

Baptist and Reflector

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At trustees' meeting

Sunday School Board names commentary, helps pay debt

By Lonnie Wilkey and Connie Davis

Financial assistance to help alleviate a drain on the Southern Baptist Convention budget and the naming of a multi-volume commentary highlighted actions taken by trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board Feb. 13-15 in Nashville.

In other business, trustees learned of a \$330,000 shortfall in income from operations for 1987-88, approved curriculum changes in Sunday School material, and authorized a contract to begin construction immediately on the board's new \$15.5 million office/conference tower.

Trustees voted to expend \$400,000 from the board's Contingency Reserve Fund of more than \$21 million to help eliminate the debt on the SBC building in Nashville.

The recommendation specified the funds would be applied to the priority item of complete payment of the approximately \$10.5 million in indebtedness existing on the facility which was occupied in 1985 by eight Southern Baptist agencies.

According to background information provided to the trustees, the 1989-90 CP budget would make the building a priority item to be paid during the year, meaning the money would be taken off the top of receipts before being distributed to SBC agencies for operating income.

The priority item reduced the CP budgets of SBC agencies by an average of 2.05 percent resulting in much less income than they would have received, according to background information read by Don Mathis of Corbin, Ky., chairman of the board's general administration committee which made

the joint recommendation along with the board's business and finance committee.

According to board President Lloyd Elder, the debt is due Oct. 1, 1989 and estimates indicate contributions to the Cooperative Program will not be sufficient to pay the debt.

The building originally was to have been paid for through the capital needs section of the CP allocation budget. Capital needs generally are for construction at SBC entities and are paid after the basic operating phase of the budget has been met.

However, contributions in recent years have lagged, and funding for the capital needs section has not been reached.

Elder noted the SBC Inter-Agency Council, composed of executives of the 20 national agencies, discussed the problem during their January meeting and felt the debt "was due and payable Oct. 1 without the level of Cooperation Program funds to meet it."

The shortfall in capital needs funds "was presented to us (the IAC) as a crisis. We related to it throughout our whole meeting as a crisis," he added.

Elder noted the debt on the building "is a debt owed by all Southern Baptists."

"We're a family and we made a decision to share the burden," Elder said, noting the IAC "made no appeal to us to share in paying off the building."

The Sunday School Board previously had given the SBC its previous building on James Robertson Parkway and provided the land for the existing building.

There was some discussion by board members, but the motion was



TRUSTEES MEET — Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder visited with three Tennessee Baptist trustees during the board's February meeting. From left, are Elder: Bill Henard, pastor, First Church, Lawrenceburg; Sam Simmons, registrar, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis; and J. B. Miller, pastor, Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

unanimously approved. Elder expressed "profound appreciation for the attitude of the trustees of this board in addressing this. They demonstrated a Southern Baptist family attitude concerning this."

Commentary named Trustees unanimously approved the name for the board's new Bible commentary as *The New American Commentary: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*.

The commentary's six consulting editors were present for the meeting to answer questions about the name.

Board members were told the name is similar but will not be confused with

the long out-of-print *An American Commentary* which was written from the perspective of Biblical inerrancy and largely written by Baptists such as John Broadus.

"We feel the title has a link to the older commentary," said Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas and one of the consulting editors.

Russ Bush, a consulting editor who has been recommended as the next academic dean of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C., said he felt the volume "would stand the test of time" and people would "forget it was written because it

(See page 5)

Baptisms down but —

Overseas churches on increase

By Eric Miller

RICHMOND (BP) — Baptisms related to Southern Baptist work overseas dropped almost three percent in 1988, but the number of churches grew eight percent, according to Foreign Mission Board statistics.

Overseas baptisms totaled 197,863 in 1988, compared to 203,824 in 1987. The 1987 total topped 200,000 for the first time in the mission board's 143-year history.

Baptist churches overseas grew from 17,769 to 19,199 in 1988. Missionaries and overseas Baptists started about four churches per day, compared to nearly three per day the previous year. More than 3,800 Southern Baptist missionaries were working in 113 countries last year.

Despite the decrease in baptisms, the overall picture looks good, considering that two million Baptists overseas are baptizing almost half as many people as 14 million Southern Baptists in the United States, said FMB President R. Keith Parks.

An average of one person was baptiz-

ed for every 10.6 Baptist church members overseas in 1988. In the United States, 43 Southern Baptists were required to produce one baptism.

"We would love to get it down to eight or nine members for every baptism" (See page 5)

Phone, mail delivery problems

Tennessee Baptist need to be made aware of problems concerning the Baptist Building telephone system and the mailing of the Baptist and Reflector.

As previously announced, the Baptist Building has a new telephone system, installed in preparation for the renovation of the building and the completion of the new Baptist Center.

Problems have developed in the new system. There has been some difficulty in completion of incoming calls. There is rarely an occasion when there would be no one in any particular Tennessee Baptist Convention office. And, in such case, the TBC operator would be aware. If you cannot get an answer, please

persevere. Phone company personnel are aware of the situation.

There have been many complaints in West Tennessee about late delivery of the Baptist and Reflector. This is not a new problem, and the staff has appealed continuously to those post offices involved for solutions.

The paper is printed on Monday nights and mailed from Nashville on Tuesday mornings. Papers should be delivered any place in Tennessee by Thursday — or Friday at the latest. "The Baptist and Reflector staff continues to seek expeditious delivery — but the answer lies with the delivery system," said Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor.

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.

An inside look

Editorials

- on timeliness and accountability Page 2

Foreign Mission Board

- board members stress harmony Page 3

WMU leader

- Weatherford announces marriage, retirement plans ... Page 5

Around Tennessee

- update on events in Tennessee churches Page 9

Editorials

A timely newspaper must be delivered in time

The main purpose of any newspaper is to communicate.

Communication happens when thoughts, ideas, words are put forth. When a newspaper tries to communicate, it can achieve that purpose if the reader reads and understands even a part of the message. Direct action is not required, and it is not necessary for the reader to respond to the paper.

All these methods and the main purpose are thwarted if the subscriber does not receive the paper — or if the paper is too late to have impact dealing with current topics, or if the paper cannot be read at all.

We want to update our readers on a subject we have dealt with before.

We had hoped the problem of late deliveries would improve. It has not. For months we have traced and checked areas where the delivery system could bog down or fail. But readers in Western Tennessee are still receiving their papers several days late, sometimes as much as a week or more.

While this can be attributed to a dozen possibilities, the result is unacceptable. First, it is unacceptable to the subscriber. A weekly denominational paper such as the Baptist and Reflector never can be as current as daily papers, radio, or television. But when all our deadlines are kept, the news, features, and information are still timely.

Cooperative Program giving — lesson in accountability

The February 15 issue of the Baptist and Reflector had more pages than usual — four more to be exact.

On those pages, and three and a half more, was a lesson in accountability.

As an agency of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Baptist and Reflector believes in accountability. In this case, we publish the Cooperative Program budget income from the churches, and the record of expenditures from the Cooperative Program budget.

We call that accountability. The addition of four pages to our regular number was not sufficient for CP figures, so we utilized three and a half pages that ordinarily would be used for Tennessee Baptist news and features. In one

The paper loses much of its value when it is consistently delivered late. We strive to be current — and probably ninety percent of the news is timely for the individual reader and for churches.

However, all efforts toward fresh news are useless when the paper is delivered late. Every reader has a right to receive the paper by Friday, if delivery is expedited. Take it from us, it is.

Second, late delivery is unacceptable to the editor and staff. Not only do we fail in our goal for fresh news, features, and information, the paper can lose income. A primary goal of the Baptist and Reflector staff is to put the paper into every Baptist home in Tennessee.

As we strive to improve the product, we also seek new readers. Late delivery of the paper can cause cancellation — and that makes it exceedingly difficult to reach our goal.

The Baptist and Reflector is printed in Franklin on Monday nights. The printing company delivers the papers to the Nashville Post Office early on Tuesday mornings. They deliver it according to postal regulations and specifications for mailing second class material — pre-sorted, labeled, bagged, and it is prepaid. In fact the post office demands a sizeable amount of our money be kept on

sense, that is a sacrifice — because we take pride in telling our readers what Tennessee Baptists are doing. People who are asked to contribute for any cause have the right to accountability.

But, in another sense, reporting the Cooperative Program giving through the churches for Kingdom causes also is news — and it is important. Not only is it news, it is a report of mission support. Those seven pages of figures are evidence that Tennessee Baptist churches gave more than \$6,200,000 through the Cooperative Program — and how those funds were distributed.

The November-January quarterly treasurer's report also tells us that total in-

deposit to make certain there is enough.

After that is done — we depend on the postal system to handle and deliver the paper properly, expeditiously, and with care. It should not be delayed.

But despite all we do each week in preparing the paper, printing it, and delivering it on schedule faithfully to the post office, some readers continue to receive the paper on Saturdays — and even into the next week.

For those subscribers whose deliveries are consistently late, we urge you to keep a journal. Record the date of issue and the date of receipt. Courteously seek the assistance of the person who delivers your mail and/or local postal authority. Express your frustration to the person in charge. Be persistent, and keep accurate and thorough records.

Postal inspectors in the Baptist and Reflector several weeks ago told us there is no reason for the paper to be delivered later than Friday — or Saturday at the very latest.

Once again, we ask our subscribers to help us achieve "on time" deliveries. Check, and check again. Good stewardship is important to us, and to you. Money invested in paper subscriptions should be a wise expenditure.

We promise to continue seeking reliable and "on time" delivery of the Baptist and Reflector. You can help — please do. — WFA

come, including mission offerings and other gifts, totalled more than \$11,500,000 for the same period.

We print the Cooperative Program giving and distribution on a quarterly basis as instructed by the Executive Board, TBC. Though some of our news and feature material is displaced in those four issues, we approve of the accountability. That is the Baptist way. And, we believe the board eventually will fund the CP pages so we can have adequate news space in every issue.

It is a good report, and the Baptist and Reflector is happy to share it with our readers. We encourage them to tell others about the generosity and stewardship of Tennessee Baptist churches. — WFA

Missions Day Camp planned for SBC in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (BP) — While parents are tending to convention business, singing, praying, listening, and standing in lines at the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, their children can be involved in the SBC Missions Day Camp.

Missions Day Camp, sponsored by the children and youth division of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, is for boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6 whose parents are attending the annual meeting.

James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, said: "Missions Day Camp certainly meets a real need. I am excited that the Brotherhood Commission staff and volunteers have this opportunity to serve in this role at our annual meeting."

Missions Day Camp provides a missions education program for children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention as follows: Tuesday 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m., Wednesday 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., and Thursday 8:30 a.m. — 3:20 p.m.

The cost is \$7 per day per child or \$20 for three days, and includes lunch Tuesday and Thursday and refreshments all days.

Registration may be done at the Missions Day Camp Booth near the messenger registration area in the Las Vegas Convention Center Monday from 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m., and during daytime convention sessions Tuesday-Thursday.

Day camp facilities will be at First Baptist Church, Las Vegas, 300 South Ninth Street. Transportation is provided to and from the convention center. Campers will leave each day at 8:30 a.m. from the Missions Day Camp Booth.

Children in the seventh grade and older are eligible to be assistant counselors for the day camp. Interested persons are asked to contact Karl Bozeman at the Brotherhood Commission or at the Missions Day Camp Booth on Monday before the convention.

The day campers should dress comfortably. All activities will be inside

because of the intense heat expected during June in Las Vegas.

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At Foreign Mission Board

Trustees, executives stress harmony at agency

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP)— Trustees and top-level executives of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board are in one accord, trustee chairman C. Mark Corts said during the trustees' Feb. 13-15 meeting in Richmond, Va. "We are here to work together," Corts said.

Trustees received a statement of affirmation from ten elected staff administrators expressing gratitude that trustee decisions "have been governed by a missions agenda" in the midst of the theological-political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The executives were responding to a similar vote of confidence trustees gave Southern Baptist missionaries and Foreign Mission Board staff members in December.

In other business, the trustees approved a new mission personnel category — International Service Corps — placing the former Journeyman, Mission Service Corps

and special assignment programs under one umbrella.

Trustees also appointed 20 new missionaries and reappointed one veteran worker, raising the number of Foreign Mission Board personnel to 3854 in 114 countries. They also heard a report on the recent gathering of 300 world mission leaders in Singapore, accompanied by assurances that participation in such meetings need not blur Southern Baptist distinctives.

The exchange of affirmations evolved from comments Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks made to trustees last October. Parks said at the time that the controversy had spawned misperceptions and rumors, causing Southern Baptists to mistrust missionaries, board staff, and trustees.

Trustee chairman Corts, pastor of Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., urged trustees to underscore the mutual affirmations in their home states and throughout Southern Baptist life.

"We need to respond to denominational disaffection" and such trends as "negative designated giving," Corts said.

In North Carolina alone, Corts explained after the meeting, he has heard of 15 or more churches that have decided against full participation in the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan for funding missions and other denominational programs. These churches have decided to pick which Southern Baptist agencies they will support, Corts said.

"In the long run, (negative designated giving) is going to harm our whole convention," Corts told

trustees.

Trustees need to be "more active in broadcasting some good news about Baptists and some good news about foreign missions" to fellow Baptists, Corts said. "Tell them the Foreign Mission Board is not going to pot. We are not spending all of our time up here fighting with the staff.

"The mission enterprise of Southern Baptists is going forward," he added. "In my nine years on this board, I cannot remember a time when there was greater unanimity of purpose."

Parks and nine board vice presidents commended the trustees for actions that "maintain Southern Baptist basic foreign missions philosophy and reinforce our commitment to Bold Mission Thrust," the 25-year emphasis on sharing the Gospel with all unevangelized people by the year 2000.

The administrators also expressed gratitude for "the strong Cooperative Program support" of the trustees' churches.

A survey by L.H. McCollough of fellow trustees reports that their churches devote an average of 12.3 percent of their budgets to the Cooperative Program, compared to the 8.5 percent average for all Southern Baptist churches. McCollough is pastor of First Church, Bastrop, La.

McCollough's survey includes all but five of the board's 87 trustees. Sixty-four of their churches devote ten percent or more of their budgets to the Cooperative Program, he said. The

range among the churches is 1.4 to 25 percent.

A report on the Global Consultation on World Evangelization by AD 2000 and Beyond, held Jan. 5-8 in Singapore, was presented to trustees by Parks and Bill O'Brien, the board's executive vice president. Some 300 mission leaders from 50 countries, half of them in the Third World, unanimously adopted a "Great Commission Manifesto" during the consultation pledging cooperative efforts in sharing the gospel with all unevangelized peoples by the year 2000.

"Never in recorded church history," O'Brien said, "have so many believers from the entire world been so aware of the church's responsibility to evangelize the whole world."

By the end of 1991, similar consultations may be held in 100 or more countries to formulate local evangelization plans, he said.

Parks stressed cooperative ventures with other Christians, such as the Singapore meeting, are not intended to submerge Southern Baptists' independence or their distinct approach to missions.

Parks said he believes Christianity's various segments have "spiritual giftedness" just as individuals have.

"God has gifted different ones of us to emphasize certain truths of the Scripture and others of us to emphasize other truths — equal truth, but different emphasis . . ."

New church staff orientation rescheduled

Because of the construction in progress at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Building in Brentwood, it has become necessary to postpone the New Church Staff Orientation from May 15-16 to Oct. 5-6.

Several already have made reservations for the meeting and these are being notified of the change by mail.

The New Church Staff Orientation will be held in the conference facilities of the Baptist Center.

HMB appoints six with Tennessee ties



BATSONS



EPPSES



H. SMITH



P. SMITH

Six people with Tennessee ties were among 25 recently appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Memphis native Robyne Batson was appointed family and church worker in Plant City, Fla., where her husband, Craig, will be church planter apprentice.

Jackson residents Byron and Albertine Epps will serve in Milwaukee, Wis., where Epps will serve as director of missions. Mrs. Epps will serve as family and church worker.

Tennessee natives Hub and Pat Smith were appointed to Reno, Nev., where Smith will be church planter. Mrs. Smith will also serve as family and church worker.

Batson is a graduate of Memphis State University and attended Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. She has been coordinator of activities with Abundant Life Ministries in Memphis and is the daughter of Wayne and Rosemary Miles of Memphis. A native of Florida, her husband is also a graduate of Mid-America Baptist

Theological Seminary.

Epps, a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, has been pastor of churches throughout the United States. Most recently, he was associate pastor of First Church, Jackson. Mrs. Epps is a graduate of Union University, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and Tennessee Technological School of Nursing. She most recently worked as clinical coordinator of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson.

A graduate of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky., Smith has been pastor of churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois. He is currently pastor of Donner Springs Baptist Fellowship, Reno, Nev. Mrs. Smith attended Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College and University of Tennessee in Martin. They have two children.

Smith's father, Hubbard L. Smith Sr., and Mrs. Smith's parents, James and Betty Gilliland, live in Troy.

Government sources report Baptists freed from Soviet Union prisons

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)— Government and other sources have reported that all Baptist religious prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union have been released.

During a briefing for human rights advocates in early February, U.S. State Department officials confirmed reports that all Soviet religious prisoners have been released. Similar confirmation came from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe — known as the Helsinki Commission — and Keston College in Kent, England, which monitors religious freedom in Eastern Europe.

During 1987, 265 prisoners, including 116 Baptists, were held in the Soviet Union because of their religious beliefs, reports indicated.

"Baptists and other believers everywhere should rejoice in this major victory for religious liberty," said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, who attended the State Department briefing. "All who worship Him who came 'to preach deliverance to the captives' have a visceral identification with those who are prisoners for the sake of their faith.

"Great joy and satisfaction is ours in their release. We praise the Lord for answered prayer and pledge anew to dedicate ourselves to the free exercise of faith in all lands."

The Baptist Joint Committee, which since its founding in 1936 has brought pressure on numerous governments to recognize religious freedom as a fundamental human right, has worked for the last two years for the release of

the Soviet religious prisoners.

Dunn and another Southern Baptist — Olin Robison, president of Middlebury College in Vermont and one of the country's acknowledged experts on the Soviet Union — met in September 1987 with then-Secretary of State George P. Schultz to discuss amnesty for the prisoners.

TBC Church Training shows increase

According to latest Southern Baptist Convention statistics, the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Training Department is one of a few that reported an enrollment increase.

Church Training units in Tennessee Baptist churches increased by 3715 in 1988, a percentage rise of 2.6.

Total number of Tennessee Baptists enrolled in Church Training is now 147,713, compared to 143,998 for 1987.

"Our New Start project in April really boosted interest in Church Training," said Johnnie Hall, TBC Church Training director.

Hall said the April emphasis resulted in 400 visits. "We were able to start 160 new Church Training units," Hall said, "and found 70 others that had not been reported."

The end result, he said, is that there are 230 more unions in Tennessee than in 1987.

Several other state conventions reported new starts.

Our Readers Write ... Baptist Joint Committee, Las Vegas, and more ...

Appreciation given

I was a college student when I met my first director of missions, Richard Skidmore. I didn't fully understand his role but I knew he was definitely a man of God and preached the word very straight forward when he came to speak in my church. It wasn't until I began serving in the Dyer Association that I fully realized what unsung heroes they really are.

Our DOM is called on daily to perform a multitude of functions: pastor, teacher, resource person, counselor, preacher, administrator, mediator, encourager, facilitator, secretary, operator, banker, and sometimes even a babysitter.

As a BSU director, I can understand having to fill many of these roles and can appreciate the intense effort it takes to sometimes be all things to all men as the DOM must. The DOM rarely has a night home with family, rarely finds time for rest or vacation, and rarely finds opportunity to worship in his own church due to continual service within the other churches of the association. But this is his calling, to serve us all even when it sometimes means sacrificing his personal life.

My DOM is Joe Naylor. I am very proud of what he does for our association and also for the support and assistance his wife gives. Caring for an entire association is a big job and the DOM helps keep the wheels of the association turning. Think of what your association would be like without a DOM and then take time to thank them for what they do in your association for the Lord.

Michele B. Dickenson
1720 Parr, #10
Dyersburg 38024

Points for Las Vegas

I want to give a positive side to the choosing of Las Vegas for the SBC meeting. My husband was pastoring in Needles, Calif., when he was hurt in an accident and flown 120 miles to Las Vegas.

The Lord used the wonderful medical team at a hospital there to save his life. Southern Baptist pastors flocked to see us and ministered to us in so many special ways.

The associational staff sat with me during surgeries. Women that I didn't know volunteered to keep my three-week-old baby while I was with my husband. Many from other denominations came to pray at his bedside.

These people were a testimony to the hospital staff. He was "shut-in-of-the-day" at their Christian radio station.

We took many trips to Las Vegas to see doctors and go shopping. Gambling was never a temptation since we were against using God's money in that way. We used the city for its good points. There's more to Las Vegas than gambling.

It is a city of sin with many sinners. But many godly people are living out their Christian lives everyday there in that city of sin. Southern Baptists in Las Vegas are excited about the Lord and there are more of them than you can imagine. They need encouragement and recognition as being significant to the kingdom of God.

We grew up in Tennessee. After coming back here, I see Christians in the Bible Belt don't understand how secular life is in other parts of the U.S. We need to see what Christians have to face in most of the U.S.

I'm glad the SBC is meeting in Las Vegas. You'll be meeting some of the best godly friends I'll ever know.

Mrs. Paula Curd
3023 Jenny Dr.
Nashville 37214

Anniversary set

Our Southern Baptist work here was constituted in June 1964, and in June we celebrate our 25th anniversary. Since we are primarily an American military congregation, our former members get scattered all over the world, and we believe some of them may now be living in your area.

Any former pastor, member, and friend is cordially invited to send greetings and any helpful information concerning the church. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Rev. Warner Bumgardner
Mannheim Middle School
APO New York 09086

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.

Women and abortion

Under present law a woman can do nearly anything she wants to with her own body, including the elimination of a human by abortion, but she cannot legally use cocaine. Yet abortion has probably harmed the world even more than illegal drugs.

By abortion women have killed potential leaders and scientists that the Lord has desired to give to the world. These occur once in millions and come from all walks of life, so the risk of eliminating one of them by abortion should never be taken.

When a woman eliminates a baby by abortion, she can never have another one just like it. That person, and his or her talent, is lost to the world. Each person is a unique individual; no two people are exactly alike. That certain persons were chosen by God from birth or conception is so stated in the Bible. They are, Samson, David, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, and Paul (see Judges 13:5-7; Psalm 139:13-15; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:15; and Galatians 1:15).

All of us, great or small, are of great value to God and man, according to the Bible. "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Corinthians 12:20-23).

To say that overpopulation could cause starvation in the world, is to say that God is a bad manager. If we follow the rules given to us by Jesus, all of us can have a good life. He came that we might have life more abundantly (see John 10:10).

The Bible tells us that the spirit of a person is joined to the unformed flesh at conception. When Mary visited her cousin, about three days after Gabriel's announcement, Elizabeth immediately recognized the Spirit of Jesus in her,

because she cried out, filled with the Holy Spirit, "How have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43). It could not have been the yet unformed flesh of Jesus that Elizabeth called Lord, so we know that the spirit of a person is there from conception. Jesus is like us in all things except sin (see Hebrews 4:15). The climate to rid ourselves of legal abortion is better now than it ever has been. Your prayers and actions are required.

Robert S. Dubiel
1388 Agnes
Memphis 38104

BJCPA is sufficient

During the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee this week, members may be asked to establish a new agency in Washington, D. C. I hope they do not vote to recommend such an agency.

I believe words of SBC President Jerry Vines provide the best reason for rejection of the proposed SBC agency. He doesn't want "persons who have personal hostilities or grievances which would cause them to use a committee appointment as a platform for pushing their own agenda" in SBC leadership of committees and trustees.

The attempt to control the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by the SBC Public Affairs Committee which has failed, and the effort to withdraw or lessen SBC support for the BJCPA is based on views of some who have personal and apparently hostile reasons. They are using their positions within the SBC to bring this recommendation.

The BJCPA presence in Washington is based on Baptist heritage and not political consideration.

The recommendation should be rejected also because of pride and mistrust which has prompted the attack on the BJCPA. Pride says that we alone know God's will in all things. We seem to distrust other Baptist groups, while God may want to use members of smaller Baptist bodies to keep us from the temptation of largeness (the belief that we don't need other Christians).

The reality is that in all of us there are blind spots and we need each other.

The movement to create a SBC presence in Washington is not in the Spirit of Christ. Christ was open and trusting with others. Action toward a new agency cuts across these characteristics and fosters mistrust, narrows dialogue. I call upon the Executive Committee to reject this move. We have representation there, and we need to support it.

Don Dixon, pastor
Highland Church
808 West Hickory St.
Tullahoma 37388

Personal Perspective

By Tom J Madden

"There were seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at a hair breadth, and not miss" (Judges 20:16).

One of the commentators suggests that these men were lefthanded because they had lost their right arms doing battle as swordsmen, and instead of quitting, they trained as experts with a sling-shot and became so accurate they could "sling a stone at a hair and not miss."

If the observation by the commentator is true, it seems to me what might have become a handicap became an asset. They turned a minus into a plus.

I was in the seminary with Ralph Phelps. He told how, as a teenager, he broke his arm playing football. While waiting for the arm to heal he listened to his high school debate team, became

interested, and eventually became a college national debate champion. He later became president of Ouachita Baptist University (Arkadelphia, Ark.) and Howard Payne University (Brownwood, Texas).

I am confident overcoming these handicaps did not happen automatically. Their's must have been a long, tedious process, involving many hours of practice.

As a youngster carrying newspapers, I threw the paper at 912 East Oak with almost reverence. Bobby Pierce lived there. He was the Olympic wrestling champion of the world in his weight range. He only weighed 126 pounds when he won and the championship did not come easy. While a child, he was a victim of polio and was told he would never walk again, but he never gave up. His strenuous recovery program brought him to the zenith.

Those 700 lefthanded soldiers were superior to the regular soldiers. They could fell the enemy long before their enemy with swords could reach them.

Helen Keller said, "I thank God for my handicaps, for through them I have found myself, my work, and my God."



MADDEN

Year of the Laity

Lucille Hatfield • First Church • Jamestown

Lucille Hatfield has been Women's Missionary Union director for Riverside Association since 1984. She served three years on WMU's Star Team, assisting churches across the state in beginning missions programs. At First Church, Jamestown, where she has been a member since childhood, Hatfield has been church clerk 32 years. She currently serves on her church's pastor search committee.

"I'd been associational GA (Girls in Action) director for years before I became WMU director—GAs are really my first love.

"When the church first asked me to be GA assistant, I didn't even know what that stood for. And when I found out, I was worried because I had no children.

"They assured me that was good: I would have more patience.

"And, you know, I've got girls all over the world now. I suppose I get more cards and gifts on Mother's Day than anyone!"

— 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.

Sunday School Board trustees name commentary . . .

(Continued from page 1)
came out of controversy."

Office tower

With little discussion another step toward the new office tower was approved by trustees. A contract with Patten Construction Company not to exceed about \$12,432,000 was approved.

The nine-story tower will be constructed atop the existing Operations Building. It is the third step in the Nashville properties master plan approved by the trustees in 1987 and is the board's first major building in 80 years.

Total cost of the facility is expected to be \$15,572,210. Construction on the facility is expected to be completed late in the 1989-90 budget year.

Other money matters, though, were questioned by trustees. After a budget report that noted a \$330,000 variance in operations income, some trustees voiced concerns.

"The cash cow is being milked because we are selling fewer and fewer of our products," said Dan Collins of South Carolina. "Unless we improve our product and increase our reserves we're going to have a prob-

lem," he continued.

Total revenue from operations for the past year was \$166,466,000, 0.5 percent below budget, but 6.6 percent above the previous year.

Board managers responded by noting that one reason for the shortfall of funds from operations was an un-budgeted payment of \$500,000 for medical benefits.

Elder added that \$5.7 million is invested in business ventures "that we believe will be profitable."

Elder told the trustees that he did not expect a budget deficit next year in income from operations.

Income from operations after the first quarter of 1988-89 was \$227,000 over budget.

Curriculum changes

Curriculum changes recommended by board personnel were accepted without any changes though several trustees suggested a review of editorial procedures.

A massive report by the Sunday School Division covering 85 publications was presented by the trustees' church program organizations committee.

Harry Piland, division director, noted that the changes in publications would provide increased Bible content, emphasis on evangelism, ease of use, attractiveness, and materials for small churches.

In reference to the expanded Bible scope for children and preschoolers, Piland noted that they were not attempting to evangelize "babies," but instead were targeting information to parents and teachers.

Eleven current publications will be phased out and nine will be introduced. The new materials will be available October 1991.

Trustees also approved a name change and program statement for Church Training to Discipleship Training. The recommendation must now go to the SBC Executive Committee and the Southern Baptist Convention for their approval.

Trustees Larry Holly, and Ned Mathews and Bob Tenery, both of North Carolina supported a move to hire "professional" writers.

Sherion Babb of West Virginia, a current BSSB writer, reported that she considered herself a professional

writer "called" by God to that work. Gene Mims, chairman of the committee in charge of curriculum, and pastor of First Church, Cleveland, affirmed the current process.

In other business, trustees:

- Increased church literature prices for 1989-90 by an average of seven percent.

- Re-elected Tennesseans Roland Maddox of Bellevue Church, Memphis, and Bill Wilson, pastor, Brentwood Church, Brentwood, as general officers.

- Appointed Dan Collins, a trustee and attorney from South Carolina, as parliamentarian for the meeting.

- Heard a favorable report on the financial progress of the Baptist Telecommunications Network.

- Heard that plans are underway to celebrate the board's centennial year from June 1990 to June 1991.

- Accepted SBC resolutions from San Antonio for review.

—Contributing to this story were Dan Martin of Baptist Press and Linda Lawson of the BSSB's office of communications.

Overseas churches on increase, baptisms . . .

(Continued from page 1)
tism" overseas, said researcher Jim Slack, a missionary to the Philippines and scholar-in-residence at the mission board.

Another concern is that overseas church membership dropped from 2.15 million in 1987 to 2.1 million last year.

However, the declines in baptisms and church memberships can be blamed partly on uneven statistical reporting because of economic, political or internal problems — especially in major countries such as Brazil, South Korea, and the Philippines, noted Clark Scanlon, FMB director of research and planning.

"I'm disappointed any time we don't show growth in every area," Parks said. "We try to learn from it and go on."

Highlights in the just completed 1988 overseas report include:

- Brazilian Baptists finished the year with 4071 Baptist churches, the highest of all countries. Nigeria was second, with 3027, while Kenya had 1351; Korea, 1334; and the Philippines, 1239. Of 106 countries reporting, 58 counted a net increase in churches; 48 reported losses or no gains.

- Brazil also led in baptisms, with 52,763, followed by Nigeria, with 27,960; Kenya, 16,089; and Tanzania, 16,001. Fifty-six countries reported increases in baptisms, while 50 reported downturns or no gains. Thirty-eight countries reported 50 or fewer baptisms.

- Southern Baptist missionaries began sharing the Gospel with 22 new people groups in 15 countries. Baptist work moved into 110 new cities in 41 countries.

- Southern Baptists appropriated a record \$10.9 million for overseas relief

and world hunger last year, surpassing the amount received in 1985 during the Ethiopian crisis. The money supported a record 245 projects in 50 nations.

- Medical missionaries and workers treated almost 1.56 million patients in 1988, a small increase over the previous year.

- Through electronic media, missionaries and Baptists reached an estimated audience of 446 million in 1988, up from 250 million the year before. They distributed 8.8 million Christian periodicals, 2.8 million books and 11 million tracts.

An "alarming" part of the report is the low number of Baptist "preaching points" and mission congregations that constituted as churches overseas last year, researcher Slack said.

Baptists overseas began the year with 18,872 preaching points and mission congregations, but only five or six percent of them matured into churches, Slack reported. The rate should be at least 25 percent, he said.

An average mission congregation overseas organizes as a church in three years, he explained. In South Korea and Brazil, the birth-to-organization period takes between nine and 18 months. But in Japan it takes five to seven years.

Factors such as literature shortages and doctrinal misunderstandings hamper maturation of missions into churches, Slack said. Seminars overseas and conferences for furloughing missionaries in the United States are dealing with church-growth dynamics.

While Baptist membership dropped, money in overseas church offering plates grew from \$94 million in 1987 to \$99.8 million last year — a six percent increase.

The number of overseas Baptist pastors increased from 16,680 in 1987 to 17,561 in 1988 — an average of almost 17 new pastors each week last year.

Meanwhile, 12,222 Baptists studied in theological seminaries, Bible schools and institutes in 1988, compared to 11,023 in 1987. The number studying in

seminary extension courses rose by 3781, to 15,000 in 1988.

The Foreign Mission Board appointed 358 new missionaries last year, down from 407 in 1987. The net gain in the mission force was 28 in 1988 — compared to 83 in 1987 — after subtracting retirements, resignations and deaths, bringing the total force to 3867 for 1988. Southern Baptists still are on target to meet the revised Bold Mission Thrust world evangelization goal of 5600 missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000, Slack said.

Although missionary appointments dropped, Southern Baptist volunteers abroad in 1988 topped 10,000 for the first time. The original Bold Mission Thrust goal called for sending 10,000 volunteers overseas annually. Southern Baptist leaders boosted the goal to 20,000 a few years ago.

New Duck River calls Harold Smith

Harold Smith, consultant in the church architecture department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been called as director of missions for New Duck River Association, based in Shelbyville.

Smith, a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was pastor of First Church, Columbia, for six years prior to joining the BSSB.

Other Tennessee pastorates include Minor Hill Church, Minor Hill; White House Church, White House; Trinity Church, Manchester; Silverdale Church, Chattanooga; and Westwood Church, Cleveland.

A native of Mt. Pleasant, Smith is married to the former Doris Durham and they have two married daughters. Smith will begin his service with New Duck River Association March 6.



SMITH

WMU's Weatherford to retire, marry

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Carolyn Weatherford, 59, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for the past 15 years, announced Feb. 17 she will retire Sept. 1 and will marry a Southern Baptist pastor.

Her fiancé is James Joseph (Joe) Crumpler Sr., 61, pastor of Mount Carmel Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a former president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and has been on the state convention's executive board, and Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The wedding will held Aug. 19, in Vestavia Hills Church in Birmingham, Ala., where Weatherford is a member.

Although Weatherford will retire Sept. 1, she will take accrued vacation the final weeks, making her last day in the office Aug. 11.

Weatherford made the announcement during a called meeting of all WMU national headquarters staff. She introduced Crumpler, who had flown to Birmingham the day before.

Letters announcing her retirement

and engagement were mailed simultaneously to members of the WMU executive board. Marjorie J. McCullough, national WMU president, said she will appoint a search committee immediately, with hopes the committee will have a recommendation to present to the board at its next meeting June 10 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Following the announcement in Birmingham, Weatherford and Crumpler flew to Cincinnati, where Crumpler made the announcement to his congregation Feb. 19. Crumpler has no plans to retire from the pastorate at Mount Carmel, where he has been since 1962. The wedding will be the first marriage for Weatherford, the second for Crumpler. Crumpler's first wife, Eleanor Ford Crumpler, died of cancer in 1982.

The timing could not be better to step aside, Weatherford said. Just last year, WMU paid the debt on its new \$8.6 million headquarters complex and observed a year-long celebration of a century of mission support, missions education, mission action, and personal witnessing.

1988 SBC statistics indicate some gains, but flat trends

By Jim Lowry
 NASHVILLE (BP) — Although increases outnumbered decreases for Southern Baptists in 1988, the denomination appears to be mired in a period where statistically significant gains are elusive and long-term trends are flat, according to figures released by the convention's Sunday School Board.

In the gains column for the 1987-88 year, eight of the ten key reporting areas were higher than the previous year, figures from 36,874 Uniform Church Letters received in the board's research services department showed.

Increases included baptisms, where the total was 346,320, an increase of 7825, or 2.3 percent, over the previous baptism total of 338,495. This increase follows a decrease of 6.8 percent in 1987. Baptisms have dropped four of the last six years.

The church membership increase of

0.6 percent, or 90,726, brings the total membership in Southern Baptist churches to 14,818,496. This gain, of slightly more than two new members per church, is the smallest increase in church membership since 1930.

The number of churches in the denomination increased by 0.8 percent, or 281, to a new total of 37,567. The 111 net gain in the number of churches is the largest net gain in number of churches since 1965.

Sunday School, the denomination's largest program, decreased in 1988 by 0.4 percent, or 30,733, to a new total of 7,911,373. It was the biggest loss for the Bible study program since 1978. In 1986-87, Sunday School maintained a virtual status quo in enrollment, registering a 0.0 percentage change, with a numerical drop of less than 2000.

Church Training, which registered a similar break-even year in 1986-87, had a gain of 2.0 percent, or 39,801, to bring the total enrollment for the denomination's discipleship training program to 1,993,738. It was the first gain for church training since 1983, when an identical 2.0 percent increase was achieved.

Church music enrollment in Southern Baptist churches registered the 23rd consecutive increase, with a gain of 2.1 percent, or 35,724, to a new total of 1,774,018. Churches first reported church music participation on the Uniform Church Letter in 1957, when an enrollment of 553,021 was listed. Except for losses in 1960 and 1965, music

enrollment has increased to become the third-largest program in Southern Baptist churches.

Enrollment in Woman's Missionary Union increased by 0.5 percent, or 6450, in 1988 to reach a total of 1,203,929. It was the third consecutive gain for WMU, which has gone up almost 39,000 since 1985.

Brotherhood enrollment declined by 8.3 percent, or 47,476, to a new total of 525,511. Changes in program age-grouping and the reporting process on the Uniform Church Letter affected the size of the loss for Brotherhood, said Martin Bradley, director of the

research services department.

Mission expenditures by Southern Baptist churches grew by 4.1 percent in 1988. It was an increase of almost \$27 million, to reach a new total of \$689,598,220. The percentage increases for mission expenditures for the past three years have been below increases of previous years, all of which were between 7.3 and 12.7 percent since 1972.

Total tithes, offerings and special gifts given through churches was \$4,129,259,580, a 3.0 percent increase of more than \$120 million over the previous year.

BSSB editors to meet with Tennesseans

NASHVILLE — In an effort to build bridges of trust and understanding between the Sunday School Board and Southern Baptists, Sunday School division editors this year will conduct listening sessions with leaders in nine states, 75 associations, and from as many as 4000 churches.

Project 100 is designed to put editors in touch with people who are using Sunday School Board literature or would be open to considering its use, explained Earl Waldrup, special assistant for church relations in the Sunday School division.

As many as 35 editors will be involved in Project 100 to visit about 70 associations where directors of missions have agreed to organize sessions for the editor to meet with church staff persons and Sunday School workers.

The original goal for the project was 100 associations — thus the project name, Waldrup said. However, budget restraints reduced the number to about 70 associations which have a total of about 4000 churches.

The listening sessions for 1989 will be held in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Other states will be targeted in future years.

Listening sessions in Tennessee Baptist associations include:

Central — Feb. 27-March 1; McMinn-
 Meigs — March 2-3; William Carey —
 March 13-15; New River — March
 29-31; Madison-Chester — April 17-19;
 Weakley — Aug. 17-18; and Big
 Hatchie — Aug. 14-16.

Retired pastor dies

Russell Joyner of Brownsville died Feb. 7 at Methodist Hospital in Memphis after a long illness.

Joyner, 80, was pastor of churches throughout Tennessee. His later pastorates were in Beulah, Gibson, Fayette, and Haywood Associations.

He was pastor of Stanton Church in Haywood Association on two occasions and after retirement served as interim director of missions for the Haywood Association.

Joyner is survived by his wife, Flora Dedmon Joyner.

Cars, cradles, communion tables:

Hack's hobby benefits others

By Joy Jordan, news assistant
 Most people adopt hobbies intentionally unrelated to their employment, a necessary respite from the monotony of nine to five demands on time, energy, and creativity.

John Hack is a notable exception. By day, the consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department advises and assists churches in design and construction.

By night and on weekends, exchanging coat and tie for work shirt and blue jeans, he retreats to his woodshop where band saws and belt sanders await his return.

Hack's 38-year obsession with carpentry serves as both an avocation and a vehicle for mission work.

"I could be high, holy, and sanctimonious and invoke the example of a carpenter who went before—but that's a little too pious," he chuckled. "I just enjoy it."

But Hack's hobby has also brought others joy, from indigent children in Nashville who have new toys, to members of Grace Church, Detroit, Mich., who have new pulpit furniture.

The idea for building durable wooden cars, trucks, trains, and doll cradles was conceived soon after

Hack and his family moved to Middle Tennessee, joining Judson Church in 1979. Assisting the church's preschool in repairing broken toys, he was disturbed with the shabby—and often dangerous—construction of most.

"The plastic would break, exposing sharp edges. Kids could really get hurt," he reflected.

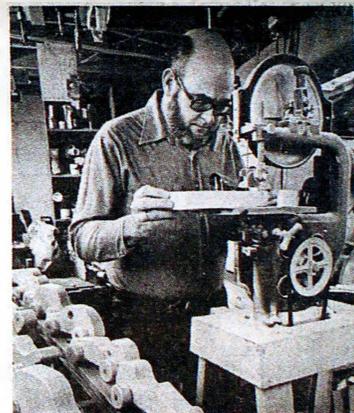
Hack has been able to combine successfully his concern for quality workmanship with a tangible expression of his faith.

As a Bold Mission Thrust joint project, the Hack family, including wife, Joy, and daughter, Sandra, created 250 toys for 50 churches in Michigan's Greater Detroit Association where Tennessee had established a missions partnership. The gifts, made of spruce, finished with non-toxic, non-flammable laquer, and branded with JJS (John, Joy, Sandra) were completed in time for Christmas of 1981.

For the past several years, Nashville Association's Toy Store has been the recipient of Hack woodshop products: cars and cradles for underprivileged children.

Last summer, an emergency appendectomy prevented Hack's participation with the church architecture department's mission trip to construct a church sanctuary.

Disappointed but determined to lend a hand and a hammer, he learned that Grace Church, Rogers City, Mich., needed but could not afford pulpit furniture. The church's pastor, Tennessee native Jeff Clark,



STEADY HANDS REQUIRED—Hack transforms a block of spruce into a toy car. had hoped to have the pulpit furniture made from Northern White Cedar, native to the northeastern sector of the "Wolverine state."

Taking advantage of a consulting assignment in that vicinity, Hack picked up the lumber from which he constructed a communion table, pulpit, clock, and two offering plates.

"We never asked him to do it," commented Clark. "It was all of his own accord—a fantastic thing on his part."

Hack's creativity, by his own assessment, grew out of necessity. "We both grew up pretty hard," he said, glancing toward his wife who nodded assent. "You either made things or you didn't have them . . . There's something decent and good about creating something with your hands."

But for its beneficiaries, like Clark, Hack's handiwork is not only decent and good, but "a real God-send."



IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM—John and Joy Hack joined talents to construct a communion table for a church that could not afford to purchase one.

Knoxville dentist aids Venezuelan girl with rare abnormality

By **Connie Davis**, assistant editor

Eight-year-old Karina was one of the vivid memories Don Harrell brought back from the health care project in Venezuela.

She was different. Her life was threatened.

He kept making phone calls to Venezuelan missionary Stan Parris. With the X-rays he had brought home, the Knoxville dentist had determined that Karina suffered from some kind of rare abnormality of the blood vessels.

Harrell called a physician friend at the University of Tennessee Hospital. Consultations with several physicians confirmed that she could not be treated in Venezuela.

Soon a place in the hospital's charitable program had been found for Karina Cubillan.

As Carolyn Harrell began to prepare for guests in her home and Don looked at the cost of airline tickets, the president of Venezuela learned about Karina. Possibly because of his earlier career as a pediatrician, the president offered to pay for the cost of the tickets not only for the family, but also for an interpreter.

Just three months after Harrell returned from Venezuela, the four Venezuelan visitors arrived in Knoxville.

Karina was diagnosed as having an

arterial venule malformation of the head and neck, which is a malformation of the arteries and veins. Harrell explained that bleeding has caused damage to her jaw. Also, she faces life threatening bleeding from a fall or loss of a tooth.

"An array of subspecialists at UT Hospital donated their time, effort, and talent," reported Harrell. Dr. Alex Chan, a neuro-radiologist and a member of the Chinese congregation of Harrell's church, Calvary Church, Knoxville, treated Karina free of charge.

Others at the hospital that helped her include a plastic surgeon, vascular surgeon, optomologist, and hematologist. The treatment provided through the hospital would have cost \$80,000, Harrell stated.

And although the Harrells opened their home to the family and friend who served as an interpreter, members of Calvary Church responded to the guests, who had just become Christians before they left Venezuela.

"It really turned into a church-wide project," reported Carolyn Harrell. Church members brought food for the visitors and hosted them in their homes and on outings. The Girls in Action group in the church Karina attended with one of the Harrells' daughters became her friends. To communicate



VISITOR FROM VENEZUELA — Karina Cubillan (center) gets translation help from Kathryn Mee of Calvary Church, Knoxville, while visiting a Sunday School class there.

they pantomimed.

"She just seems to have a good time," said Carolyn Harrell, as she explained that Karina's treatment was not only painful but caused the loss of her eyesight in one eye.

As treatment continued, Harrell learned about a new technique at New York University Medical Center in New York City. It is the only hospital approved by the Food and Drug Administration to perform the technique.

Carolyn, a nurse, began making some more phone calls. After several weeks of waiting, the hospital agreed to accept Karina's case free of charge.

Once again Calvary Church responded. The church bought airline tickets and gave winter clothing to their Venezuelan friends.

And other Baptists at the Spanish congregation of Metro Church in New York City were willing to help the visitors get to the hospital and to the Ronald McDonald House, a part of McDonald's Corporation. Carolyn had made arrangements for them to stay

there. She also asked hospital social workers to help the visitors.

After several more weeks of treatment valued at \$10,000, Karina finally returned home the first part of February.

"Now the doors are wide open for the Lord to heal Karina," said Harrell, "because the technology is in heaven."

"The best technology available in the world" was tried, said Harrell.

"We'll leave it up to Him now," he said.

First Church, Dayton, calls Knox as pastor

Milton Knox accepted the call of First Church, Dayton, as pastor, effective Feb. 1.

The Nashville native holds degrees from Belmont College, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was formerly pastor of First Church, Shelbyville, and First Church, Fairview.

One Word More

They were talking about the end times, and Jesus reminded the motley band of Lot's wife's folly of turning back.

"Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it," he told them. He was saying that we must lose our lives in service to him, and we must become risk-takers for witnessing.

He told them a parable "to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." In the parable, a fearless judge and a persistent widow played leading roles.

She wanted to be vindicated of her adversaries, but the judge was reluctant. Finally, he gave her a favorable judgment, because, as he said, "she will wear me out by her continual coming."

That was a lesson in prayer.

But Christ was not finished with His lesson for the day. "Nevertheless," Luke records His words, "when the Son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?"

Primsyl Filip was a proud and courageous man.

As a teen-ager he had joined Czechoslovakian resistance forces and created havoc as the night marauders harrassed the German army during World War II.

He survived, perhaps because of his reckless bravery and devotion to the cause of freedom. Oh, he could tell stories of those days!

Later Filip enlisted in the fabled French Foreign Legion. His escapades

By **Wm. Fletcher Allen**, editor in North Africa were almost as extraordinary as his days as a freedom fighter.

Eventually, he joined the U. S. Army. He was assigned to border patrol between communist East and democratic West Germany.

A young officer sat in the border patrol headquarters "ready" room one cold night — waiting for Filip. The patrol squads had checked in — ready to go.

All, that is, except Filip. He was leading one of the squads that night. The clock ticked on, minutes passed, ten, fifteen, twenty.

Finally he made his appearance. When he came into the room, the officer noted an unusual jauntiness, a careless attitude. There was no snap to his salute, and his words were slurred.

The young officer made his decision. Jotting down in the report book that Filip was drunk, he then sent the former legionnaire back to the barracks. Despite his pleading for a second chance, the officer knew Filip was not capable of leading a border patrol that night.

And so the question still rings across the centuries. But wasn't that the reason Jesus spoke all His messages? "When the Son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?"

Primsyl Filip is not the only one who has betrayed his duty. He is not the only one to desert his post. Will Christ find faith on earth?

Southern Baptists might ask ourselves, will He? Will He find faith to carry on the Great Commission? Will He find people with faith to change the world? Will He find any group, not to mention Southern Baptists, able and faith-filled for Bold Mission Thrust?

Will He?



ALLEN

Tennessean shares faith through Colorado ministry

By **Joe Westbury**

VAIL, Colo. — As students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary provided musical entertainment on an outdoor stage in Vail, Colo., Tennessean Jon Cawley mingled with the crowd to share his faith.

The Union University graduate was part of the 14-member team from the Louisville, Ky., seminary which provided the only evangelistic witness during the World Alpine Ski Championships in early February.

The ministry was sponsored by Vail Church and the special ministries department of the Home Mission Board.

Cawley, a native of Union City, assisted with various aspects of the ministry. He also preached at Lake Creek Church and Beaver Creek Chapel during the world cup competition.

Team members used creative means to break down natural barriers between themselves and their audiences so a witness could be presented. Musical entertainment, interspersed with drama and comedy, was a primary method the team used to attract a crowd so they could share their faith, Cawley said.

In order to build relationships with other individuals for additional witnessing opportunities, Cawley served as a volunteer on the Vail banner team. The Tennessee native was joined by three other Southern Seminary students who were on the mountain slopes as early as 6:30 a.m. to erect the advertising banners at the finish lines.

Temperatures frequently dropped to minus 20 degrees at those altitudes, which averaged 10,000 feet above sea level.

The entertainment ministry was targeted to reach some of the 600 athletes from 50 nations and nearly 50,000 international spectators who flocked to the alpine resort high in the Rocky Mountains.

Baptists share love for TBCH children



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

It was love in the heart of Mrs. Roger Eastman for orphan children that started a Baptist Orphanage in 1891. The love for homeless children grew with the help of committed Baptists across the state.

It is amazing that through two world wars, the great depression and many other conflicts, Tennessee Baptists have continued to express their love for children.

That same kind of commitment is still needed for today's children as well as those who will need us in the future.

To meet these growing needs Tennessee Baptists are working with creative programs that will care for more children and provide more specialized care. Today's child is much different from the child of the 1890s. Many

of the children we serve today have been orphaned by the living, not the dead. Contributing factors to the problems today's children face are divorce, abuse both physical and sexual, alcohol and drugs.

Some of our newer ministries that address these issues include: the GENESIS ministry for troubled teenage girls, the McCool Boys' Ranch, the Family Preservation Program, the Transitional School and the home for status offenders. We are trying through all these ministries to say to the children and their families "the Christ we serve loves us and we love you in Jesus' name".

In the past four years, 191 of our children have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the new love and ac-

ceptance these children have found in the Savior. This is our primary mission as Tennessee Baptists to introduce each child to Jesus Christ and see them mature and develop in their faith.

The people of our churches across the state express their love to the children in many different ways; some through gifts of clothing, food and school supplies, others through monetary gifts that enable us to provide quality housing, staff and other basic necessities.

Through the mission of our children's homes ministry, we are following the biblical admonition to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute". Proverbs 31:8

TBCH social workers meet many needs

"I see the child as the hub of a wheel. I'm in there with them trying to reach out to all the spokes — all the people who touch the life of that child."

That's how Linda Ludington, social services director for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes East Tennessee operations, describes her job.

TBCH has staff social workers in every area of the state. They put in long, hard hours ministering to the needs of troubled children in the care of TBCH.

"The only way to successfully treat these children is to get a full picture of the life of that child," Ludington said. "That means staying in constant contact with anyone who is involved with them — from houseparents to parents or legal guardians, to teachers to medical professionals.

"Networking all these people enables us to quickly deal with specific problems as they arise. For example, we may have a child whose grades have suddenly plunged. We might know that the reason for that is that the child has not heard from his mother in weeks.

"We're able to communicate that to the child's teachers, so that they can help us provide an extra measure of understanding to help that child through a tough time."

This networking role is only one of many hats that TBCH social workers wear.

They spend a tremendous amount of time counseling children both individually and in groups. Susan Eller, a social worker on the East Tennessee campus in Chattanooga, specializes in counseling children who have been sexually abused.

She schedules her day so that she can be available to the children for sessions after school hours.



Susan Eller, a TBCH social worker on the Chattanooga campus, counsels a young resident.

"These children need emotional healing," Eller said. "We need to devictimize them — to alleviate the guilt associated with reporting sexual abuse. I try to make the time we spend together a relaxed, private setting in which they can share their feelings."

Eller also conducts weekly group therapy sessions with junior and senior high students. The sessions may cover problem solving, improving self-esteem or building better interpersonal relationships on campus. Eller uses videotapes, panel discussions and guest speakers in the sessions.

"We discuss different topics in an effort to improve communications skills. These kids have strong survival instincts. They have learned to look out for themselves because it was the only way they could survive in the abusive or neglectful situations they had been in.

"In the group sessions, we try to help them learn how to interact with each other in healthy, family-type relationships. They need to learn to support each other."

"Networking" and counseling the children are primary activities of the social workers,

but they carry many other responsibilities.

Maintaining daily written progress reports on the children, analyzing cases of children referred to TBCH for admittance, monitoring children in foster care, counseling women with problem pregnancies, evaluating prospective foster and adoptive families ... the list goes on and on.

"This is a calling rather than a job," Eller said. "Having the opportunity to help these children in a Christian environment is truly wonderful."

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...From Double Springs through Strawberry Plains and on to Winner ...

Leadership . . .

F. Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro, celebrated his tenth anniversary in that position Jan. 29.

New Bethel Church, Paris, has called Kenneth Brewer as pastor.

First Church, White House, called Michael Peasall as full-time minister of music and youth, effective Feb. 1.

Peasall comes from Lyle Lane Church, Nashville, where he served as a part-time staff member. A native of Pompano Beach, Fla., he graduated from Belmont College, Nashville.

Peasall is married to the former Sally Brasher. They have a year-old daughter, Sarah.

Mountain View Church, Johnson City, called Ben Proffitt as bivocational minister of discipleship and outreach.

A graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, Proffitt formerly served as minister of education/youth at Eastern Heights Church, Statesboro, Ga. He and his family recently moved from Aiken, S.C.

Ann Sears is the new director of childhood ministries at First Church, Clarksville, where Dennis Newkirk is pastor.

Paul Phan has accepted the call to the pastorate of the Vietnamese mission of Berclair Church, Memphis.

New Hope Church, Palmersville, called G. W. Moon as pastor.

Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, called Eddie Jent, a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, as minister of education.

Bob Wood recently accepted the call of Salem Church, Parsons, as pastor.

Westwood Church, Cleveland, celebrated the 30th and 20th anniversaries, respectively, of organist Mary Williams and pianist/music assistant Jack Clark.

Bob Bell is pastor of the church.

Myung Hee Lee is the new pastor of the Korean mission at Briarcrest Church, Memphis.

The Korean mission of New Providence Church, Clarksville, called Young Bae Ahn.

Churches . . .

Woodmont Church, Nashville, announces that construction began Jan. 30 on a preschool addition to the church plant. Completion is expected in late summer.

The addition will encompass 24,500 square feet of new area in three floors. The first two floors will provide space for the church's growing preschool church education ministry. The third will house adult Sunday School classrooms.

Betsy Parham is Woodmont's preschool minister. Bill Sherman is pastor.

McDavid Grove Church, Springville, is celebrating its 75th year as a Southern Baptist church.

Ordinations . . .

Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville, recently ordained John Gaters as a deacon. Eddie Mallonee is the pastor.

Kenny Carr was recently ordained to the ministry by Fairview Church, Paris. Carr is the new pastor of New Hope Church, Paris.

TBC giving update

In the Feb. 15 issue of the Baptist and Reflector, the amount reported for the 1987-88 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$4,376,706.24. The correct amount is \$3,376,706.24.

Lottie Moon giving from Nov. 1, 1988 to Jan. 31, 1989 is \$3,907,985.58 as reported originally.



MAKING MUSIC — Laverne Farmer acquaints herself with the new organ at Bethel Church, Townsend. The organ was a memorial gift from Ruth and Jack Pickell of Birmingham.

New Salem chooses Farmer as DOM

Emery O. Farmer will begin duties March 1 as director of missions for the New Salem Association, headquartered in Carthage.

For the past five years Farmer has been pastor of Fwellyn Church in Springfield.

The Montgomery County native also has held pastorates at Cross Creek Church, Indian Mound; First Church, Cornersville; New Middletown Church, Gordonsville; First Church, Red Boiling Springs; and Oak Grove Church, McEwen.

Farmer has served on several state convention committees including the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Boards.

Farmer and his wife, Margaret, have two daughters, Martha and Elizabeth.



FARMER



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The conversion of Paul

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

All conversions are miraculous. All conversion experiences, even if only to the one converted, are dramatic. Yet there is one conversion that has affected the whole world as no other.

On a dusty road to Damascus, Saul of Tarsus met Jesus. Miraculously and dramatically, Saul was converted from a persecutor of Jesus (9:4) to a professor of Jesus (9:29).



WILLIAMS

Although the term repentance is not found in any of the three Biblical accounts of Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18), his experience is an excellent example of the "radical change of mind," that Jesus Himself said we must all experience (Luke 13:3).

What an example to keep in mind as we witness to those who appear to be beyond hope! Hardened by years of rejection, it is only by the power of God that they can be saved. Paul was brought to his knees that he might meet Jesus. He had gone to great lengths to arrest and persecute members of the church. He was on his

way to Damascus to further destroy the church when he met Jesus and became a disciple.

Paul's meeting (9:3-9)

Whether in a burning bush or a mighty rushing wind, God reveals His presence in our lives as He so chooses. He will get our attention.

Paul met Jesus in a heavenly, blinding light (v. 3). By that light, whose brightness was "above the brightness of the sun" (26:13), Paul was struck down (v. 4). There on the dusty ground Paul was asked from heaven, "Why persecutest thou Me?"

The church is the body of Jesus. Our Lord was saying to Paul, "You're persecuting Me!" To persecute one of His own is to persecute Him.

Paul knew he was in the presence of Deity when he cried out, "Who are thou, Lord?" (v. 5). The reply that he received further confirmed what he already knew, that he had witnessed the power and presence of Jesus.

The last of verse five depicts a man struggling with God. It is almost as if God had been dealing with Paul since his experience at the death of Stephen.

Paul's next question of Jesus was one that all of us need to ask: "Lord, what will You have me to do?" According to Curtis Vaughn in Acts-

Bible Study Commentary, "what he was to 'do' had reference not to forgiveness but to future service." Paul's immediate service was to learn how to trust.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

February 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 9:1-31
Focal Passages: Acts 9:3-8, 15-18, 27-29

Ananias' ministry (9:10-18)

Whenever there is a need, God has someone prepared to meet that need. God put Paul on his knees in prayer (v. 11) and gave him a vision of his needs being met by Ananias (v. 16). Think of the faith it took for this obedient servant, Ananias, to leave his house and go willingly to minister to one who had caused havoc for the church (vv. 13, 14).

Ananias' hesitation was put to rest when he heard of the Lord's plans for Paul. Paul was chosen to bear the Gospel to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the children of Israel (v. 15). Ananias' ministry toward Paul was two-fold: a spiritual ministry ("be filled with the Holy Spirit" v. 17) and a physical ministry ("when he had received meat . . ." v. 19).

A beautiful picture of God's power and grace is painted in two words. Notice how Ananias addressed this one

who had been a bitter enemy of the cross. "Brother Saul, the Lord even Jesus . . . hath sent me" (v. 17). Ananias was able to call Saul "brother" because of Jesus. They were bound together in Him.

Paul's mission (9:19-31)

After drawing physical and spiritual strength from the disciples at Damascus, Paul wasted no time in beginning to preach Jesus. "And straightway" (v. 20) leads us to understand that as soon as he was able, Paul was up and about the mission he had been given.

His message was simple: Jesus is "the Son of God" (v. 20). Despite its simplicity, it was used by God in a mighty way. That Paul, who had spoken so loudly in derision of the church would now speak just as loudly in defense of the church and in behalf of the Son of God astounded even believers.

Opposition to Paul's mission and message was raised first in Damascus (v. 23). Even the disciples at Jerusalem doubted Paul and feared him. It took Barnabas' speaking in his behalf to encourage the church to accept the truth of Paul's genuine conversion (v. 26-28).

Verse 31 is a summary of what took place in the church. Peace and growth and holiness abounded as the church multiplied.

Becoming a believer

By Joe Wiles, pastor; Silverpoint Church, Silverpoint

"Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee little man was he" begins a song I recall from Sunday School. As a youngster, I thought it was exciting for Jesus to discover Zacchaeus in a tree.

It was even more exciting that Jesus invited him to come down and eat with Him.

Children especially relate to Zacchaeus because they are so short, seeing life at belt buckle level. Like children, Zacchaeus had to have help to see over the crowd. And like all of us, Zacchaeus had to have help to see Jesus.



WILES

Passing through (Luke 19:1) Jesus was only passing through the city of Jericho on His way to Jerusalem. Yet He had the time to stop and take care of the necessary business of the day. His stop cost Him at least a day of travel, but the results outweighed the wait.

Curious and concerned (Luke 19:2-4) Zacchaeus was a hated person. He collected taxes for the Romans and made extra money on the side by extortion and crooked dealings. Rich and unhappy, he wanted to find out what he could do about the emptiness in his

life. Just as the rich young ruler had done, he too sought Jesus. He was concerned about his life and curious to see if Jesus could handle his problems.

Some think he climbed the tree to escape the crowd. I believe he did it primarily to get above the crowd. Most of the crowd would block his view but would not have touched him. He was a very dangerous man who could get even quickly. But his wealth and position did not give him happiness even though it gave him power.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

February 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: Luke 19:1-10
Focal Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Convinced and convicted (Luke 19:5-7)

Jesus came by. The scene changed. Jesus stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus and told this chief of tax collectors to come down from his perch in the tree. Jesus convinced him that He had something to offer.

Zacchaeus came down gladly. He must have been convicted of his past life. Jealousy struck the crowd as Jesus told Zacchaeus that He would be

his guest that day. Jesus was going to be the guest of a "sinner."

Zacchaeus knew he was truly a sinner, not just one on the outside of good Jewish society. The Jews felt that money meant God's favor if it was made in a manner they considered proper. They thought money meant happiness; Zacchaeus knew it did not.

Converted and congratulated (Luke 19:8-10)

The proof of what we say is normally seen in our actions. Notice the immediate response of Zacchaeus. He gave half of his money to the poor. And that was not all.

Zacchaeus promised to pay back any ill-gotten gains. The Jewish law required one to repay the amount illegally taken, plus one fifth. Zacchaeus promised to pay back four times the amount. Even a wealthy person would be far poorer abiding by those terms. Yet Zacchaeus did exactly that. Salvation surely came to him that day.

Jesus congratulated Zacchaeus for his decision. It had cost him, but he gained a rich new life. He went home rejoicing.

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Using spiritual gifts

By Phil Jett, pastor; Englewood Church, Jackson

For the balance of this quarter's studies, as we close out our look at 1 Corinthians, we follow the way of love as the means of unity within the fellowship of the church. In chapters 12-14, the way of love is seen through the proper use of gifts. Major concern seems to be on how the ministry of the Holy Spirit through gifts brings unity to the whole body of the church. In the Corinthian church, many members were grieving the Holy Spirit by the ways in which they were using spiritual gifts.



JETT

Dealing with the focal passages, we find Paul showing unity through the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11). This passage should be encouraging to every individual Christian and a real source of strength for the

church. The encouragement comes first because it is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we can see and say that Jesus is Lord (v. 3). We sing Jesus is Lord of all, but unless we let the Holy Spirit lead us, we will not live as if Jesus is Lord.

For me, what Paul is saying is that we never have to question circumstances and wonder why certain events take place. We can just say "Jesus is Lord," and then begin to turn any problem into an opportunity to declare this truth. We, however, cannot do that without the working of the Holy Spirit within our lives.

The second reason this passage is so encouraging is that we can know for certain that each of us has been blessed with the manifestation of the Spirit (v. 7). It is interesting in these verses (4-6) that the Trinity is expressed as declaring the same Spirit, the same Lord, the same God.

I would wonder if Paul was trying to point out to the Corinthian Christians

that even though it may appear that the Holy Spirit works in one way and the Lord Jesus works in another and God the Father works in another, that is not true. They are one, even though there is a diversity of functions.

to the fact that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to help us minister to the whole body. In this particular passage, these nine gifts vary in their use. There are gifts of instruction, power, and speech.

The first gift is that of wisdom, meaning the gift of the mind to understand God's revelation. The second gift is knowledge, the ability to take the wisdom one has and use it practically in the experiences encountered in the real world.

Thirdly, faith means the capacity to do great things for God. This is not saving faith; this is the faith that moves mountains. Fourth is the gift of healing, utilizing the power of Jesus Christ to truly bring healing within the framework of physical as well as emotional needs.

The fifth is the gift of miracles. These are gifts of power, enabling one to do things through the power of the Holy Spirit that are beyond human capabilities. The sixth is the gift of prophecy, proclaiming the Word of God in a way that calls for change.

Then there is the gift of discernment. This seventh gift refers to the ability to distinguish between the true and the false prophet. It is the gift of sensitivity and maturity in spiritual things.

The last two gifts that Paul mentions are the most controversial: the various kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. These are highly emotional gifts, and it appears that these Corinthian Christians valued these the most.

The Holy Spirit bestows these gifts "as He will" (v. 11). We should neither boast nor complain about our gift(s); rather, we should glorify Jesus in and through them and encourage the saints within the church.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
February 26 Lesson
 Basic Passages: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-31
 Focal Passages: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-31a

In the same way, Paul is trying to point out to these young Christians the necessity of being aware that each has received the manifestation of the Spirit (v. 7). But the use of that Spirit is expressed in the diversity of gifts we have received and the way those gifts are to be used in each and every individual life, not to bring discord in the fellowship, but to bring completeness.

Paul now proceeds to mention nine different gifts of the Spirit. Other passages of Scripture (Ephesians 4; Romans 12) also mention gifts of the Spirit. One has suggested there are 19 different gifts or offices mentioned in these passages.

I do not think Paul was attempting to exhaust the list, but rather to point

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Compiled from Baptist Press, news service
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Experts make suggestions about child-care program

WASHINGTON — Child-care experts have advised members of Congress as the lawmakers begin the process of considering a growing number of proposals to establish a national child-care program. During a House Education and Labor Committee hearing, scholars and practitioners in the child-care field offered their opinions about the shape such a program should take.

Several witnesses advocated the establishment of a single federal funding mechanism and administrative structure for all early childhood programs. W. Norton Grubb, a professor in the School of Education at the University of California at Berkeley, said divisions in federal funding and administration would perpetuate unhealthy divisions between "developmental" programs and "custodial" programs for preschoolers; allow Congress, rather than states and localities, to decide which early childhood programs are to be funded; and create serious problems with coordinating early childhood policy at federal, state, and local levels.

Edward F. Zigler, director of Yale University's Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy, agreed that child-care services should operate under "one umbrella instead of piecemeal." He proposed using public schools to help solve the child-care problem. Zigler's proposal, which already has been implemented in Missouri and Connecticut, would provide all-day child care for children ages three to five; before-school, after-school, and vacation care for pre-school and school-age children; and half-day care for children who spend the other half day in kindergarten.

The program also would provide outreach services, including a home visitation program for families with children under three; an information and referral program dealing with specific child-care needs; and support and assistance for family day-care providers in the vicinity of each school. He said the program's criteria ensure delivery of quality child care; availability of services to all children, regardless of family income; operation by individuals with knowledge and training in child development; and an emphasis on parental involvement.

But Grubb rejected the concept of Congress' giving public schools a monopoly over child-care programs by earmarking federal funds for the schools' exclusive use.

Church serves hot food to shivering South Texans

HARLINGEN, Texas — When the Siberian Express roared into south Texas, dropping temperatures from the 80s to the 20s and covering the area with ice, members of the Texas Baptist Men organization served hot meals to the home-

less and to others unprepared for the atypical weather.

Volunteers from First Church of Harlingen began preparing and serving meals for the needy Feb. 7 at a shelter provided by the local Salvation Army. Food was provided by the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank.

"The first night, we served 35 on site and took meals to at least that many who couldn't get out in the cold," said Tommy Dulin of Harlingen, regional disaster relief coordinator for Texas Baptist Men. "Most of the people who have come to the shelter either were homeless or their homes are without heat."

Musicians find challenge in small-church ministry

NASHVILLE — Leading a music ministry in a small church can be both rewarding and frustrating, according to participants in a seminar at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. About 60 people attended the first "Music Leaders in the Small Church" seminar sponsored by the board's church music department.

Bobbie Norris, an elementary schoolteacher and volunteer music director at First Church of Wink, Texas, said the members appreciate the expanding music ministry for its contribution to worship but have been surprised at the cost of sheet music for the choir. Before Norris accepted her volunteer role, the annual music budget had been about \$50. A jump to \$1200 was something of a shock to the members, she said. In the choir, lack of men is a problem, a situation she said is common in smaller churches.

Judy and Kevin Boles made last-minute arrangements to drive from Lynn, Ala., to the Sunday School Board offices in Nashville after he discovered the seminar announcement in *Upbeat*, a church music department newsletter, only one week before the event. Boles works full time as minister of music and youth at Lynn Church, but for now is paid a part-time salary. Mrs. Boles is a volunteer children's choir director.

"Some smaller churches seem to view music as a form of entertainment rather than an integrated part of the worship service," he said. Mrs. Boles said she believes adults who do not sing at church set an example that their children follow. "The men don't sing, and therefore the boys don't sing," she reflected. "I wish we could overcome that."

Southern Seminary names evangelism professor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — David F. D'Amico, executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, has been elected Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

D'Amico, 54, was approved unanimously Feb. 7 by the seminary's trustee executive committee. He will head the evangelism department at the school and direct the seminary's Billy Graham Center for World Evangelism. He will begin teaching this fall.

D'Amico succeeds Lewis A. Drummond who was elected in March 1988 as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He taught church history at Southwestern from 1968 to 1975.

During January meeting**Annuity Board trustees dedicate building**

DALLAS (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board dedicated a new headquarters facility and heard reports of increases in Southern Baptist retirement funds and losses in medical insurance plans during their Jan. 30-31 meeting in Dallas.

A gathering in the new leased headquarters building included tours of the seven-floor structure and a dedication dinner in its conference center. The building is owned by Equitable Real Estate.

The Annuity Board has a 20-year lease on most of the new office space. Rent will be paid from Annuity Board earnings on invested assets. No South-

Southern Seminary rep to serve Tennessee Baptists

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A staff appointment at Southern Baptist theological Seminary is designed to provide helpful information to Tennessee Baptists who have an interest in attending seminary.

Robin S. Barnes, recently named associate director of prospective student services at Southern Seminary, will coordinate services for persons in Tennessee and four other states.

Barnes will make periodic visits to Tennessee and will also arrange visits to the Louisville, Ky., campus for Tennessee Baptists who are considering seminary. As a service to prospective students, the seminary will provide two nights lodging and meals during a campus visit.

Tennessee Baptists wanting information about the seminary can contact Barnes toll free at (800) 626-5525.

ern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funds are used directly in Annuity Board operations.

During his formal report to the trustees, board President Darold H. Morgan noted growth in assets and earnings of retirement funds and losses in the medical insurance funds.

Growth in retirement funds was attributed to the successful launch of expanded features in the Church Annuity Plan, which became effective Jan. 1, 1988.

"The Church Annuity Plan has been well received throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, and I believe it may be the single-most important development in our history in the area of church retirement plans," Morgan told trustees.

By Dec. 31, 1988, 34,057 members and 20,310 churches were participating in the plan, Morgan said. Contributions to the plan totaled \$74.5 million, almost \$26.2 million more than was contributed in 1987. Total retirement and relief contributions reached \$155.5 million at year end, an increase of 17.6 percent over 1987.

Harold D. Richardson, executive vice president and treasurer, reported total assets by year end reached \$2.38 billion, an increase of almost \$270 million, the largest gain ever in a 12-month period.

The board distributed almost \$71.35 million in retirement and relief benefits in 1988, nearly 28 percent more than in 1987. Most of the money was paid to 18,873 annuitants. More than \$640,000 was distributed to needy annuitants and widows through relief

programs funded by the Cooperative Program.

The most difficult challenge in 1988 was the cost explosion in the medical insurance plans, a problem which is universal in this field, Morgan said. Despite rate increases in 1988, the imbalance between premiums and claims has eroded reserves, he told the trustees.

Nevertheless, the board paid \$83.7 million in health insurance benefits during the year. Plan participants paid \$69.8 million in premiums. In two years, the board has expended \$23 million from reserves to cover the excess claims. Trustees were told reserves in the Church Comprehensive

Medical Plan have sunk to almost \$5 million.

A rate increase effective Jan. 1, 1989, raised medical insurance premiums an average 30 percent in the Church and Group Comprehensive Medical plans. A rate increase was effective Sept. 1, 1988, in two medical plans for seminarians. Benefits were altered in all medical plans to minimize the rate increase and to slow the rising cost of providing health care to plan participants, he said.

"Back-to-back increases have triggered strong protests and reinforced our staff's diligence to monitor the situation and plan for the future," Morgan noted in his report.

Morgan urges caution in search

DALLAS — In accord with Annuity Board retirement policy, Darold H. Morgan announced to trustees that he will step down as president March 1, 1990. Morgan urged the board to let the Lord guide in selecting a new executive for the Southern Baptist pension board.

"Our policy is to retire the first month after the next annual business meeting (after turning 65) with the exact date for me being March 1, 1990," Morgan said in a prepared statement. He will turn 65 on Aug. 5.

He noted that while a motion had been introduced asking him to delay his retirement for two years, "I have concluded that my normal retirement is best for me with the assurance to you I will stay beyond this time only if more time is needed for recruitment and

training of the man to take my place."

Morgan praised trustees for rising above denominational controversy and working in "... harmony, understanding, friendly debate and, in most cases, rare and appreciated unanimity."

He suggested that the trustees be cautious in their selection of a new president, "because the entire denomination has a vested interest in what the Annuity Board does ... One wrong step, one confrontational board meeting, one publicized liability suit emerging out of what some may construe to be poor fiduciary responsibility, and I predict you will see an instant exodus of major agency accounts which would be devastating, ruinous, an irretrievable loss and an immediate stoppage of significant amounts of money from the churches."