrong for it counters a whole host of Biblical teachings.

The Bible teaches that all people are created in the image of God, that Christ died for all, that all are to love their neighbors, and that the church's mission is to every nation.

The Bible's message rings with the truth of God's inclusive love and expectation that the people of God will embrace all without regard to skin col-

or or to speech pattern.

Luke 13:29 is one of the many picturesque texts testifying to the racial inclusiveness of God. Speaking about the kingdom of God, Jesus said: "People will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God" (Luke 13:29 TEV). His vision was of a time when even the despised Gentiles would sit at the banquet table with the beloved patriarchs of Israel. He envisioned a time of racial reconciliation.

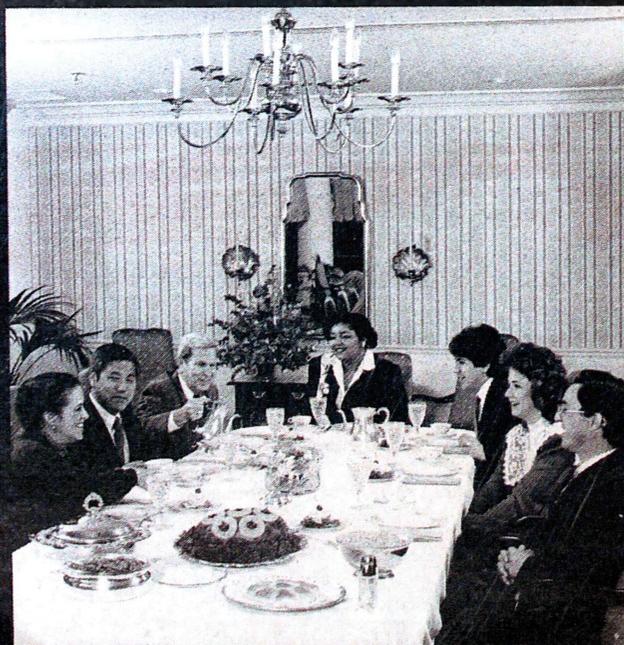
Race Relations Sunday is a time scheduled on the convention's calendar for church members to focus on the problem of racism in all its varied forms. On Feb. 12, think about the explicit programs of racial injustice and the subtle practices of racial prejudice. Consider the Bible's call to sit at the table with people from all nations. Then, find ways to be God's servants to bring about racial harmony.

Robert M. Parham is an associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission responsible for race relations education and action.

Room for All at God's Table

"People will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit at the table in the Kingdom of God."

(Luke 13:29, TEV)



Observe Race Relations Sunday
February 12, 1989

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

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CONSERVATION OF SOIL — Soil conservation is involved in projects at the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center. Tennessee Baptists Ray Fowler, Ken Story, Clarence Stewart, and missionaries Glen Thompson and Harold Watson look at one of Watson's projects.



DAVAO SEMINARY — Philippine Baptist Seminary is located a few miles from Davao City on Mindanao. A second seminary is at Baguio on Luzon, north of Manila. More information will be found in next week's edition of the *Baptist and Reflector*. — Photos by Allen.

Biblical imperatives conference cancelled; reset for May 1990

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — The Conference on Biblical Imperatives, planned by the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries for April 24-27 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center has been cancelled.

The conference was to be the third of three planned by the seminaries as part of the Glorieta Statement issued

to the SBC Peace Committee in 1986. The first, on Biblical inerrancy, was held in 1987, and the second, on Biblical interpretation, was held in 1988.

According to the two seminary presidents who were co-chairmen for the cancelled conference, a May 1990 conference is being planned to focus on

many of the issues of Biblical imperatives as well as the need for renewed commitment and cooperation among all Southern Baptists.

After high attendance at the first conference and reduced interest in the second, there had been no advance registrations for the third. Planners added the decision was made to cancel the meeting after two key speakers cancelled around the first of the year and to reschedule a 1990 conference focusing on many of the same themes.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., said: "We're facing a serious crisis in confidence, commitment and cooperation within our Southern Baptist family. Our 1987 and 1988 conferences focused on the inerrancy and interpretation of the Bible as the word of God.

"Our challenge now is to restore trust and confidence within our Southern Baptist family. We can do so

by reaching out to include all members of that family and by revitalizing our covenant of commitment and cooperation under the lordship of Jesus Christ."

Ferguson and the other co-chair, William O. Crews of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., have invited fellow SBC agency executives to join them in the 1990 conference. Ferguson added the response of the other leaders was "positive and enthusiastic."

"It is our intention to focus on the topics we were going to use in the 1989 conference," Ferguson told Baptist Press. "But whether we call it a conference on Biblical imperatives remains to be seen. But we will focus on the lordship of Christ, the urgency of world missions, peace with justice, the cry of human needs, the spiritual authority of the churches.

"These are at the heart of who we are as Southern Baptists."

One Word More

Today the place lacks that quality which would make it memorable. One would scarcely guess that a king was anointed there.

But Zacharia said that such an event happened, and I read about it in 1 Kings.

King David was dying. 1 Kings tells us, and one of his sons, Adonijah, was in a rush to succeed him on the throne of Israel. Bathsheba realized what was happening, and went to David to remind him of a promise he had made regarding Solomon — his son and hers.

"You made me a solemn promise in the name of the Lord your God that my son Solomon would be king after you," she reminded him. David remembered.

The Bible says that "Then King David sent for Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah. When they came in, he said to them, 'Take my court officials with you; have my son Solomon ride my own mule, and escort him down to Gihon Spring where Zadok and Nathan are to anoint him as King of Israel. Then blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon! Follow him back here when he comes to sit on my throne.'"

They did just that. Following David's orders, they escorted the royal son down to Gihon Spring and there anointed him.

They blew the trumpet and the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!"

I stood with a small group just inside the entrance to the cave bearing Jerusalem's Gihon Spring — on a day twelve years ago. "So you can read in first chapter of Kings in the Old Testament the story of the anointing of King Solomon at the Gihon Spring,"

By W. Fletcher Allen, editor
Zacharia the guide said.

"And this is the place — this is that same Gihon Spring. There is no other." Children scurried about us, and peddlers hawked old coins and rings.

We left Gihon Spring and retraced our steps. The street was narrow and dusty.

There was not much activity as we walked along. Everyone seemed to be listening to radios. The few cars had stopped in the middle of the way but causing difficulty to no one. Storekeepers leaned over window sills to hear better. Car doors were open and everyone was listening to the same speech.

"Do you know who is speaking on the radio?" Zacharia asked. He answered his own question. "That is President Sadat speaking to the Egyptian parliament in Cairo. He is telling the people that the Middle East can have peace if we can only cooperate. Each side must give a little."

He sighed as we trudged onward. "If we only could — if we only could. He is a brave man, and so is our own Begin a brave man." He was talking about the leaders of those two "enemy" nations. Sadat, who was later to be assassinated in his own land, had been to Jerusalem just a few days earlier and had spoken to the Knesset. He had broken all precedent.

And now I think, listening to Zacharia, what would be the message of King Solomon to Sadat and Begin, and to those who succeeded them — the peoples of Israel, Egypt, and all of the Middle East, to the peoples of the world — if he were making a speech at his anointing at Gihon Spring?

Would he say, as his father David said to him, "Be confident and determined, and do what the Lord your God orders you to do . . ." ? Would he tell them that no struggle is too long, no price too heavy for the bringing of peace to the people?



ALLEN

Bush nominated as Southeastern dean

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — L. Russ Bush III has been nominated as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, announced President Lewis A. Drummond.

Bush is associate professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. His nomination has been opposed by the Southeastern faculty, who gave him a vote of no confidence in November.

Southeastern has been marked by controversy since October 1987, when the seminary's new conservative trustee majority changed the way the school chooses its teachers, vesting more responsibility with the president and trustees.

"His reputation as a scholar is excellent, and he is a pleasing, thoughtful, and warm personality," Drummond said of Bush.

Bush meets the criteria he had set for a dean, Drummond told Baptist Press: "We wanted him to be the traditional things — a Southern Baptist, involved in theological education, with a good track record of an academic. He meets all those qualifications highly. He's a man who can work with people. He has a lovely spirit."

If the nomination procedure goes as scheduled, Bush will meet with

Southeastern faculty, administrators, students, and trustees before trustees vote on his appointment March 13-14, said trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley.

"I think there's no question about him being elected," said Crowley, pastor of Montrose Church, Rockville, Md. "Some will oppose him, but I feel certain that Dr. Bush will be elected." Crowley predicted a 25-5 trustee vote in Bush's favor.

Despite trustee support, Bush's nomination is opposed by the faculty, according to a statement from the Southeastern chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

"This nomination was made in spite of a unanimous vote by the faculty on Nov. 16, 1988, not to support the candidacy of Dr. Bush due to his lack of qualifications," the statement says. "While Professor Bush was not supported for this position, six other candidates submitted by President Drummond were affirmed by the faculty as possible nominees."

The statement notes a disagreement over the search process and claims the longstanding procedure, which involves the faculty, "has been disregarded." Crowley said, however, the process is being conducted by "approved guidelines."

For his part, Bush said, he hopes he can gain the faculty's confidence when he meets with the professors.

Our Readers Write ... on prayer for president, BJCPA, new group and more ...

Prayer requested

I ask each person who reads the Baptist and Reflector and who truly believes that God hears and answers our prayers, to begin today to pray daily for our president, George Bush.

The Bible says that our God can and will supply all our needs if we pray, believing.

As Tennessee Baptists, let us hold our president daily before God and then watch God work in and through his life and office.

Rachel Low
485 Broadwell Dr.
Nashville 37220

The most urgent need of our nation is for all citizens to humble ourselves and seek God's face. We join in this plea for devoted prayer for President Bush. — Editor

Support for BJCPA

At the November meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, messengers were assured that funding of the Baptist Joint Committee would be a matter of priority at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the SBC. How true this has proven to be!

It now appears that funding for the Baptist Joint Committee will be reduced more. I rather doubt that this was the type of priority that messengers expected in light of the fact that these same messengers passed a very strong resolution in support of the Baptist Joint Committee.

I believe Tennessee Baptists need to come to the defense of the Baptist Joint Committee. It has served us well for so many years and continues to do so. The

Personal Perspective

By Tom J Madden

"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

Like thousands of you, I have been having a spiritually rewarding time studying the gospel of John. I came to the miracle of Jesus feeding 5000 men besides the women and children. A major thrust of the miracle is that Jesus is always sufficient for our insufficiency. However, the impression came to me that there are several physical qualities of bread that surely have spiritual overtones.

Bread is prepared. It grows as wheat, ripens, is cut down at harvest time, is ground into flour and then made into bread. Jesus was prepared before the foundation of the world to give Himself as a ransom for the sins of mankind.

Bread is necessary to the sustenance of life, so Christ is necessary to eternal life.

Bread is suited to all ages just as Jesus is suited to all.

Bread is necessary for growth and strength so must we feast on Jesus if we are to grow and strengthen.

As bread satisfies the physical appetite so does Jesus satisfy spiritual hunger.

I join with you in thanking Jesus for the bread of life.



MADDEN

state conventions of North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia have spoken loudly and clearly in support of the Baptist Joint Committee through financial commitment, some including it as a line item in state budgets. I hope Tennessee Baptists will do the same.

Dillard A. Mynatt
P. O. Box 835
Gatlinburg 37738

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on religion-related subjects are welcomed. Letters should be brief and concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be shortened and edited at discretion of the editor. Unsigned letters will not be read or used, but writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. There must be at least one month between publication of letters from the same writer. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Short letters are preferred. Address and phone number must be included.

Concerned about BJCPA

The future of Southern Baptist emphasis on religious liberty and separation of church and state may be determined by decisions of the SBC Executive Committee in February at Nashville.

The committee faces a recommendation from a small subcommittee to start an expensive, exclusively Southern Baptist "Religious Liberty Commission." At the same time, proposed budget constraints bring recommended cuts to SBC home and foreign missions programs. It would be the height of folly to begin a new and redundant program when state and national ministries are being compelled to cut back mission support.

That folly is compounded by another little-noticed proposal to be considered by the Executive Committee. The proposed budget would attempt to silence the historic Baptist voice for religious liberty by removing the Baptist Joint Committee from agency standing and burying it in the budget of the Executive Committee. This is especially troubling because it ignores the action of the full Southern Baptist Convention meeting in San Antonio in 1988, which voted clearly to affirm a separate line item in the SBC budget for the BJCPA.

Southern Baptists should be greatly alarmed if the current Executive Committee, a group of less than 80 persons, proposes to start this redundant venture while slashing support for existing missions programs and presumes to reverse the actions of the convention itself.

The final decision, of course, would be in the hands of the messengers at the SBC; but it is hoped that this recommendation will be headed off at the pass by an informed and responsible Executive Committee.

Grady C. Cothen
211 Baywood
Pass Christian, Miss. 39571

Not readily available

I am writing in response to the letter of Jim Pennington (Jan. 4 issue) regarding an unwanted pregnancy. While I agree that an unwanted pregnancy is traumatic for all involved, Mr. Pennington is somewhat inaccurate regarding the adopting process. He states, "Not only is it difficult to give up a child for adoption, there are more children

available than those willing or qualifying to adopt."

As a childless couple, my husband and I have learned that adopting a child is not a simple process. We have been evaluating various adoption agencies over the last two years and have learned that the waiting list for a child varies from two to seven years. We are currently on the waiting list for adoption through the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. The wait for adoption through this agency varies from two to four years.

We have learned that adoptable children are not easily available, a fact that many who have never considered adoption are unaware. This dilemma faced by potential adoptive parents has only increased with court decisions such as Roe v. Wade and others which allow for the easy availability of abortion.

I urge Mr. Pennington to reconsider his statement regarding the adoption process, and I appreciate the opportunity to outline some of the difficulties facing potential adoptive parents.

Ann M. Lovell
5505 Palmetto Road
Knoxville 37921

New group started

This is a letter to all Southern Baptists. The Southern Baptist Alliance (SBA) has formed and is talking of starting a school. The "Right Wing of the Convention" (RWC) is firmly in control, and a third group, the centrists, called "Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention" (BCSBC) has formed. I think it is time to announce the organization of a yet untapped group of Southern Baptists, FED UP. The Fellowship of Evangelicals Denouncing Unnecessary Politics (FED UP), besides having the best name, thinks it is high time we ended organizing among ourselves and get on with the task of winning this world to Jesus. It's time to stop organizing and start evangelizing.

If you believe this and would like to join FED UP, please send a \$1 membership fee to:

FED UP, 311 N. Pine, Vivian, La. 71082
All monies received will be forwarded to the Foreign Mission Board to be added to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

Friends, people all around us are lost and we are organizing instead of evangelizing, we are building walls instead of building bridges, we are arguing among ourselves instead of agonizing over the lost. And I, for one, am FED UP!

Pepper Puryear, pastor
First Church
311 N. Pine St.
Vivian, La.
We appreciate Brother Puryear's original idea for bringing us back together. However, we will refrain from endorsing the \$1 membership fee. — Editor

Biblical authority

In response to the editorial of Jan. 18, I believe those of us who have been in the forefront of the conservative thrust within our denomination certainly decry bitterness and devouring one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

There is no place for an unChrist-like spirit between Christians. On the other hand, we also find ourselves deeply troubled by some young men coming out of some of our schools and discovering what they believe and have been taught concerning the historicity of Genesis, the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, the miracles of the Old Testament, the reali-

ty of Satan; the relationship of the 20th century believer to alcohol, the validity of Christ's virgin birth, and scientific accuracy of the Bible, of the authority of Jesus Christ in matters relating to textual problems, etc.

To sidestep these issues and to say that we should close our eyes to their existence and begin relating to each other as if they did not exist is like one who sticks his head in the sand. If our unity is not based upon the authority of the Word of God, then we have no basis for unity. Everything that we know about God and about Christ is based upon that record. The issue is not interpretation. Baptists have always differed at points, interpretation-wise. The issue is whether the Word of God can be trusted, not only theologically, but scientifically and historically. That, we must agree upon if we are to have unity of purpose in our denomination. If unity is not doctrinal in nature and our evangelism is not undergirded with a doctrinal foundation, then we can just as well support the Seventh Day Adventists, the Christian Missionary Alliance or any other group that is doing a good job in sending out missionaries.

The issue is doctrinal, based upon the authority of the Word of God. Once this is established, by all means, let us speak the truth in love, as we earnestly contend for the faith.

Bob Mowrey, pastor
Park Avenue Church
43rd at Park Ave.
Nashville 37209

I agree that we should not close our eyes to the issues you named. We do have basis for unity when we believe in the authority of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. I suspect that Southern Baptists agree on much, much more than we realize. — Editor

Be a witness

We sit daily letting time get away without witnessing to a lost soul. I have been guilty of this. Then neighbors move, or a death occurs. We never realize how important life might have been for them if we had only told them about the Lord Jesus.

Often we think we are not capable of being a witness. Our courage has failed, we are weak. But it is often the opportunities we take that might lead a life to Christ.

Life is full of opportunities, chances. Unless we take them, souls are lost. If someone had helped Ted Bundy, someone had witnessed to him, he might have been a different person, instead of ending life as murderer.

It happens all around us, and will continue unless we witness and tell people about Christ. We must not become frightened or afraid. We must use our time wisely. In Jeremiah 1:7, we can read, "Say not I am a child; for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak."

Foolish conversations are wasteful. We must use words of wisdom. One word spoken wisely is far more rewarding than a thousand words spoken unwisely. Sin is in the whole world, even our families and neighbors.

Reach out and touch someone! "A life for Christ that is given in need is always a wonderful friend in deed."

Barbara J. Myers
Rt. 1
Tracy City 37387

Tennessee physicians aid Venezuelan girls

By Connie Davis, assistant editor

Two eight-year-old Venezuelan girls 2000 miles apart are receiving treatment for life-threatening illnesses because of Tennesseans who went to Venezuela last July to do health care work.

Dewey Dunn, a Nashville physician, reported that a girl in Maracaibo will undergo the heart surgery needed to save her life because of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership health care project.

The 175 who participated in the project made up the largest number ever to participate in a Southern Baptist health care project.

About \$4300 has been sent to Venezuela to pay for her surgery. The money was donated by project

During inauguration

volunteers.

Much of that money, noted Dunn, was raised by First Church, Murfreesboro, because of the interest of one of its members, dentist Ben Jamison. Fund-raising activities for Venezuela health care projects included a pancake breakfast and a rummage sale.

The girl, who was examined by Dunn during his January visit to Venezuela to attend the national convention, is an only child. Her father is especially afraid for her, said Dunn.

"Many will be praying that God will perform a miracle through surgery," continued Dunn.

With the assistance of Baptist physicians like Marlene de Leon in Maracaibo, Dunn helped make contact

with a pediatric cardiac surgeon in Caracas who would be able to do the surgery.

And 2000 miles away in New York City, the other Venezuelan girl became a project of dentist Don Harrell of Knoxville. Suffering from an abnormality of the blood vessels in her face and jaw, Karina Cubillan, the Harrells, and Calvary Church, Knoxville, have experienced more than just a journey since the first of November when Karina arrived in Knoxville. (See an upcoming issue of the Baptist and Reflector for her story.)

Other results of the Tennessee/Venezuela health care project include the sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000 for clinic workers directed through a Maracaibo Baptist association health

care committee.

Also, Tennesseans are committing to return in April 1989 to Los Teques to conduct clinics and July 8-17 to Maracaibo and Valencia to conduct health care work in five areas and do academic consultation.

In reference to the recently adopted partnership with the Philippines, Dunn concluded, "We know that these partnerships will continue past our lives on this earth and will last forever in heaven."

Persons interested in supporting this health care work, which is coordinated through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, should contact Dewey Dunn, 1303 Lone Oak Circle, Nashville, Tenn. 37215, (615) 383-8499.

President Bush emphasizes theme of serving others

WASHINGTON (BP) — A few minutes after taking the oath of office as the nation's 41st president, George Bush spoke a prayer as his first presidential act.

Beginning his Jan. 20 inaugural address, Bush prayed: "Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and thank You for Your love. Accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do

Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write on our hearts these words: 'Use power to help people.' For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people. Help us remember, Lord. Amen."

Throughout his 20-minute speech, the newly inaugurated president reiterated that theme of service. He challenged Americans to better their nation and the world through a "new engagement in the lives of others."

Bush took the presidential oath of office with his left hand placed upon two Bibles — one used by George Washington during his inauguration 200 years

ago and the other belonging to the Bush family. The Bibles were open to Matthew 5.

As president, Bush committed himself to celebrating the "quieter, deeper successes that are made not of gold and silk but of better hearts and finer souls." He called upon Americans to unite behind the purpose of making "kinder the face of the nation and gentler the face of the world."

"My friends, we are not the sum of our possessions," Bush said. "They are not the measure of our lives. In our hearts, we know what matters. We cannot hope only to leave our children a bigger car, a bigger bank account. We must hope to give them a sense of what it means to be a loyal friend, a

loving parent, a citizen who leaves his home, his neighborhood and town better than he found it."

Acknowledging a national deficit that has left the country with "more will than wallet," Bush encouraged the nation's citizens to practice hands-on activism in helping others.

"We will turn to the only resource we have that in times of need always grows — the goodness and the courage of the American people," the president said.

"The old ideas are new again because they're not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in."

SACS delays . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the association's committee on criteria and reports met to review the situation; the seminary's response had not been reviewed by the entire board of trustees; and that response "contained a substantially different interpretation of the recent controversy at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary from that indicated by the special (fact-finding) committee."

The Southern Association made two requests, Rogers' letter noted:

- "That the institution develop a plan by July 1, 1989, which addresses the following areas of concern: the current image of the seminary, faculty involvement in the employment of other faculty members, perceptions of academic freedom and the role of the board of trustees in governance.

- "This plan should seek to develop a more cooperative relationship among all parties on the campus and should be developed in the spirit of a self-study based on the principles of shared governance. The plan should address both the spirit and the content of the (association's) criteria" for accreditation.

- "That a (Southern Association) committee be appointed to review the institution's plan, visit the campus in the fall of 1989 to assess the seminary's environment and make recommendations to the institution and to the commission on colleges."

Drummond said of the Southern Association's plan of action: "I'm very gratified that they're giving us this extended period to meet their criteria, which we and the trustees fully intend to do.

"Our accreditation is as firm as it has always been, and we have ample time to satisfy the needs. We thank God for that."

Youth Evangelism Conference set for March

About 30,000 young people are expected to converge on Nashville again for the 20th annual Tennessee Youth Evangelism Conference, the largest known Baptist youth conference held in any state.

The March 3-4 event will be held in sessions at Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium that are duplicated to accommodate the crowds. Additional regional meetings are held at local churches and other sites.

This year's theme, "The Tennessee Connection," is based on a recently released musical drama, "The Real Connection," and identifies the "youth or person who can be a connection between a peer and Jesus Christ," said Jerry King, Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism director.

Speakers include Rick Ousley who has held church staff positions in Alabama, Texas, and Arizona. The graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., is head of an evangelist ministry based in Phoenix, Ariz.

Also on the program is Jerry Johnston, author on the subjects of suicide and the sexual revolution and popular speaker to school groups, parents, and faculty. His evangelistic association in Overland Park, Kan., also sponsors a nationwide toll-free phone line for troubled youth.

A music group, First Impression, of Rome, Ga., will perform along with the 200-voice Tennessee All-State Youth Choir.

Other program features will be led



JOHNSTON



OUSLEY



FIRST IMPRESSION

by Brian Turnbow of Lexington and John Mosier of Whitwell, both winners in the 1988 Tennessee Youth Speakers Tournament; Judy Sparks, State Acteen Panelist from Kingsport; and David Campbell, Tennessee Royal Ambassador President from Woodbury.

Translators for the hearing impaired will be at all sessions at the Vanderbilt Gym. A reserved seating section for this group will be located near the stage.

The large crowd must be divided and

sessions at Vanderbilt Gym duplicated, explained King. This also allows for those traveling farther from the eastern part of the state to gather later on Friday evening. Personal Witnessing Conferences are held in local churches to enrich the fellowship. They meet while a general session is being repeated.

Other information is available from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Evangelism Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

Schedule for Youth Evangelism Conference

(in Central Standard Time)

Friday Evening

West and Middle Tennessee 4:15-6:00 p.m.
East Tennessee 7:45-9:30 p.m.

Saturday

West and Middle Tennessee 9:15-11:00 a.m.
East Tennessee 1:15-3:00 p.m.

Personal Witnessing Conferences

(Held in churches and other locations)

East Tennessee 9:30-11:00 a.m.
West and Middle Tennessee 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Despite lull, churches must deal with AIDS

NASHVILLE (BP)— Although the spread of AIDS has leveled off in recent months, the disease eventually will plague every Southern Baptist association in the country, Southern Baptists who are studying the issue said.

"We are getting calls (about how to deal with AIDS) from small towns across the width and breadth of the country, as well as from the big towns where AIDS is more widely known," said Doug Anderson, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

"I have talked with a number of pastors who have experienced it (AIDS) in their own families or in their own congregations. You might even describe the tone in some of these calls as desperate.

"We cannot be lulled to sleep because of the positive reports that are cropping up about the slowdown in the spread of the disease."

While the spread of AIDS among homosexuals appears to have leveled off and the disease has not exploded in the heterosexual population, about 32,000 new cases were diagnosed in the United States in 1988, observers said. This brings the total number of the country's AIDS cases to 83,000, resulting in almost 50,000 deaths.

Larry Braidfoot, associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, recently attended a national AIDS seminar in Washington. Afterward, he cited a number of en-

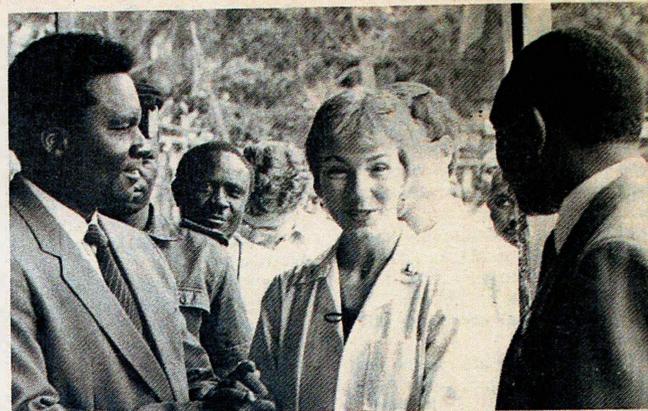
couraging as well as troubling signs that emerged in the meeting.

The most encouraging developments have been in the areas of research and education," said Braidfoot, whose assignment at the Christian Life Commission includes helping to keep Southern Baptists informed about AIDS. "Research continues to indicate that the HIV virus is not easily contracted and is not casually spread. The virus is spread almost exclusively by intimate sexual contact, by needle-sharing among intravenous drug abusers and by prenatal infection during pregnancy.

"Much still remains to be done, especially in the area of ministry to victims and families of AIDS. As Christians, we Southern Baptists are called to respond to this challenge."

"The more discouraging news, in addition to the lack of progress on development of a cure and a vaccine, is the growing number of intravenous drug abusers contracting the disease."

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-NY, spoke at the conference and estimated 80 percent of the 200,000 heroin drug addicts in New York City now are infected with the AIDS virus, Braidfoot said.



COLUMBIA WAS NEVER LIKE THIS — Katrina Knox, Columbia, serving as a Southern Baptist missionary nurse at Mukoma Station, Rwanda, visits with Rwanda's president, Gen. Juvenal Habyarimana, left; and Eleazar Ziharambere, Rwanda Baptists' executive director. The president recently toured Mukoma and the Baptist facilities there. Three other missionary families are stationed at Mukoma.

"A corollary is an increase in AIDS cases among children," Braidfoot said. "By 1988, the number of children age 13 and under with AIDS was about 1300, many of them infants infected by their mothers' blood." D'Amato estimates this number soon will grow to 10,000 to 20,000.

Such a dramatic increase in the number of infants and children with AIDS almost certainly will precipitate concerns and questions in church nurseries and day-care centers operated by local Southern Baptist churches throughout the country, Braidfoot and Anderson said.

The growing concern among

Southern Baptists about AIDS points to the need for a comprehensive education program to help pastors and laypeople cope with the sociological, psychological, and spiritual impact of the disease, they added. "Response to the AIDS crisis at the national (governmental) level has been growing," said Braidfoot. "Federal spending on AIDS research and education has increased dramatically from the early years of detection.

"Much still remains to be done, especially in the area of ministry to victims and families of AIDS. As Christians, we Southern Baptists are called to respond to this challenge."

AIDS diagnosed

"We are saddened to confirm that Dr. Harold Dennison Jr. has very recently been diagnosed as having AIDS," a Baptist Hospital spokesperson said last week in Nashville.

"It is believed that he contracted the disease in the course of his surgical practice," said Debby Koch, Baptist Hospital vice president for communications. "The entire medical community is grief-stricken," the statement said.

Tennessee health authorities are investigating Dennison's case, which if confirmed, could be the first documented case in the United States of a physician contracting AIDS while providing medical care.

Dennison, 56, noted general surgeon, is hospitalized at Baptist Hospital, one of five Nashville hospitals where he has admitting privileges.

According to news reports, Dennison believes he became infected during a surgical procedure. Physicians, said one report, are at risk anytime they come in contact with patients' blood or body fluids.

The national Center for Disease Control has advocated that doctors, nurses, and health care workers protect themselves by wearing gloves, masks, gowns, and any other protective apparel when performing "at risk" procedures.

Dennison's case probably will raise the level of caution and concern among physicians concerning the risk of treating AIDS patients or people infected with the virus.

Baptist family in Texas confronts AIDS

By Celeste Pennington

BRYAN, Texas (BP)— At age 5, Jerry Arterburn became a Christian. During college, he worked at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, sold Bibles door-to-door, taught Sunday School, dated the daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries, and preached at youth revivals.

Even after becoming involved in a homosexual lifestyle, Arterburn never felt comfortable. He eventually left that lifestyle.

But it was too late. "The pneumonia came," he recalled. "Then came AIDS."

For more than a year, Arterburn withheld the doctor's diagnosis from his parents. "I didn't want them to bear the burden that their son had AIDS," he reasoned.

As his health deteriorated, Arterburn resolved to commit suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning, "but something wouldn't let me do that," he said. Instead, he drove himself to the hospital. "I just prayed at that point: 'I've made a mess of my life, God. You take over. I'm getting out of the driver's seat.'"

Clara Arterburn remembers the first time she ventured to Houston where her son was receiving treatment. While she wanted to be with him, she admitted, "I didn't want to go in that AIDS hospital."

Neither could she tell friends her son had AIDS. "My pride was such that it wouldn't allow me to say anything but that he had leukemia," she said.

Richard Maples, pastor of First Church, Bryan, remembers clearly the day Walter Arterburn called and said,

"Clara and I need to visit with you." At that time they explained that their son had AIDS.

After that, during Wednesday night prayer meetings, members were informed of the younger Arterburn's condition. "During that time I deliberately did not preach a sermon related to AIDS," Maples said. "The Arterburns were living a better sermon than I could ever preach." In their pain, the Arterburns gradually turned for comfort and support to neighbors, including some who attend their church. Neighbors responded with concern and love.

"We feel our Christianity is more practical than just sitting in a Sunday School classroom listening," said neighbor Bill McCune. "We couldn't condemn Jerry. This could have happened to anybody's son."

During the months before the young man died in June 1988, neighbors often brought flowers and fresh-baked goodies to the Arterburn home. A Sunday School class donated blood. His brothers, Terry and Steve, phoned daily from their homes in Tennessee and California.

The tight network of love that formed around him became as vital to his survival as AZT, the medication he took to fight the debilitating effects of AIDS.

Pushing fear and pride aside, the Arterburn family grew closer during his three-year illness, they said.

Formerly a successful architect, he began reordering his life. He sold his \$500,000 home and his BMW and began a kind of itinerant ministry, speaking

at churches and visiting AIDS patients in hospitals.

He rode up and down the hospital elevator four or five times before he could summon the courage to begin helping others with AIDS, he said.

The first man he visited "had arms and legs about this big around," he recalled, making a circle with his thumb and fingers. "His legs were drawn up. There wasn't a hair on his head. It probably shocked him that anyone came in.

"He said, 'Who are you?'"

"I said, 'I'm Jerry. I'm an AIDS outpatient. I'm here to visit you.'" "The man broke into tears. He hadn't had a visitor in five weeks.

"The people of the church need to unite and take this disease on, head-to-head, and help these people who think they have no hope."

In his final months, with the help of his brother Steve, Jerry Arterburn struggled to complete his book, *How Will I Tell My Mother? A Christian's Struggle with Homosexuality and AIDS*. He included happy memories and painful ones.

Although he died at age 37 after a three-year bout with AIDS, he lived longer than most people diagnosed with AIDS.

He lived long enough to see his book published. He lived long enough to see a former girlfriend begin ministering to people with AIDS in Dallas. He lived long enough to answer letters of parents and sons dealing with homosexuality. *How Will I Tell My Mother?* is now in its second U.S. printing. A United Kingdom edition was printed this past summer.

Sevierville's Tarwater returns from mission trip

By Tim Seanor

PUERTO VARAS, Chile — "You're being watched by 20,000 people," said Southern Baptist missionary Caroline Jones. "Everybody in this town already knows you are here. They knew you were coming before you got here. And I can assure you that as we pulled into town the word spread that the 'gringos' had arrived."

Aware of this awesome witness responsibility, John Tarwater of First Church, Sevierville, where Joe R. Wren is pastor, began his 16-day volunteer experience in Puerto Varas, and Santiago, Chile. Eighteen-year-old Tarwater, one of seven members of the second Baptist Young Men's overseas work team representing High School Baptist Young Men and Baptist Young Men in the United States and Western Canada, traveled over 5000 miles by plane, boat, bus, train, and automobile to work in church construction and a missionary children's day camp.

"This is the youngest group we've ever had," said Southern Baptist missionary Archie Jones. "Everybody is under 40. This group, being younger, seems to have more energy than most work crews."

Working long hot days in the South American summer months of December and January, Tarwater and the energetic crew managed to construct kitchen cabinets, a pantry, and

Tennessee schools show increases

Enrollment up for seventh year at Baptist colleges

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the seventh consecutive year, according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Enrollment figures for the 1988 fall semester show 104,846 students attended Southern Baptist junior and senior colleges, a 3.6 percent increase over the 1987 total of 101,159.

The enrollment figures include both full-time and part-time students in college credit courses, but do not include students enrolled in non-credit courses.

A compilation of the figures shows that 37 of the 47 senior colleges had an increase in enrollment, ranging from 16.6 percent to 0.1 percent, and all four junior colleges had increased

secure ceiling panels on three rooms of a new Baptist church in Puerto Varas, a small city of German ancestry in southern Chile. Overcoming language and cultural differences, the crew enjoyed working with Chilean Baptists and speaking in their churches.

"It was an awesome experience knowing you were speaking to people of a different language and nationality," Tarwater said. "It was a challenge to try to get your points across without using idiomatic expressions so the interpreters could say the things you were really trying to say."

The Tennessean also learned more about Chile, a country filled with volcanoes, crystal clear lakes, and miles of ocean coastline. "In comparison to Chile, Tennessee is very similar," said Tarwater. "We stayed near Lake Llanquihue in Puerto Varas. I live near a lake in Tennessee. Tennessee has a lot of hills and there are rolling hills everywhere in Chile. There are many cattle in Chile and farming is really big in Tennessee. We don't have many volcanoes in Tennessee, though," Tarwater chuckled.

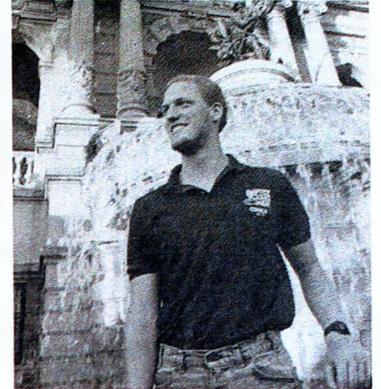
New Year's Day marked new beginnings for the Baptist Young Men's work team. After attending the first worship service in the new church, Tarwater and the rest of the team boarded a train northbound for Santiago, the capital city of Chile.

Transforming from construction crew to day camp counselors, the seven Baptist Young Men led Bible studies, music, and games for the 34 children of Southern Baptist missionaries attending the biannual missions meeting. The feeling of being part of the missions "family" was evident in the hospitality of the group.

Many of the missionaries attending the meeting noticed a distinctive difference in the work team. "This is the first time in 24 years that I've seen a group of men working with our MK's," said missionary Ken Park of Copiapo, Chile. "They have given stability and orderliness to the work that I haven't seen before. We're grateful for all that they've done during the week."

Eddie Pettit, national director of Baptist Young Men, a program sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, was leader of the overseas project. "We have two purposes for having this national Baptist Young Men's overseas work project," said Pettit. "We want to teach Baptist Young Men skills they can use in missions and realize that skills they already have can be utilized overseas or in a home project. We also want to help Baptist Men realize that Baptist Young Men have gifts and talents to offer in such a project."

With changed attitudes and a renewed dedication, Tarwater resolved



SEVIERVILLE YOUTH — John Tarwater of First Church, Sevierville, recently participated in a 16-day National Baptist Young Men's work project in Puerto Varas and Santiago, Chile.

to tell churches at home about the importance of missions. "I always looked at missions as just being back in no-man's land," confessed Tarwater. "I always thought of missionaries as just preaching, but missionaries are normal people who live normal lives. They're in another land doing God's work, like ordinary people."

Would he do this kind of project again? "In a heartbeat!" Tarwater replied.

enrollments, ranging from 6.6 percent to 0.7 percent. The fall 1988 total does not include the 368 students attending the former Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Fla., which became a four-year senior college in November 1988, and changed its name to Florida Baptist Theological College.

Overall, Tennessee Baptist colleges did well when compared to the Southern Baptist figures.

Union University, Jackson, was fourth among SBC colleges with an increase of 14.6 percent. Union was also fourth in largest numerical increase with 257.

Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City increased its fall enrollment by 4.9 percent, while Belmont College in Nashville showed a slight increase of 0.4 percent.

Enrollment at the three Tennessee

Baptist schools for the fall semester was: Belmont, 2580; Carson-Newman, 1995; and Union, 2017.

Mobile College in Mobile, Ala., had the largest percentage increase, with 16.6 percent, followed by Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, Va., 15.7 percent; Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., 15.6 percent; and Union University, Jackson, 14.6 percent.

Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., showed the largest numerical increase from fall 1987 to fall 1988, with 284 additional students, followed by Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., 280; Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C., 263; and Union University, 257. Increases for all other schools fell below 200 students.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981, when enrollment was 91,602, a drop of less than 1 percent from the previous year.

The seven consecutive years of increased enrollment mean that 13,244 more students attended the 51 Southern Baptist junior and senior colleges during the fall 1988 term than attended in fall 1981, for a net increase of 14.5 percent.

The steady increase in enrollment over the past seven years has been in spite of dire predictions a decade ago, which projected severe declines for non-state-supported schools, said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission.

"A majority of the Southern Baptist-related institutions has been able to offset the results of the decline in birth rate of those who are now of traditional college age," Walker explained.

"There is no question that Baptist-related institutions have been able to increase their enrollment by attracting

non-traditional students who are returning to college because of an interrupted education or because of the desire for additional training.

Baylor University in Waco, Texas, remains the largest Southern Baptist university, with 11,789 students, followed by Mercer University, Atlanta/Macon, Ga., with 6103 students.

Volunteers to witness at SBC in Las Vegas

ATLANTA (BP) — More than 900 Southern Baptist laypeople and pastors have signed up for door-to-door evangelistic visitation prior to the denomination's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15.

Nine hundred forty volunteers nationwide have responded to the call for help in reaching the convention city with the Christian Gospel, said Bobby Sunderland, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's direct evangelism division.

Mission volunteers Stan and Beverly Clark from Pioneer, Ohio, recently moved to Las Vegas for six months to coordinate the witnessing venture. The couple will divide the city into sections so as many of the area's 200,000 households will receive a visit as possible, Sunderland said.

The Nevada Baptist Convention, working in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, hopes to reach each Las Vegas household with an evangelistic witness before the year's end. The pre-convention blitz will help reach that goal, Sunderland noted.

Laypeople and pastors who desire to join the door-to-door witnessing effort or wish to be a prayer volunteer should contact Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601.

FCC: O'Hair has not filed petition

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has once again said it has no plans to remove religious programs from the airwaves. It also said again that Madalyn M. O'Hair has not filed a petition to stop religious broadcasts.

The FCC appealed to citizens to stop sending signatures to it as a result of such rumors.

Although the federal agency has received 21 million appeals to reject the petition, there is one problem — there is no such petition and there never has been.

"We have spent an inordinate amount of time responding to mail and phone calls on this rumor," said FCC spokeswoman Maureen Peratino. "We don't have the resources to keep denying this false story, regardless of who

might be the target of this hoax."

Campaigning against the non-existent petition, which began in the mid-1970s, may have some tenuous link to reality. More than 15 years ago, two broadcast producers did petition the FCC to reconsider its policy of granting additional licenses to religious organizations for educational programming. The request would not have affected the AM radio band. The petition never had any link to O'Hair and the FCC rejected it on Aug. 1, 1975.

But somehow, the FCC number on the case — RM 2493 — became linked to O'Hair, and letters of protests have poured into the FCC ever since, sometimes at the rate of 300,000 a month. The volume increases during Christmas and Easter seasons and the FCC continues to dump them in a landfill. — RNS

During board meeting

Woman's Missionary Union renews commitment to one purpose

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — Sticking to a single purpose — missions — was the common thread during the week-long annual executive board meeting of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Jan. 6-12.

At least three missions leaders spoke to the group about the importance of cooperation, but they also urged independent thinking and action.

"Threats to the concept of cooperation are rampant in our convention today," said WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford. "'Rampant' is an adjective that modifies 'rampage.' Rampage means 'a course of violent or riotous action or behavior.' Rampant behavior is 'unchecked in growth or spread.'"

"Southern Baptists are in their 11th year of unchecked controversy. We must do something about it, not simply because we don't like controversy, but

because controversy has drawn our hearts, minds and resources away from our major concern — missions."

WMU "cannot be all things to all Baptist women, nor to all Baptist entities," Weatherford said. "We must remember what our task is, and perform to the limit of that task."

Wendell Belew, who recently retired from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as associate vice president for missions strategy, praised WMU for remaining true to its task while pushing the limits.

"You recognize that men have written most of the history and most of the laws, and you recognize that women forever have lived within the circumference of these impositions," he said.

Even though WMU members might each like to say the convention controversy has not affected them, it has,

said national WMU President Marjorie J. McCullough.

"The thing that hurts me personally is that I don't know who to trust anymore," she said. "But I'm not willing to give up on the Southern Baptist Convention."

During the meeting, the WMU executive board:

- Adopted the 1991-92 dated plan, which outlines the activities, curriculum and products for WMU organizations in the churches for that year.

- Adopted the "Missions Growth Plan," a project to enlist all Southern Baptist church members in missions and to increase WMU membership and organizations by the year 2000.

- Heard a report that WMU magazine prices will increase with the January 1990 issues, due to rising

publishing costs and a decline in the subscriptions of four of WMU's 11 magazines. Price increases will range from \$1 to \$1.50 per 12-month subscription.

• Heard the selections for the 1989 Acteens National Advisory Panel. They are Debbie Aye, Valencia, Calif.; Flory Carrera, Columbia, S.C.; Lori Webb, Lanett, Ala.; Tonia Wheeler, High Point, N.C.; Pat Griffin, Fairfax, Va.; and Michelle Mitchell, Bellevue, Neb.

Advisory panel members serve as pages at the WMU annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. They also write and speak on behalf of Acteens, the missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12.

The next meeting of the WMU executive board will be June 9-10 in Las Vegas, Nev.

TBC committees seek nominations from Tennessee Baptists

Guidelines adopted by the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees give all Tennessee Baptists opportunity to make nominations by filling out a form in the Baptist and Reflector. The form is published now so nominations may be shared with the institution and agency process earlier.

Heads of all TBC institutions submit at least three names for consideration for each position to be filled. They receive names from people interested in their particular work, which helps them in making recommendations to the Committee on Boards. Convention guidelines direct the Committee on Boards to cooperate with heads of institutions. The committees also receive nominations from individual Tennessee Baptists.

Recommendations to any Convention board or committee can be made by letter or by completing this form and sending it to Tom Madden, TBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, 37024, the temporary chairman of the Committee on Boards or the Committee on Committees, or the head of a TBC institution or agency.

The Committee on Boards meets April 25 at 10 a.m. The temporary chairman is J. Thomas Gaines Jr., 5563 Lyford Ave., Memphis 38119.

The Committee on Committees meets April 27 at 10 a.m. The temporary chairman is Paul Moody, pastor, Erin Baptist Church, Box 410, Erin 37061.

GUIDELINES

1. Members of these committees should not nominate themselves to fill any vacancies existing on any convention standing committee or convention board.

2. Individuals over the state should be encouraged to send suggestions for nominees to these two committees, including supporting data as to their qualifications and availability.

3. A form should be printed in the Baptist state paper by which suggestions could be made to these committees, the form bearing the signature of the person making the suggestion.

4. The initial meeting of these committees each year should be announced as an "open" meeting when individuals or heads of institutions or agencies could appear before the committees to offer suggestions of and about possible nominees.

5. The head of each institution should be asked to submit the names of three persons for each vacancy to be filled on his board, with supporting data on why these persons would make suitable board members, a practice that is now being followed.

6. If the Committee on Boards considers someone else, other than a person suggested by the head of an institution, for any vacancy on a board, the committee should confer with that official concerning the qualifications of the person being considered, it being understood that the final decision on the nomination rests with the committee.

7. The Committee on Boards should be aware of any requirements of the accrediting agencies which are related to our hospitals, colleges, academy, or children's homes as these requirements affect the work of the committee, keeping in mind the requirements of the Tennessee Baptist Convention constitution and bylaws. If and when conflicts develop in this area, the committee shall so advise the convention and the convention shall consider ways of reconciling the conflicts.

8. These two committees should keep in mind the desirability of the following principles in making nominations: a broader representation from churches in geographical areas, differing sizes and types of churches, a variety of professional and education backgrounds, different age groups, with both lay men/women and ministers included.

9. These committees should not nominate a person to a convention board or standing committee who receives a part or all of his salary from the Tennessee Baptist Convention or one of its subsidiary units.

10. The Committee on Boards should no longer feel that all of its nominations should be confined to the geographical area where an institution or agency is located, but their nominees should be residents of Tennessee and members of churches affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

11. In implementing Bylaw 4, (2), A of the Convention's Bylaws in reference to board members for Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis, the hospital should be required to show to the Committee on Boards that there is a demonstrable need for a board member proposed for service on the hospital board of trustees to serve on the board while also serving on another board as permitted in Bylaw 4, (2), A.

12. Trustees must be active in support of their local churches.

RECOMMENDATION TO 1989 COMMITTEE ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Deadline for submitting recommendations is April 3

Believing in this person's moral integrity, spiritual commitment, and other qualifications for service as a director, trustee, or committee member,

I RECOMMEND (Name): _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Zip code _____

Ordained minister _____ Layperson _____ Occupation _____

Church membership _____

Association _____

Involvement and work within the Association _____

Prior service on state boards and committees _____

Training, skill, experience which would qualify this person for service _____

Check board, agency, or committee which you believe this person could best serve:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Arrangements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Baptist Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Audits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Boards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belmont College | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Committees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carson-Newman College | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Credentials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Union University | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Staff Compensation Study Com. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Chilhowee Bapt. Academy | <input type="checkbox"/> Constitution and Bylaws Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Memorial Health Care System | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Health Care System | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on the Journal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Health System of East Tenn. | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Resolutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes | |

Please understand that this recommendation does not assure nomination. However, your recommendation will be given serious consideration. No contact will be made by the Committee on Boards or the Committee on Committees until nomination has been approved.

Signed _____
(name of person making recommendation)

(mailing address) _____ (zip code) _____

(area code, telephone) _____ (date) _____

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TenneScene

... From Skullbone to Hanging Limb by way of Cabin Row and other places in between ...

Ordinations ...

Lynn Garden Church, Kingsport, ordained Wayne Patterson as a deacon. Carl L. Strickler is pastor.

Garvin Pyron was ordained as a deacon of Allen Church, Brownsville, Jan. 1. Tommy Stevens is pastor.

Westwood Church, Murfreesboro, ordained Jerry Ray and Jeff Stevenson to the diaconate Jan. 8. Deacon Frank Lamb was elected to active service.

Reggie Peltier brought the charge to the church and deacons. Marion L. Arbuckle is pastor.

First Church, Cookeville, recently ordained seven men as deacons: Barry Lillard, Randall Ramsey, Bob Ridley, Barry Clouse, Jose Colindres, Harold Garrett, and Herbie Johnson.

Ken Altom is pastor of the Cookeville church.

Jamie Bone was ordained as a deacon Jan. 1 by Parkview Church, Lewisburg. Tim McGehee preached the ordination sermon. Ron Brown is Parkview's interim pastor.

Biltmore Church, Elizabethton, ordained Randy Marlow, Fonia Danner,

SBCMC leaders plan conference

Executive council members of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference recently met at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary to plan their 33rd annual meeting this year in Las Vegas, Nev. Plans were also laid for their 34th annual meeting to be held in New Orleans, La., in 1990.

Tennesseans participating in the meetings were Mark Edwards, SBCMC president-elect, Nashville; Julian Suggs, eastern denominational division, Brentwood; Clark Measels, eastern educational division, Jefferson City; and Herbert Cox, eastern local church division, Athens.

Meeting two days prior to each Southern Baptist Convention, the SBCMC features premier commissioned anthems; seminars; lectures; and choral and instrumental music.

This year's conference will be held at Las Vegas' College Park Church. All performances are open to the public.

and Junior Powell as deacons. James Lawson is pastor.

Beck Mountain Church, Elizabethton, ordained Denny Lyons and Johnny Hobbs as deacons Jan. 15. Clifford Smith is the church's interim pastor.

On Jan. 29, First Church, Jackson, ordained Thomas Leach, Jerry Powell, and Lawrence Young as deacons. Herbert Higdon led the service. John David Laida is interim pastor.

Clear Creek Church, Dyer, recently ordained Chuck Ramsey and Steve Guidry as deacons.

Danny Daniels was ordained as a deacon by First Church, Milan.

Alan Pearce, Mark Traugher, and Tracy Johnson were recently ordained to the diaconate by Springhill Church, Goodlettsville.

Associations ...

In Haywood Association, Charles Pratt, director of missions, and C. H. Brasfield, deacon coordinator, have planned an associational deacon training conference Feb. 25, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Gary Hardin, editor of Church Administration magazine published by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, and Ken Story, pastor of Germantown Church, Memphis, will lead the conference.

Philip B. Harris will lead a hospital visitation seminar for Nashville Association pastors and laypersons. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings during February, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the associational building. Carl Duck is director of missions.

People ...

John and Roberta Swan, members of Center Grove Church, Tullahoma, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The church hosted a reception for the couple.

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Thompson celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary at their home Jan. 1. They are members of Madison Heights Church, Madison, where he is a deacon emeritus.

Revivals ...

Phil Hoskins, full-time evangelist, and Chuck King, pastor of Cedar Grove Church near Harriman, recently conducted a three-day winter youth retreat at the Grand Hotel in Pigeon Forge.

Of the 1200 people attending the retreat, 42 made professions of faith.

Churches ...

Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville, is hosting George Hamilton IV in concert Feb. 4 at 7:00 p.m. Hamilton's performance at the church will be immediately prior to his appearance at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Bill Marr, pastor of Lincoya Hills, has opened the concert to the public.

Two Rivers Church, Nashville, is offering childbirth education classes scheduled in series of four classes each on Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

New class series begin the week of Feb. 28, April 4, and May 9. The cost is \$40 per series or \$10 per session.

Clear Branch Church, Lake City, recently named its fellowship hall Hutchins Hall in honor of a former

BSU retreats planned

Regional mid-winter retreats have been scheduled for Baptist Student Union members across Tennessee.

Cedars of Lebanon State Park will be the site Feb. 10-12 for the Middle Tennessee BSU meeting.

Daniel Alshire, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will be the guest speaker.

Fisher Humphries, professor of theology at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, will speak at the East Tennessee regional retreat Feb. 17-18 at Camp Carson.

The retreat in West Tennessee will be held Feb. 24-25 at Camp Pinecrest in LaGrange.

Milt Hughes, editor of The Student magazine, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will be the primary speaker.

For additional information, contact the TBC's Student Ministries Department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

pastor, the late H. L. Hutchins, who served the church for more than 29 years.

Hutchins' children and wife were present for a dedication service at which E. M. Sherwood of Lenoir City gave the message.

Don Arwood is currently pastor of Clear Branch.

Leadership ...

Terry Bradshaw recently accepted the call to the pastorate of Cross Roads Church, Bells.

Bradshaw, his wife, Brenda, and their daughters, Shelley and Wendy, come to Cross Roads from Rose Hills Church, Memphis.

Memphis missionary suffers heart attack

Bob Baird, Memphis, and longtime missionary to Taiwan, suffered a heart attack last week.

At press time, Baird was hospitalized in intensive care in Kaohsiung. It had been determined that he had some heart blockage.

Baird and his wife, the former Sara Nell Head of Alabama, are involved in study ministries. Previously they worked at Morrison Academy, also in Taiwan.

They were appointed in July 1967.

In music

Scholarships available at Tennessee Baptist colleges

Music scholarships for Belmont College, Union University, and Carson-Newman College to be awarded for the 1989-90 school year are available for application by persons who have not yet entered college. The deadline for application is March 1.

The awards of \$250 go to two vocal students, one keyboard student, and one student in the instrumental area at each college.

Recipients are selected by the college music faculties after a prescribed audition. Recipients also must be Southern Baptists.

Applications may be obtained from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Church Music Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

Year of the Laity

Edie Griffy • Signal Mountain Church • Signal Mountain

Edie Griffy, a registered nurse for 30 years, grew up near Cades Cove. She had become a Christian just prior to joining Signal Mountain Church. Looking for a way to get involved, she helped instigate and then directed the Hamilton County Baptist Association Players, a Christian drama team. She has also participated in mission trips to Jamaica and Korea.

"When I came to Signal Mountain, I found out Jesus Christ was love in the world. I wanted to be a part of sharing that love.

"Human beings so often measure sin by what you do wrong; I think the greater sin is not being His love in the world.

"Christian drama is a way to give a Christian testimony, to help the church say things in a humorous way, to bring home a point. You can dramatize a lot of things you can't say.

"It's a way to reach people outside the church with Christ and His love for them."

— 1988-89 has been designated as the Year of the Laity throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. This article is one of a series designed to highlight the Baptist laity in Tennessee. Suggestions for individuals to be featured are welcome and may be sent to the Baptist and Reflector. Include the person's phone number and address.



DIGGING IN — Orlanda Church, Orlanda, recently broke ground for the construction of new educational facilities and a fellowship hall. The church's existing building will also be renovated. Pictured from left are Tom Tomlinson, contractor; Barbara Swann, building committee chairperson; Stan Campbell, pastor; Danny Bernard, finance committee; Frank Evans, Robertson County Association's director of missions; Dan Green, Together We Build program director; and Steve Newton, architect.

Faithfulness despite continued opposition

By Charles D. Williams, pastor; Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville

Our text for this week depicts the church at the zenith of its power. That power was possible because of the church's purity brought about by the Holy Spirit's cleansing from within. Those outside were afraid to "play church" as Ananias and Sapphira had done (5:13). If only our congregations today would be so powerful and pure that those who wanted to give less than their all would be uncomfortable in church. The world in all its sin is too often perfectly at ease in the contemporary church.



WILLIAMS

Opposition and trial (5:17-40)
Not only was this power manifested in the desire of the people to come under Peter's leadership, but it was also manifested in the jealousy aroused in the hearts of the high priest and the Sadducees. These were the religious leaders who had commanded Peter and John not to speak in the name of Jesus (4:13).

Because Peter and John chose to "do

what they knew they must do" (4:20), the church grew to the point that the religious leaders knew they must make another effort to silence the apostles and the church:

Imprisoned by the high priest, the apostles were subsequently released by an "angel of the Lord" (v. 18) and commanded to go to the temple and proclaim to all the people "the whole message of this life" (v. 20).

Upon doing as commanded by the angel, the apostles were again arrested by the temple guards in a gentle manner and led once again to stand trial for their words and deeds. The guards' gentle manner was not out of respect for the apostles, but out of fear of the people.

Once again Peter stood as spokesman for the church before a hostile, unbelieving crowd. Undaunted by their scorn, Peter proclaimed, "we must obey God rather than men." Peter was even more fearless in telling his accusers what they had done (5:30 and 31).

What an irony we find in comparing Acts 5:28 and Matthew 27:25. In Acts the temple leaders are concerned that people will blame them for Jesus'

death, "His blood." But in Matthew's account of Jesus standing before Pilate, these same rulers answered Pilate's question, asserting, "His blood be upon us and our children (Matthew 27:25)." An even greater irony is that this "blood" could have been to them not condemnation but cleansing.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES
February 5 Lesson
Basic Passage: Acts 5:12-42
Focal Passages: Acts 5:17-21a, 27-29, 34-35, 38-42

The apostle's lives were spared as Gamaliel, a well-educated, highly-honored Pharisee stood to calm feelings and give the religious leaders a way out. His desire was that they do nothing that would incite a riot and bring Roman soldiers against the Jewish populace (Acts 5:33-40).

Remind the council of two historical precedents (5:36, 37). Gamaliel warned that if what the apostles were about was of human power, it would fail but if it were of God, there was nothing they could do to stop it.

After Gamaliel's intercession, the

high priest and Sadducees had the apostles beaten and once again sent them on their way with the commandment that they "speak no more in the name of Jesus" (v. 40).

Worthy to suffer (5:41-42)

With the stripes from their beating on their backs, the apostles left the council, not in defeat but rejoicing. As they went on their way, they no doubt remembered the Lord's words in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness" (Matthew 5:10).

Suffering and shame became a badge of honor for the church because they were suffering for and in the name of Jesus. With the pain of scourging as a reminder, the apostles "kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42). Notice also that the preaching was done "house to house."

It was with personal knowledge and feeling that Peter was able to write, "after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10).

Seeking God's kingdom

By Joe Wiles, pastor; Silverpoint Church, Silverpoint

Most people have goals. Some reach their goals, for they have established priorities. Others try, but allow secondary things to consume their time.

We must ask ourselves, what are our goals? Will we set priorities and do what is necessary to reach them?

Misplaced priority (Luke 12:13-15)
Jesus had been telling a crowd about the kingdom of God. He had discussed the work of the Holy Spirit.



WILES

In the midst of this, a man who was not listening asked Jesus to make his brother share their inheritance.

Jesus refused to involve Himself in the squabble. Instead, he warned the man against greed.

Greed leaves little room for the kingdom in our lives. Jesus told a story about a rich man who made plans without thought for God.

If our priority is to make money for ourselves, then all our energies will be directed toward that end. If our goal is to serve God to the best of our ability, we may have money, but it will not be our reason for living. The choice of direction is left to us. The results of either choice is left up to God.

Don't worry (Luke 12:22-23)
The disciples were told not to be anxious. We often say that it is good to plan ahead. It is, if that planning does not involve worry.

Life is more than what we eat or wear. These things are necessary, but worry will neither feed nor clothe us. For the Christian, worry is basically a lack of faith in the care and concern of our Lord.

Notes from nature (Luke 12:24, 27, 28)

Jesus turned to the birds and flowers to make His point. Ravens don't worry, yet they get fed just the same. How do

they manage this? God feeds them.

Flowers are beautifully clothed, yet they don't worry about it. These flowers of the field, pretty today and gone tomorrow, help us to realize that God will see that we are clothed as well. Surely God cares for us more than the birds and flowers.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
February 5 Lesson
Basic Passage: Luke 12:13-34
Focal Passage: Luke 12:13-15; 22-34

Worry is waste (Luke 12:25-26)
Jesus asked if we could add to our lives by worry. If we cannot add even an hour of life, we are wasting time worrying. In fact, it may well cut the length of our lives. It certainly will erode the enjoyment we should have in living.

Worldly priorities (Luke 12:29-30)
This passage tells us that most of us worry needlessly. God will provide if we allow His needs to come first.

The world always seeks to take. God will give to His children. He knows what we need. After all, He did make us.

When God and His plans are left out of people's lives, they spend time seeking food and drink and clothing and shelter. We are not to exclude God, but rather to allow Him to direct and keep us. God has promised He will take care of us. There is no better guarantee.

There is another subtle problem here. When we don't allow God to be first, we at least partially accept the world's way. We may wish we had more money, power, or what those things bring us. But if we allow our priorities to change, we miss blessings from the Lord and show a lack of faith.

Christian priorities (Luke 12:31-34)
Jesus closed this teaching by telling

us what our priorities should be. We are to give and not worry about getting. Our direction should be looking upward. Our treasures will be in heaven, treasures that will never be taken from us. Rust and destruction and thieves will not touch what we entrust to God.

We can have a bank account here and treasures there if we allow the

VBS clinics planned

Six Vacation Bible School clinics will be conducted across the state beginning on Feb. 13.

Though directed to associational VBS teams, others are welcome to attend the training which will focus on the 1989 curriculum materials.

In addition to age level training, sessions will be held for general officers, special education workers, and Backyard Bible Club/Mission Bible School workers.

The schedule follows: Feb. 13 - Manley Church, Morristown, Feb. 14 - Westwood Church, Cleveland, Feb. 15 - Highland Church, Pulaski, Feb. 16 - First Church, Cookeville, Feb. 17 - First Church, Hendersonville, and Feb. 20 - West Jackson Church, Jackson.

The time for each meeting is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More information is available from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

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Lord first place. Jesus closed with a profound statement that where our treasure is, that is where we have our hearts, our priorities. Put another way, where our priorities are, that is where we seek our treasure.

Lesson for life

We may try to avoid the conclusion of that statement, but the truth is that we seek what our hearts desire. It is either what God wants or what we want. The choice is ours to make. The priorities are ours to set. To be the followers of the Lord that we should be, we must first seek the kingdom.

Pastor survives robbery

Early on the morning of Jan. 7, a Tennessee Baptist pastor was working as the desk clerk of a Howard Johnson Motel near Cookeville when two men, one carrying a handgun, stole approximately \$130.

Charles Pollard, pastor of Cane Creek Church, Cookeville, was forced to lie on the floor without moving while the intruders, wearing ski masks, took money from the cash register and a drawer in the back office. Unharmed, Pollard called the Sheriff's Department after the robbers left.

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Developing concern for others

By Phil Jett, pastor; Englewood Church, Jackson

This lesson combines the emphasis Paul has placed on the lack of unity in the church at Corinth with the difficult question of whether Christians can eat meat that has been sacrificed to idols.

That probably does not seem to pose a difficult question for 20th century Christians, but its implications still apply. Are Christians free to do everything that is permissible,



JETT

regardless of how it affects other believers? To put it another way, how does Christian liberty apply to me?

There are three terms that I want us to highlight as we consider Christian liberty and our concern for others: knowledge, love, and conscience. A little background information is helpful to understand fully the dilemma.

There were two sources of meat in the ancient world — the regular market and the local temples. The meat from the local temples was con-

siderably cheaper. Some members of the church realized that idols could not contaminate food, so they saved money by purchasing the cheap meat. This was offensive to other church members who had been saved out of pagan idolatry. They could not understand why their fellow believers would want to have anything to do with something related to idols.

There are many examples of this in our present day within the framework of the church. Some church people exercise liberty that is offensive to other church people.

All of us would agree that some things are always wrong and some things are always right. In other words, there are absolutes. However, in any Christian community, some actions will seem wrong to some believers, but not to all. It is in this area that Paul is addressing the church at Corinth.

Knowledge (8:1-6)

Knowledge, in and of itself, can cause people to be puffed up, thinking they have the answers and everyone else needs to follow them. Later (v. 9), Paul will talk about strong as opposed to weak Christians, implying that a strong Christian is one who has the

knowledge to understand liberty in Christ.

However, knowledge alone does not make a Christian strong. It can weaken our witness if we use it without any restraints in relating to our fellow Christians.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

February 5 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 Corinthians 8

Focal Passages: 1 Corinthians 8:1, 4-13

Love (8:1-3)

We must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). It has been said, "Knowledge without love is brutality, but love without knowledge is hypocrisy."

Writing on this passage, Warren Wiersby observes, "Some people have the false notion that the strong Christians are the ones who live by rules and regulations and who get offended when others exercise their freedom in Christ; but such is not the case. It is the weak Christians who must have the security of law and are afraid to use their freedom in Christ. It is the weak Christians who are prone to judge and criticize stronger believers and to stumble over what they do."

Love builds up the fellowship of the saints and strengthens the individual Christian, provided it is based on knowledge.

Conscience (8:7-13)

The word "conscience" is used extensively (32 times) in the New Testament. It reflects God's moral law, but it always depends on knowledge mixed with love.

Paul challenges the stronger Christians to let their consciences be their guide, tempered with knowledge and love. Weaker Christians, he points out, can easily be defiled (v. 7).

In application, Paul is saying that if a person feels his or her faith would be compromised by participating or not participating in a given action (even though it is clear that action, in and of itself, would be okay), it would be wrong. Paul points out that a fellow believer can be hurt by our being involved in what that person would consider offensive (v. 13).

In conclusion, I think it is crucial that we understand the principle. There are some absolute rights. It is always right to tell the truth, love your neighbor, minister to others, and worship God. It is always wrong to take what belongs to another, be hypocritical, take another life, or reject the oneness of God in Christ.

But there are many questions raised which have no clear Biblical injunction. In these areas, we need to take our knowledge, tempered with love, and in good conscience, strengthen our fellow believers.

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As he became an adult, even though he moved to a distant state, these expressions of love were not forgotten by Mr. Dame. After his death in 1981, the church was notified that Mr. Dame's Will had established a Trust that would provide income for the church to use in ministering to needy families during the Christmas season.

Each year church leaders follow the guidelines of the Trust closely. In 1987 some fifty sponsoring families, with an allotment of approximately \$75 per child, took 180 children on a Saturday morning shopping spree. Year-by-year, the Trust income has grown, enabling the church to reach more and more families. Through 1987, more than 950 children will have a happier Christmas because of Mr. Dame's Will.

For additional information on how you can provide for Baptist causes through your will, contact:

- Earl H. Wilson
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 P. O. Box 728
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Architectural firms

Dyer Baptist Association and the Tennessee Baptist Convention are planning a \$300,000 Baptist Student Center for Dyersburg State Community College.

Architectural firms interested in the project should contact Ircel Harrison, Student Ministries Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728, phone: 615-371-2056, by Feb. 16.

Firms responding will be sent preliminary information and invited to make a brief presentation to the building committee.

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of the Southern Baptist Convention

Fire damages Zambian publishing operation

LUSAKA, Zambia — A fire damaged the pressroom of Baptist Publications in Lusaka, Zambia, Jan. 17, causing workers to shut down printing operations for at least a month.

Officials estimated damage to be about \$10,000, said Zeb Moss, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's associate director for eastern and southern Africa. The fire destroyed a duplicating machine and burned through the ceiling. Officials were uncertain whether the main press was damaged.

Workers' immediate efforts were aimed at repairing the roof to protect printing equipment from the weather. Local fire officials said the blaze probably started from an overheated fan motor. Responding to a report from a worker, firefighters contained the fire before it spread to other parts of the Baptist office building.

The building also houses the offices of the Zambian Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist mission organization, a bookstore, offices for the Bible Way correspondence program and music and communications centers.

WMU movie 'Go Forward' captures top honors

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "Go Forward," a 31-minute movie produced by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union last summer, has received top honors in the Deep South Video Festival sponsored by Region Six of the International Television Association.

The movie won "The Paddlewheel of Excellence" award in the information category. Awards are based on a production's measure against a standard, not based on competition among different productions.

The WMU movie is based on the life of Annie Armstrong, one of the founding mothers of WMU and the organization's first top executive. "Go Forward" begins with the formation of WMU and follows Armstrong's life for the next 50 years.

Hull cites encouraging trend in Biblical architecture

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The trend to openness and accessibility in worship centers for Southern Baptist churches is an encouraging movement that William Hull said is a New Testament concept of architecture.

Hull, provost at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., was the keynote speaker for the annual workshop for architects sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department. In presentations to more than 60 architects from across the United States, Hull outlined the history

of the Old Testament temple, citing the levels of accessibility, the exclusivity, and the display of wealth that reflected the power of the people.

"The Herodian Temple is a Baptist church turned inside out," Hull said of the third Old Testament temple built by the Roman king, Herod. "Religious life took place on the outside on the grounds," Hull explained. "Almost nothing happened in the sanctuary."

Among the New Testament concepts architecture should communicate, Hull said, are openness, equality, and approachability. "The architecture ought to say, 'This is a place to come up from the world and to go out into the world,'" he said.

First SBC relief teams begin rebuilding Jamaican churches

MONEAGUE, Jamaica — In the wake of hurricane Gilbert, Southern Baptists are responding to the needs of Baptists in Jamaica. The first of 800 to 1000 Southern Baptist volunteers recently were on the Caribbean Island at the invitation of the Jamaica Baptist Union.

Construction materials bought with Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board relief funds arrived on the island the week before Christmas. Volunteers enlisted through the board and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission arrived after the first of the year to begin repairs on more than 100 churches damaged by the hurricane.

Gilbert roared ashore last September, rocketing west across the island-nation with 160 mile-per-hour winds. Crops were lost and communities devastated. More than 80 percent of the housing on the island sustained damage. Relief poured in from across the globe.

Initial efforts focused on supplying food to the island. But food distribution ended Jan. 1, and now efforts are aimed at helping Jamaican Baptists rebuild their churches in a cooperative project between the board, commission, and the Jamaica Baptist Union. The board released \$172,000 for building materials from a contingency fund of the global strategy group. Another \$67,000 was released through the human needs department. John Baxley of St. Augustine, Fla., was appointed on-site coordinator for the rebuilding efforts and Brotherhood Commission personnel have been active in locating materials and enlisting volunteers.

WMU leaders hear new optimism about world evangelization

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist foreign missions efforts will never be the same, if recent experiences of its top foreign missions executives have any impact, they reported. The president and executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board participated in the Global Consultation on World Evangelization by A. D. 2000 and Beyond in Singapore Jan. 5-8.

FMB President R. Keith Parks, and Executive Vice President Bill O'Brien, made their first report of the meeting to executive board members of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Jan. 11. For both, it was a meeting unlike either had experienced before, they said.

Baptist congressman feels at home 'on the hill'

By Jim Burton

WASHINGTON (BP) — Steny Hoyer spends much of his time in a big house on a hill.

It's the U.S. House of Representatives, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The Democrat from Maryland's fifth district brings more than political credentials to congress. The vice chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, one of only five elected Democratic leaders, also is a committed Southern Baptist layman.

"I feel that there are a lot of dif-

ferent ways to serve him (God)," said Hoyer, "and I felt a strong attraction to public service.

"You cannot divorce your faith and the precepts of your faith from what you do in other facets of your life. It's impossible and unethical to segregate your moral, philosophical veins grounded in your faith from what you do as a public servant."

Hoyer made a quick entry into politics, winning a Maryland state senate race in 1966, the same year he graduated from law school.

John Vanderstar, attorney for the non-exempt centers, said exempting church-run child-care centers from religiously neutral standards constitutes an establishment of religion.

"If a state may now exempt ... activities from licensing and other health and safety regulations simply because some churches want to be free of such regulation, the delicate balance between the two religion clauses will be severely distorted," Vanderstar wrote. "Neither religion nor the health and safety of the people will be advanced by such a rule of constitutional law."

But the counsel for the state argued that forcing church-run centers to be licensed would violate the First Amendment's free exercise clause. Attorney Anthony F. Troy said that requiring such licensing would force churches to place the state's authority over that of Jesus Christ. (88-730, Forest Hills Early Learning Center v. Jackson)

Then in 1981, he defeated 31 candidates for his congressional seat.

In 1985, he was appointed to the Helsinki Commission, which monitors human rights issues in the 39 countries that signed the Helsinki Accords in 1975. "It's human rights in most of its manifestations — religion, free speech, communications," said Hoyer, who currently is chairman of the commission.

The Helsinki Commission has given Hoyer the opportunity to affect issues that are of personal interest, including civil rights and human rights.

"Central to Christ's philosophy is that individuals need to be given their own freedom to act and choose," he said. "They should not be subject to oppression or guilt. Restraints, yes, so that we don't interfere with the rights of one another."

And just as Baptists championed the issues of religious freedom and separation of church and state during the formation of this country, Hoyer finds himself applying those same basic principles through the Helsinki Commission.

The commission monitors the treatment of Christians and Jews in the communist countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he said.

Hoyer attends Broadview Church, Temple Hill, Md. His pastor, Howard Roberts, describes him as a model church member, who attends regularly and has taught a Sunday School class for seven years.

Hoyer's faith has influenced his congressional career, Roberts said.

"One of the significant contributions that I am making as a pastor is that I'm challenging him to apply Biblical principles to what he does and to the decisions he makes. I hope that it's giving him food for thought and nourishment for his decision making."

And plenty of decisions need to be made on critical issues.

Hoyer opposes state-sanctioned prayer in public schools, but has supported bills granting access to Christian student groups. "My God is not small enough to be kicked out of classrooms by the Supreme Court," he said.

He opposes government intervention in a woman's decision to terminate her pregnancy, although he personally is opposed to abortion.

He describes his position on defense to be on the center or to the right of the Democratic party. "I don't perceive my view on defense to be religiously grounded," he explained.

But perhaps the most difficult decision was to enter the arena of high-profile, high-pressure politics. Hoyer, who was a Royal Ambassador, a member of the Southern Baptist missions program for boys, thinks more members of his denomination's Baptist Men organization should participate in politics.

"I would encourage Baptist men to participate because our system works if good people are active in it," said Hoyer. "Baptist men take a lot of time to study the Bible and its thoughts, because you can't find any better thought."

Supreme Court lets exemption stand

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a challenge to a Virginia law that exempts church-run child-care centers from state licensing.

By refusing to review the dispute, the high court let stand a ruling by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals that the state statute does not violate the First Amendment's prohibition against an establishment of religion.

The contested law, which was passed in 1979, allows any religiously affiliated child-care center exemption from the minimum standards required of licensed centers. The statute does not require church-run centers to meet basic health and safety standards.

The challenge was brought by three non-exempt child-care centers, which are not associated with religious institutions.

A district court struck the exemption down as unconstitutional, but the 4th Circuit reversed the ruling last May.

In appealing to the Supreme Court,