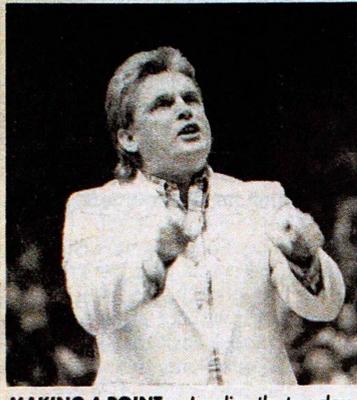


Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION



MAKING A POINT — Leading the two day Youth Evangelism Conference at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gymnasium were Rick Ousley, left, and Jerry Johnston, center.



DECISION-MAKING — Young people, right, pray and thousands later stood to signify the spiritual decisions they made.



Photos by Lonnie Wilkey and Connie Davis

About 32,000 gather

Youth experience impact of evangelism conference

By Lonnie Wilkey and Connie Davis
NASHVILLE — Thrilling moments have become commonplace this year at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gymnasium.
But not even last second, game-winning jump shots by the school's basketball team could match the thrill experienced on the Commodore's home court March 3-4 as about 32,000 Tennessee Baptist youth and their leaders

showed their excitement and love for Jesus Christ.
Led by dynamic speakers Rick Ousley and Jerry Johnston and the stirring music of First Impression and the Tennessee All-State Youth Choir, the two-day Youth Evangelism Conference made a strong impact.

As is the custom, two identical programs were held to accommodate the

crowd for what is believed to be the largest gathering of Southern Baptist youth in the United States.
In addition, personal witnessing conferences were held in various locations throughout the city and surrounding areas.

First Impression, a quartet from Rome, Ga., helped set the tone for the meeting with several upbeat, contemporary Christian songs in the first session.
Jerry King, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department, reminded the youth there is "a time all of us come to a place in our lives where we quit playing church and get serious about our relationship with Christ."

Noting the theme of the conference was "The Tennessee Connection," King told the teenagers they "may

very well be the only connection to someone else with the Gospel story."
Opening session speaker Rick Ousley, associate pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, challenged the young people to be "can do" Christians.

Using athletic analogies, Ousley, a former high school football player, told the youth if "you are following anyone other than Jesus Christ, you are following a loser."
Relating the results of a "what if" basketball game between Jesus and the devil, Ousley noted Jesus "rolled the devil into a ball and slammed that sucker through."

Jesus won the war, but the ball is now in your court, Ousley told the youth, urging them to become "can do" Christians.

(See page 5)

Lottie Moon breaking mark

February solid CP month

Tennessee Baptists have given \$8,201,799.83 to the Cooperative Program budget thus far this year, according to Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary-treasurer.

"We are pleased with the gifts of Tennessee Baptists," Madden said, after studying the CP budget report at the end of February. "We are a fourth of the way into the fiscal year, and we are 9.81 percent ahead what was given at the same time last year."

The gain over last year stands at \$732,827.22 at the end of February, but the CP budget goal is 2.6 percent short. "That means that we are \$225,200.17 under our 1988-89 budget," Madden said, "though we are well above what we gave last year."

More good news came with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Madden pointed out that Tennessee Baptists have already given more than last year's total — even though the offering will be received several more weeks.

"Through February we have received \$5,006,608.51 in the Foreign Missions Offering," Madden said, "and that is \$760,511.25 more than we had received through February last year."

The total offering for 1987-88 amounted to \$4,978,710.52, he said, "and we have already surpassed that."

For the month of February, the CP budget offerings totaled \$2,013,011.97, an increase of more than \$28,000 over last February.

The current CP budget of \$25,281,000 was approved by messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Jackson last November. One-twelfth of that goal is \$2,106,750 — one month's giving.

"We continue to be very thankful for the faithful giving of Tennessee Baptists. We are encouraged by the Cooperative Program gifts, and by the amazing way Tennessee Baptists also support the mission offerings," Madden said.

Venezuela services curtailed

By Art Toalston

CARACAS, Venezuela (BP) — Evening worship services were among the casualties of an outbreak of violence in Caracas and other parts of Venezuela.

Southern Baptist missionary Patsy Davis, leader of the Venezuelan Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, said a 6 p.m. curfew imposed by the government Feb. 28 forced churches to cancel their Wednesday evening services March 1.

With the government banning meetings of four or more people, Sunday services and home Bible studies also may be affected, Davis said March 1 in a telephone interview from Caracas.

Protests of big pay boosts for government officials and increases in public transportation fares became the springboard for violence, Southern Baptist missionary Don Hart said Feb. 28.

Hart said the Caracas neighborhood where he works was "very calm, yet we hear gunshots. Not too far from here, something is going on."

Hart, treasurer and business manager for Southern Baptist missionaries in Venezuela, added. "As far as we know, no (Southern Baptist worker) is in danger." There were 55 Southern Baptist missionaries in the country when protests began Feb. 27, including 15 in Caracas. Also, a team of 12 volunteers from the Knox County Association of Baptists, in Knoxville, was doing construction work at a Baptist camp near Valencia, about 80 miles west of Caracas.

(See page 5)

An Inside Look

- Editorials**
- on Philippines partnership and discipleship Page 2
- Court ruling**
- Tennessee Supreme Court rules bingo unconstitutional . Page 3
- CLC acts**
- Commission files friend-of-the-court brief Page 5
- Mission leader**
- LaGuardo Church believes in beginning new churches .. Page 8

Editorials

The quest for a strong church — strengthened by discipleship

Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board, in their recent meeting, approved a name change for Church Training. While this name itself is not very old, the new one will serve Southern Baptists better.

It was in 1970 at the annual meeting in Denver that another name change was proposed. Southern Baptists had been bombarded with information that Training Union's name was outdated, and a good choice would be the name "Quest."

Despite the action and adventure inculcated in "Quest," Southern Baptists turned it down overwhelmingly. That was also the year when messengers tossed out the first volume of the New Broadman Bible Commentary — and voted to have it revised.

Eventually Training Union was replaced by a more appropriate title — Church Training, which has survived until the February meeting of the Sunday School Board trustees.

We applaud Roy Edgemon and his staff for the new title — Discipleship. The very word harkens us back to New Testament days, while offering a bright and meaningful name for what Church Training is about. We hope name is approved by Southern Baptists in June.

Discipleship — means servanthood and study. It means walking in the footsteps of Jesus. It is a way of life, the best way. Discipleship means Baptist heritage and doctrine.

We can even use the word "quest" as we talk about discipleship. For, after all, discipleship is a lifelong quest to serve the Living Lord. To make our life a quest for sharing Christ is also an ultimate goal for every Christian.

We have maintained for many years that a lack of serious discipleship has severely wounded Baptist attempts to evangelize the

world. It has harmed our fellowship. We have been hindered in our mission and ministry because we are not steadfast disciples.

A word closely related to disciple and discipleship is discipline. We Southern Baptists seem to lack the Christian discipline that is necessary to influence those about us. Too often we succumb to the ways of the world and the wiles of the devil — because we are not disciplined students of the Bible and the Way.

We urge every Baptist church in Tennessee to seize this fresh opportunity to make Discipleship Training an integral part of the Body of Christ where you are. It will strengthen the Sunday School, outreach, missions, witnessing, the pulpit, and the eventual success of God's own church. We have wandered long enough without proper knowledge of our Baptist heritage — and we can pin current SBC problems to our lack of discipleship. We must do better. — WFA

Mabuhay is a lively word for partnership

The Tennessee/Philippines Partnership Mission begins officially in a few weeks — April 1, to be exact.

Tennessee Baptists have had information enough to be excited about prospects of being partners with Baptists of the Philippines for three years.

While specific projects have not been selected for the entire period of partnership, planning is going on between the two conventions with coordinating assistance from Foreign Mission Board personnel.

We trust that Baptists from our Volunteer State and the Philippines have been praying

earnestly for direction and cooperative attitudes.

The advance team that traveled to the Philippines last fall learned quickly that Philippine Baptists — and Southern Baptist missionaries working there — are deeply involved in evangelism and missions, and they daily live out ministries embodied by Christ.

Volunteers in Tennessee are getting serious about the partnership, and calls come almost every day to Clarence Stewart and Dorise Haynes in the Partnership Missions office.

A team of student volunteers have been

"signed up" already for some work in the Philippines this summer. Other projects will be announced in a short while.

Meantime, consider the opportunity for Christ to be lifted up as we minister. Filipino people have a word that means "live" — as a command, or "come alive," "be alive." We can tack that word onto our partnership and it is even more lively.

Call it the Mabuhay Partnership, the living, cooperative ministry that spans a continent, the largest ocean in the world, and encompasses two strong nations. Live! Rejoice in the Lord as we minister together. — WFA

Court rules against religious publications in tax case

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Texas statute that exempted only religious books and periodicals from state sales tax violated the Constitution's establishment clause, according to a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The high court reversed a Texas appeals court decision that upheld the law as constitutional.

The statute, which was in effect from October 1984 through October 1987, exempted from sales and use taxes "periodicals that are published or distributed by a religious faith and that consist wholly of writings promulgating the teachings of the faith and books

that consist wholly of writings sacred to a religious faith."

In 1985, the publisher of Texas Monthly, a magazine that did not qualify for the exemption, paid its sales taxes under protest and sued to recover those payments in state court.

A Texas district court found the exemption unconstitutional and ordered the state to refund the amount of tax Texas Monthly had paid, plus interest. But a state appeals court reversed the decision.

In writing for himself and Justices Thurgood Marshall and John Paul Stevens, Justice William J. Brennan Jr. held that the exemption's narrow-

ness violated the establishment clause.

Although every tax exemption constitutes a subsidy affecting non-qualifying taxpayers, Brennan wrote, if that subsidy is given to a wide range of groups — including non-sectarian as well as religious organizations — and has a legitimate secular purpose, it is not unconstitutional. But, he continued, that was not the case with the Texas statute.

"It is difficult to view Texas' narrow exemption as anything but state sponsorship of religious belief," Brennan said.

The state presented no evidence that the payment of a sales tax by subscribers to religious periodicals or purchasers of religious books would offend their religious beliefs or inhibit religious activity, Brennan wrote. Even if members of a religious group succeeded in demonstrating that payment of a sales tax would violate their religious tenets, he added, "it is by no means obvious that the state would be required by the free exercise clause to make individualized exceptions for them."

Justices Harry A. Blackmun, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Byron White also concurred in the judgment.

In a dissent — joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Anthony Kennedy — Justice Antonin Scalia said he found no basis for disapproving the longstanding and widespread practice of tax exemptions, which he said permeate state and federal codes.

"It is not always easy to determine when accommodation slides over into favoritism, but the withholding of a tax upon the dissemination of religious materials is not even a close case," Scalia wrote. "The subjects of the exemption before us consist exclusively of 'writings promulgating the teaching of the faith' and 'writings sacred to a religious faith.'

"If there is any close question it is not whether the exemption is permitted, but whether it is constitutionally compelled in order to avoid interference with the dissemination of religious ideas."

Doctrines sessions held at Linden

"The Doctrines Baptist Believe" is the topic of the Baptist Doctrine Conferences at Camp Linden, Linden, on March 20-21, and at Camp Carson, Newport, on March 25.

Conferences for adult, youth, and children's leaders will be held, but all participants will hear Bill Stephens of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, who will also lead the adult training.

The Camp Linden meeting begins with a dinner at 6 p.m. and ends with lunch the next day. At Camp Carson training starts at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m.

To register, contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Training Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

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At SBC in Las Vegas

Evangelists to hear Falwell, Hill, Blessitt

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Participants in the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will fan out across the streets of Las Vegas, June 14, after hearing speakers such as Jerry Falwell, E. V. Hill, and Arthur Blessitt.

The conference will meet from 1:15 to 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Las Vegas Convention Center. COSBE is one of

the meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 13-15 in the convention center.

Jay Strack, an evangelist from Dallas, and president of the conference, said the meeting will adjourn early enough so that participants can "go out and distribute about 10,000 New Testaments and 10,000 gospel tracts on the streets of Las Vegas."

Jackson, Pressler have confrontation at Executive Committee meeting

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — Emotions boiled over during the February meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee as two men on different sides of convention politics confronted each other after a subcommittee meeting.

Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., shouted a question at Paul Pressler, an appeals court judge from Houston, after the business and finance subcommittee had approved a recommendation calling for creation of a Religious Liberty Commission.

Jackson, who lost the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1988 by 692 votes, attempted to ask a question of Pressler, one of the architects of the conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, after the subcommittee vote but was ruled out of order by Chairman David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Lake Charles, La.

Jackson left the meeting room and stood in the foyer of the SBC Building in Nashville. As Pressler left, Jackson shouted, "Hey, Judge, are you going to answer my question?"

Pressler walked over and the two quickly were surrounded by 40 to 50

people. For about 20 minutes, the two men exchanged opinions, often speaking at the same time and frequently talking loudly.

Part of the confrontation regarded the creation of the Religious Liberty Commission, which would represent Southern Baptists in Washington.

Pressler has supported creation of the new agency, while Jackson opposes it.

The conversation, however, ranged over differences of opinion dating back at least 10 years and Pressler's role in the conservative movement in the 14.8-million-member denomination.

After Pressler left the foyer, Jackson told reporters and others still present: "I have no axe to grind, no personal vendetta. It may sound like I have a personal vendetta against the Judge, and the Judge wants to make a personal thing out of it. But it is not a personal thing; it is an ideological thing."

At one point, Pressler told Jackson, "I have offered several times as an individual brother in Jesus Christ to come and sit down with you in Phoenix so you can get to know my heart."

As Jackson attempted to interject a comment, Pressler continued, "If we did more talking, if we did more dialoguing, if we did more understanding, we would solve some problems in the Southern Baptist Convention. . . ."

Jackson responded, "I don't particularly want us to sit down, because we don't understand each other."

The pastor contended, "Before I can be heard among Southern Baptists, I have to sit down with you." Pressler replied, "That is utterly ridiculous."

As the conversation continued, Pressler told Jackson his comments were "an attack and a slur on my character. You have no right to be so judgmental of me. You owe me an apology."

"I don't owe you an apology," Jackson replied, and repeated four times, "You don't have one."

At another point, Pressler said, "Richard, you have such a way of being unfair."

"No, I'm not unfair," Jackson said. "Somebody has finally needed to stand face to face with you and say these things."

"You have never taken one step toward unity except when you can get what you want."

Pressler recounted he has "taken a step toward unity in trying to meet with you, but you have rejected it always."

Jackson said, "I am talking about actions, Judge," and later said, "I want to see you take one step toward it in one of these committee meetings."

The confrontation ended when Pressler told Jackson: "I love you my brother. I am going to pray for you." Jackson replied, "Thank you."

"With evangelism down and baptisms down (in the SBC), it behooves us to be at the vanguard of anything that has to do with winning people to Christ. We encourage pastors, wives, messengers and anyone else to leave the convention hall with us that Wednesday afternoon and hand them (the testaments and tracts) out," he added.

COSBE officers "have had a hard time planning our conference," Strack said. "There was a time when the evangelists' conference was one of the highlights. But for the last ten or 12 years, many of the speakers who have spoken at our conference were speakers in the Pastors' Conference, too."

"We wanted a program that would feature some men not on any other program. We wanted to bring in some people who would generate some curiosity."

"Our desire was to have men the evangelists and preachers would want to hear. Many times in the past, we have used non-Southern Baptists to challenge us, men such as Charles Swindoll and D. James Kennedy. We now seem to be in a place as a convention that we are willing to hear some other voices challenging us to do what we ought to do."

Falwell, an independent Baptist pastor and television evangelist, will speak on church planting, Strack said. "Most of the men who pastor what

we call mega churches sometimes have not had an emphasis on church planting. But Dr. Falwell has had a tremendous emphasis on planting churches. It has been a recurring theme (for Falwell) for about a year and a half," Strack said.

COSBE officers "feared there would be more emphasis on Dr. Falwell than on evangelism. We wanted to generate some curiosity and to hear a new, fresh voice," he said.

The Dallas evangelist said he had "heard the rumors Falwell was going to become a Southern Baptist," but said that was not the reason the Lynchburg, Va., pastor was invited. "We have no hidden agenda. Virtually all of our organization loves Dr. Falwell. We feel a lot of folks want to hear him and that he is going to bring a very positive message," Strack said.

In addition to Falwell, another speaker is Hill, pastor of Mount Zion Church in Los Angeles, a black Baptist. Hill, who has spoken at many Southern Baptist gatherings, will be "preaching and motivating us to get back to the main thing . . . unashamedly proclaiming the gospel of Christ," Strack said.

The final speaker will be Blessitt, an evangelist from Hollywood, Calif., who has dragged a cross across much of the nation and world. "We have asked Arthur to bring his cross, and when he has spoken, to lead us out to witness to Las Vegas," Strack said.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
reference to Murphy's Law. You know Murphy's Law — when everything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

I didn't find Betty at home, so I went back to the church. A couple of friends were helping her start the car. There was a battery problem — it was completely dead.

After we got both cars home, I thought about the lady at the gas station. She had had a good laugh at herself. She had not let Murphy's Law get her down. When the car had to be towed to the shop the next morning, I thought about the Law again. When everything that can go wrong . . .

Some folks say there is no such thing as luck. There probably isn't, if you think of luck as being good or bad. There certainly is no "Lady Luck" or chance.

What's the answer. It's alright to laugh about Murphy's Law. But I suspect we have as much control over that law as it has over us. Don't let the first defeat get you down — and the second one, the third, will hardly be noticed. Laugh at them!

Putting all our cares on Jesus is one way of doing it. He cares for us.

"Let not your heart be troubled . . ." He says. Don't, don't, under any circumstances let Murphy's Law or any other superstition get the best of you.

The abundant life in Christ is an overcoming life. He cares more for us than He does for the lilies or the sparrows. And the Bible says He loves them too, and knows when they wither or fall.

Indeed, cast all your cares upon Him.

Bingo ruled unconstitutional

The Tennessee Supreme Court ruled Feb. 27 that bingo is a lottery and is therefore banned under the Tennessee Constitution.

That ruling also may prohibit raffles. The state attorney general has not yet made that interpretation.

In 1971, legislation passed exempting bingo from the state's criminal gambling laws when operated for charity.

The court's unanimous ruling struck down the state's charity bingo laws. All bingo operations must close or operators will face criminal charges.

In February, the Tennessee Baptist Convention went on record opposing bingo, filing a friend of the court brief which stated bingo is a lottery because it contains the three elements that constitute a lottery — chance, prize, and consideration.

Frank Ingraham, a Nashville attorney and chairman of Tennesseeans Against Gambling, applauded the court's action.

"I'm delighted with the unanimity of the court in confirming what the man on the street has long understood — that bingo is a lottery."

"The quality of life in Tennessee has again been affirmed by this ruling," added Ingraham, a member of First Church, Franklin.



ALLEN

Last week Betty met me at church for supper and the prayer and praise program. She drove from our home — and I stopped by on the way from work.

We had good food and fellowship, and then we gathered with others for a Wednesday night "blitz" of visitation.

There certainly was no dearth of names of folks to visit — absentees, prospects who had visited the church, sick or shutin members. We picked up our list and headed for the phones to check whether some of our group would be at home.

We soon learned that there was not much opportunity for good visits that night. Murphy's Law seemed to compound the situation. Even the phones were "jinxed." We decided to pack up our cards and make the visits later in the week, after contacting those we planned to visit.

My car was operating on fumes, so I asked Betty to follow me to the gas station — to make sure I made it. I left, filled up with gas, and headed home. I hadn't seen her — but she could have passed while I gassed up.

The girl at the gas station office dropped a roll of coins on the floor while I was there — and she laughed, saying it was "one of those days." She looked up at me and smiled as she said, "And I see that you are about to laugh at me!"

I couldn't help it. Life's like that. She laughed too — and made another

Our Readers Write ... on home missions and last days ...

Home missions concern

I am deeply concerned that less than one percent of our Southern Baptist Home Mission Board budget of \$70 million plus is allotted for the purchasing of ground, and for constructing of church buildings in pioneer areas of our convention. I have been informed by Home Mission Board personnel that approximately \$60,000 is all that is allotted to the 37 state conventions.

I commend the Home Mission Board for its fine self-supporting loan department. But I also think of how many small, struggling, mission-churches meeting in store buildings, motels, and such, have gone under because they could not get any financial assistance, to start a small building or purchase a piece of ground. It is difficult in some parts of our country to get people to attend where they are not meeting in a church building.

Perhaps there are many fellow Southern Baptists unaware, like myself, that so little reaches these areas of need. This is why we give to the Cooperative

Program and through the Annie Armstrong Mission offering, that the money will be given to build churches where there is no Southern Baptist witness.

It seems that there is an imbalance of the budget with much going for salaries and administration overhead, and so little financial assistance to help small struggling churches.

My plea is that we allot more money to small church bodies so they may have a decent place to meet, and not be a disgrace to the Baptist cause. We give that it may be given.

John F. Bureson, pastor
Dixie Lee Church
Route 6
Lenoir City 37771

Troubled by action

It grieves me to think that we would consider bowing down to man's opinion about how we run our schools.

I am talking of the Southern Association of Accreditation looking into

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.

Southeastern Seminary's policy of hiring only Bible-believing professors.

Are we ready to compromise our convictions about the Word of God to look good in their eyes? What right do they have to tell us that we can't hire men who believe God's Word as the inerrant Word of God Himself?

Who wants to be accredited by man and not by God?
It sounds as if some politicking may be going on to stop the good change at Southeastern.

Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Accreditation, and they hire only Christian, Bible-believing, Southern Baptists. There is no investigation going on there.

Let us pray that our SBC will continue in this good and godly change and once again love God and His opinion of us!

R. David Worley
2629 Tricia #1
Memphis 38127

Last days, judgment

In the parable of the tares, Matthew 13, I believe Jesus is speaking of the time of judgment. In 2 Thessalonians 4 Paul is writing to the church about the Rapture.

These are two different events. At the Rapture the dead in Christ shall rise first, and all living believers shall be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. What a wonderful day! This is the time that Jesus is coming for His saints.

Jude 14 and Zechariah 14:5 tell us that Jesus is also coming with His saints. Read Revelation 19. When Jesus comes to the earth to set up His kingdom, He will separate the tares from the wheat. I believe it will be 1000 years later when Jesus resurrects the unbelievers who must face Him at the Great White Throne Judgment, Revelation 20.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, Paul is still writing about the Rapture. I believe he is saying that the wicked one, man of sin, anti-Christ, etc. will not be revealed until the Holy Spirit who indwells believers is taken out of the way, at the Rapture.

The Holy Spirit is restraining evil in this age of grace. I believe this restraining ministry will be over at the close of the church age. But the Holy Spirit will still be working in the world in His convicting power, since a multitude will be converted during the tribulation period, Revelation 7.

In 1 Samuel 16:14 we read that the spirit of the Lord departed from King Saul. David prayed that the Lord not take His Holy Spirit from him, Psalm 51:11. The Holy Spirit never leaves the true Christian in this age. But when the church age is over, I believe the Holy Spirit will be working once more with the nation Israel and perhaps in somewhat the same manner as before the age of grace.

Ophelia Colbert
658 Stonewall St.
McKenzie 38201

Support needed to combat gambling

Tennesseans Against Gambling are asking Baptists to join the effort to abolish gambling in Tennessee.

Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to call Governor Ned Ray McWherter (615) 741-2001, and write or call members of the state Senate and House committees to ask for their support of Senate Bill 524 and House Bill 102 which would abolish pari-mutuel gambling and the state racing commission.

Subcommittee members and their Nashville addresses and phone numbers (all phone numbers have a 615 area code) are listed as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Senate State and Local Committee | |
| Avon Williams Jr. — Nashville
6 LP
Nashville 37219
741-3294 | Carl Koella — Townsend
309 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-3748 |
| Steve Cohen — Memphis
8 LP
Nashville 37219
741-4108 | Joe McKnight — Jackson
8 LP
Nashville 37219
741-4709 |
| Ruth Montgomery — Kingsport
317 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-1385 | Robert Rochelle — Lebanon
4 LP
Nashville 37219
741-4109 |
| John Ford — Memphis
7 LP
Nashville 37219
741-3304 | Andy Womack — Murfreesboro
8 LP
Nashville 37219
741-1066 |
| House Senate and Local Committee | |
| Ted R. Miller — Knoxville
35 LP
Nashville 37219
741-3991 | Ulysses Jones Jr. — Memphis
209 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-4575 |
| Harold M. Love — Nashville
35 LP
Nashville 37219
741-3831 | Joe Kent — Memphis
219 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-6813 |
| Harold Holt — Dyersburg
35 LP
Nashville 37219
741-4579 | Matthew Kisber — Jackson
20 LP
Nashville 37219
741-4156 |
| Jerry Cross — Caryville
22 LP
Nashville 37219
741-6851 | Frank Niceley —
Strawberry Plains
212 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-0811 |
| Jimmy Kyle Davis —
Strawberry Plains
212 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-3859 | Pete Phillips — Shelbyville
20 LP
Nashville 37219
741-3772 |
| Pam Gaia — Memphis
110 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-3875 | Mary Pruitt — Nashville
17 LP
Nashville 37219
741-3853 |
| Alan Hubbard — Kingsport
214 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-0812 | Ben West — Donelson
34 LP
Nashville 37219
741-6959 |
| Larry Husky — Sevierville
106 WMB
Nashville 37219
741-1631 | |

State student conference set

"I Give All My Life To You" is the theme of the annual state Student Spring Conference which will draw some 500 students to Nashville April 7-9 at Forest Hills Church.

David Garland, Southern Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Lewis Myers, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Tom Hall, Habitat for Humanity, Americus, Ga.; and D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director-elect will lead the conference.

Four of the 14 seminars for students

are "Should I Be Concerned About AIDS?" by Larry Braidford of the Christian Life Commission, Nashville; "Christian Calling and Vocation" by Glenn Yarbrough, former TBC Student Ministries Director; "No More Shacks" by Tom Hall, Habitat for Humanity; and "Discovering the Will of God" by Fred Witty, Baptist Student Union director, Johnson City.

For more information, persons may contact the TBC Student Ministries Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.



OFFICERS ELECTED — Baptist and Reflector Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen recently was elected secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Press Association. Outgoing president Herb Hollinger, right, editor of the California Baptist, congratulates new president Jackson Walls, editor of the West Virginia Southern Baptist, J. B. Fowler, editor of the Baptist New Mexican, is president-elect.

Youth experience impact of evangelism . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"Jesus is the one way, the one truth, the one life," he said.

How can teenagers in Tennessee give glory to God? Ousley asked.

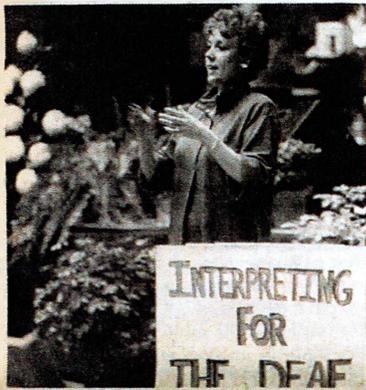
The first way is the music you listen to, he said, stressing he was not about to preach against their favorite rock band.

"You say you love Jesus, but some of you will leave here tonight and love and feast on the enemy's alma mater.

"My message is, 'Whose side are you really on?'"

Ousley reminded the youth God "has given them music by Christian artists with the beat you want."

The second way to become "can do conquerors for Christ" is to examine your morals and dating life, Ousley said.



SIGN LANGUAGE — Betty Stirms of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, interpreted for the deaf and hearing impaired at the conference.

Citing the more than one million abortions each year and the billions of dollars spent annually on medical costs for sexually-transmitted diseases, Ousley said the only hope for change in our country is when teenagers stand up and say, "Enough."

He urged the youth to strive for dates with "people you know love God." Ousley acknowledged that might eliminate many dates, but he reminded them, "When you go to high school and win someone for Christ, you are creating dating material."

The Arizona evangelist challenged the teenagers: "Whatever you do, do it as if Jesus is standing there — because He is."

If you give your life to Christ unashamedly, you will be a "can do conqueror" for Christ, Ousley said. What's more, he added, you "will become the Tennessee connection that makes a difference."

Jerry Johnston, an evangelist from Overland Park, Kan., called the teenagers to consider death in the light of the fact that 8500 teens were killed last year from alcohol/automobile accidents, 1000 teens commit suicide every 24 hours, and just in San Francisco, Calif., 4000 high school students have the AIDS virus.

"Are you aware of what God means when He uses the word death? It is the separation of the soul from the body. The real you, the real me is very much alive.

"You can kill the body but fear God lest the soul and body go to hell," continued Johnston.

"Most teenagers say, 'I don't need to get right with God, Jerry; I've got plenty of time.'



IN CONCERT — Tennessee's All-State Youth Choir, comprised of 196 singers from 53 churches, performed during the Youth Evangelism Conference. On the front row, from left, are Dawn Newton, First Church, Martin; Shawntee Jackson, Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville; and Glee Morrison, Cumberland Drive Church, Clarksville.

"Young people if you're not ready to die, come to Jesus Christ today. Get right today," proclaimed Johnston.

"Death seals a man's destiny. Death seals our accountability.

"Two thousand years ago on a center cross I see a naked Jesus. . . . Young people on that cross there is an element of his death and it is blood, the sinless blood of Jesus Christ," proclaimed Johnston, which brought applause from the crowd.

Describing himself as a "drug burner" who considered suicide while a high school student, the author of books on suicide, premarital sex, and satanism admonished the crowd to help other teens.

"Go to those who are turning to a

pill or pint or bottle because they don't know Jesus Christ. . . . You will be surprised what God can do through you," concluded Johnston.

During commitment times on both days, hundreds of youth stood across the gymnasium making spiritual decisions.

Others on the two-day program included Judy Sparks, state Acteens panelist from Orebank Missionary Church, Kingsport; David Campbell, state Royal Ambassador president from First Church, Woodbury, and John Mosier of First Church, Whitwell, and Brian Turnbow of First Church, Lexington, runner-up and winner, respectively, of the 1988 Tennessee Youth Speakers Tournament.

Christian Life Commission files brief in court case

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined in filing friend-of-the-court briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court.

The CLC, the social and moral concerns agency for the 14.8-million-member denomination, joined with Citizens for Decency through Law in a pornography case, and with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the National Association for Evangelicals in an abortion case.

Small church Sunday School seminar set

Sunday School leaders in small Tennessee churches may receive training geared especially for their situation at the annual Small Church Sunday School Seminar.

Leaders of conferences include Ron Pratt and Willie Beaty, both of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department workers.

The seminar, set for March 31 to April 1 at Camp Carson, Newport, will provide conferences for workers with preschool, children, youth, adult, and for general officers. Study course awards may be earned by participants.

It begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 1 p.m. The cost is \$15. For registration, contact the TBC, Sunday School Department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024. The registration deadline is March 24.

The two cases mark the first time the commission has filed friend-of-the-court briefs, and is an important expansion of the CLC's activity on moral issues, said Richard D. Land, the agency's executive director.

"It is my hope that we can be active on select issues in coming years in seeking to influence the legal status of many issues with which we deal," Land said. "Participating in filing of amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs in appellate cases will be a significant part of this effort."

A friend-of-the-court brief is a legal opinion presented by an interested party urging the court to issue a certain kind of conclusion.

The filing of the brief in the abortion case was announced Feb. 24 in a news conference on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington.

CLC Commissioner Gray Crum, a professor at George Washington University in Washington, participated with representatives from Missouri Synod Lutherans and the NAE. He read a statement from Land concerning the action.

A press release handed out at the news conference said the three organizations had asked in their brief that the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case that permitted legalized abortions.

In the pornography case, the commission joined Citizens for Decency through Law, an Arizona organization specializing in legal issues related to

pornography, in urging the high court to uphold a federal anti-pornography statute.

In the abortion case, the CLC joined Missouri Synod Lutherans and NAE in urging the Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of a Missouri law restricting the practice of legalized abortions.

Venezuelan services . . .

(Continued from page 1)

According to Davis' later report, a battle between policemen and rioters took place in front of the home of missionaries Gene and Eva Nell Kimler in the city of Trujillo. Several windows were broken during the encounter and tear gas floated into the Kimler house, but the missionaries were not injured and were reported safe. The Kimlers are from Pasadena and Wills Point, Texas, respectively.

Davis also told of a group of Baptist church members who gathered for prayer at the home of their pastor the night of Feb. 27. Among them were families who own a small grocery store, a fruit stand and a dress shop. Each of the businesses had been looted that day.

Otherwise, Davis said, telephone service had been so disrupted that "we have not been able to get in touch with anybody to find out what kind of damage" has been inflicted upon Baptist churches or homes and businesses

The pornography case, Federal Communications Commission v. Sable, grew out of a challenge to a new federal law against indecent and obscene speech via telephone line. Sable Communications of California Inc. provides "dial-a-porn" services, using long-distance telephone calls for pre-recorded messages containing sexually explicit material.

of individual Baptists.

The worst of the violence, looting and vandalism was occurring in low-income areas of Caracas, Hart said.

"This is the first time in over 30 years, since democracy was established in Venezuela," for such violence, Hart said. Part of the reason for the violence is that, apart from government workers, no automatic pay raises were awarded to other Venezuelans, he said.

Davis noted that people were waiting from two to six hours to get into grocery stores March 1. The price of bread had more than quadrupled since Feb. 26, she said.

The violence had subsided by March 1, but "we hear gunshots once in a while," Hart's wife, Pat, said.

According to news reports, up to 50 people were killed during the first two days of violence and 500 others were injured. Buses and taxis in Caracas and many other parts of the country had come to a halt.

At Union University conference

Bivocational ministers given encouragement; share dreams

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
JACKSON — Bivocational pastors hold about one-third of the pastorates in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. And, according to Dale Holloway, that gives the Volunteer State the distinction of having both the second highest concentration and number of bivocational pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention, trailing only Alabama and Texas, respectively. Holloway, a national consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was one of several speakers who offered encouragement to about 131 bivocational ministers and spouses during a conference sponsored by Union University in Jackson.

He reminded the pastors they are not "part-time pastors" but instead are "double-time preachers." Holloway, a bivocational pastor in Florence, Miss., discounted the notion bivocational pastors work only half time, reminding them they serve full-time congregations.

"We're legitimate. Our father is God," Holloway said, adding that bivocational ministers are receiving more recognition now than ever before. As an example, he cited a resolution commending bivocational ministers that was adopted by messengers at the 1988 SBC meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

The HMB consultant shared some revealing statistics regarding the ministry of bivocational pastors. Per 100 members, churches with bivocational pastors have higher Sunday School enrollments and attendance and more baptisms than full-time or fully-supported ministers, he said.

Just what do bivocational ministers do in addition to their regular ministry?

Occupations vary greatly. In an informal survey of bivocational pastors at the conference, most of whom live in West Tennessee, one was a hog farmer, another taught school, several owned or managed some type of business, and one was an electrician.

Other occupations also were represented at the conference.

G. W. Moon, pastor of New Hope Church, Palmersville, raises "feeder" pigs. He notes his ministry is enhanced because he can talk to people "on their level."

"People are more receptive to listening to someone who is able to relate to what they're relating to," Moon said.

David Reeves, pastor of Williston Church, Williston, noted bivocational pastors have an advantage fully-supported ministers do not have because of daily contact with large numbers of people who may not attend their churches.

Reeves, an assistant elementary school principal, said he sees 800 young people every week who "know I'm a preacher and a Christian."

Most of the bivocational pastors interviewed cited "lack of time" as their chief frustration.

Andy King, pastor of Clear Creek Church, Dyer, noted finding time for visitation is a problem. He observed, however, he has an advantage some of his counterparts do not have because, as a farmer, he can "walk off the job" to go minister when needed.

James Vanness, pastor of First Church, Mason, and maintenance manager of an apartment complex, also agreed lack of time was the major drawback in his ministry. There is not adequate time for sermon preparation, he said, adding, "I just study when I can."

Gene Stafford, pastor of Calvary Hill Church, Dyersburg, noted that not only is lack of time a problem but fatigue comes into play.

Stafford, an assembly worker, said he goes home tired after a hard day and thinks about not visiting. He said he simply remembers he is not the first person to get tired and makes the extra effort he needs to "go out and witness."

Ron Melton, pastor of Mt. Sinai Church, Buchanan, cited perception of



CONFERENCE LEADERS — Program participants at Union University's bivocational ministers' conference enjoyed time together after the program. From left, are, Larry Kirk, TBC Missions Department; Bill Rice, pastor, Fruitland Church, Humboldt; Orville McMahan, pastor, Dixie Hills Church, Bolivar; Dale Holloway, consultant, SBC Home Mission Board; and D. L. Lowrie, executive director-elect, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

his role by others as his frustration.

"Some people do not look at you as a minister because you work a job and pastor a church," said Melton who is also an auto mechanic.

The bivocational ministers differed about their goals. Some desire to be fully-supported ministers one day, while others are content to remain bivocational.

Kenny Carr, pastor of New Hope Church, Paris, has been a pastor for only seven months. An electrician, Carr noted being bivocational gives him an opportunity "to grow as a pastor."

As for his future ministry, Carr said it will be "left up to the Lord. I'm willing to go either way."

In contrast, Dwayne Ervin, pastor of Bible Union Church, Martin, has been a bivocational pastor for almost 30 years. An owner of a Christian bookstore and a 180-acre farm, Ervin related he grew up in churches that were served by bivocational pastors. "It's all I've ever known," he said.

Steve Gallimore, pastor of Birds Creek Church, Paris, said he does not desire to be a fully-supported pastor. "I am called to a bivocational ministry," said Gallimore, co-owner of a farm equipment sales and service business.

Date, agenda set for Pastors' Conference

The Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference will meet March 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Franklin.

A tour of the campus, information from the staff about the work there, and a message from Ivan Raley will constitute the agenda.

Lunch will be served, compliments of the Children's Home. All Middle Tennessee pastors, staff members, and directors of mission are invited to attend.

Barcroft accepts call of Covington Pike Church

Coming from the pastorate of Fellowship Church, Batesville, Miss., Douglas Barcroft has accepted the call of Covington Pike Church, Memphis, as pastor.

He holds degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin and Mid-America Seminary, Memphis.

Barcroft and his wife, Lynn, have a son, Ben.

"I can do more this way than if I were sitting in the situation of a full-time pastor," he added.

While at Union's conference, which also included sessions for bivocational ministers of music/youth and spouses, pastors were able to attend sessions on sermon preparation, dealing with conflict, and the priority of evangelism.

D. L. Lowrie, executive director-elect of the Tennessee Baptist convention, gave the closing address.

He reminded the ministers there are more than 167 million unsaved people in the nation and more than three billion across the world.

No one congregation, no matter how big, can do much by itself with numbers that large, Lowrie said.

But, together, applying the principles of cooperation, "we can make a difference," he challenged.

Interfaith witness workshop scheduled

Two belief systems that have appeared on the American scene, the New Age Movement and the Occult will be covered in an Interfaith Witness Associate Training Workshop April 21-22.

James Redding of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department noted that the New Age and Occult systems have the potential for wrecking more havoc in individuals, families, and churches than all the cults and sects combined.

Gary Leazer, director of the interfaith witness department of the Home Mission board, will conduct the workshop on the Occult. He is the author of *The Christian Confronting the Cults II*.

Maurice Smith, the associate director of the board's interfaith witness department, will lead the workshop on the New Age Movement. Smith has served as pastor in Texas, a missionary in Ghana, Africa, and a professor at Southwestern and Midwestern Baptist seminaries.

The free workshops, to be held at Camp Linden, Linden, will begin with lunch on Friday, April 21, and close by 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. Workshop participants are expected to attend all sessions and do the assignments required for certification as interfaith witness trainers.

To register, please call or write James Redding, TBC, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024, (615) 371-2032.

Personal Perspective

By Tom J Madden

When the search committee was interviewing me for the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Gayle Alexander asked me a most penetrating question "Do you hate anybody?" I searched my soul before I answered that I had hatred for no one. I have thought about that question many times over the past years. It seems today that hatred is so rampant that some of those who hated literally fear for their lives.

The word of God states that "He that hateth his brother is in darkness" (1 John 2:11). Hate brings self-torture. The book of Esther tells of the account of how Haman hated Mordecai and planned horrible vengeance upon Mordecai which was to include the whole Jewish race. He built a gallows 50 cubits high upon which he believed the Persian King Ahasuerus would



MADDEN

hang Mordecai. It was then that beautiful Esther intervened and it was Hamon that was hanged on the same gallows he had built for Mordecai.

Unforgiveness, hatred, smoldering resentment bring unhappiness and misery to body, mind, and soul. Medical authorities have indicated that hatred can cause physical illness.

Over against the hurts caused by hatred are the blessings that come from forgiveness. Joseph could have hated his brothers for their mistreatment of him but instead forgave and comforted them and spoke kindly unto them.

Jacob feared a reunion with Esau, knowing he had dreadfully wronged him, but when the brothers drew near to each other, "Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him." Christ interceded for His crucifiers, crying out, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us."

For Albert, Opal Jewell

'Bivocational' is more than just a word

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

"He is a good pastor and supporter of the association," said Robert Agee, director of missions for Wilson County Association. "He is loved by his church and community — and by his fellow pastors.

"We need more like him," he said. Bill Enoch, pastor of First Church, Watertown, concurred. "Brother Albert is one of a kind," he said. "He really is a jewel."

They were talking about Albert Jewell, pastor of Saulsbury Church and bivocational for all his ministry years.

Jewell is one of 16 bivocational pastors in Wilson Association, and at 76 he is still actively leading Saulsbury. He and his wife, the former Opal Moorehead, have settled in to stay at 301 W. Main in Saulsbury.

"We put down deep roots," Jewell says. "We have lived in this house for 33 years; I have been a bivocational pastor for 35 years."

And Opal added that Albert had had a school-related career for 38 years — and she had taught for 28.

"I was born and raised in a hollow so far back that if you had kept on going a little bit further — why, you'd come out on the other side!" Jewell said. Again Opal echoed his remarks. "And I was raised in a hollow just like that down in Moore County. For people like us — from two different hollows, God just had to be responsible for getting us together."



SAULSBURY CHURCH — The Jewells have worked with the congregation at Saulsbury for three decades as a bivocational ministry family.

"That hollow near Statesville, Johnson Hollow, was my home," said the pastor. "I was the youngest of six children, and my father died when I was nine. My mother had to raise four of us."

Jewell added, for the first of many times, "You probably don't want this, but my grandfather James Jewell, who was ill during the last days of the Civil War, was rousted from his sickbed by Yankee soldiers.

"He was a blacksmith, and they wanted him to shoe their horses. He finished the job and then fainted from his fever. He never recovered." His other grandfather, Thomas Beadle, was signed up to serve with U. S. forces — but the war ended a day before he was to leave.

Albert Jewell did get out of Johnson Hollow — but he didn't go far away. He graduated from high school in Watertown where he also played football. Less than a year later, he remembers, he was called to preach on a Saturday afternoon in March — at Smith Fork Church near Statesville. "That was a turning point in my life," he says.

"I have always preached in Wilson County Association," Jewell says, "except for a few supply jobs."

About that time he entered Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The next June, he met Opal Moorehead, daughter of a Methodist pastor. "We talked at the altar of her father's church," says Albert.

Three years later he made Opal a Jewell.

Albert preached his first sermon just two weeks after his call. It was at Smith Fork, and, "I used John 15 for my subject," he says.

After two years at MTSU, he taught school at Greenvale. It was a two-teacher school. He was supply pastor in several surrounding counties at the same time. Later he preached at Linwood, which was a "one-quarter" church. He supplied there from 1939-45.

"Mount Olivet was half-time, and Saulsbury was one-quarter time. The three churches decided to put Jewell in the pulpit full time, even though he was bivocational. He was in a pulpit every Sunday — Mount Olivet, Saulsbury, or Linwood.

He was ordained at Smith Fork in 1945 — at the request of the three churches. That was in July 1945, and the ordaining council really asked some "sticky" questions, because Opal, the young preacher's wife, was still a Methodist at that time.

During the next few years, their three sons were born. And they served at Sycamore, Hickman, and Riddleton.

Saulsbury, where he still serves, went "full time" in 1957. At Linwood and Saulsbury, he recalls, the pastor's salary was "whatever the offering was."

He also remembers the offering at the first revival he preached. "The offering was \$25 — and that was exactly the sum of our car payment."

At Saulsbury, Jewell has led the church to a unified budget plan using



OPAL AND ALBERT AT HOME — Married for more than 50 years, the Jewells have lived in Watertown for 33 years — in the same house on West Main.

percentages for different causes. "We even put the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home into the budget," he says.

Now Saulsbury contributes 15 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program, five percent to the association, five percent for the association's new office, two percent to the TBCH, and one percent to Lebanon's Community Health Center. "The Baptist and Reflector has been in our budget for years," he adds.

He has dreams for a budget item for local mission projects. "Eventually," he says, "we want to have 33 percent going outside our own church needs."

Saulsbury, with about 120 members, already has helped a family with serious medical problems and others with special needs such as fuel supplies.

"I know we are located where the prospects for church growth are really great," Jewell assesses. "Our membership can easily double as we work and live in the community."

Albert has been a Baptist preacher for 45 years. But the amazing thing is that he has had several other jobs during all those years.

He has raised cattle and sheep, he has attended college — and gained his masters degree at MTSU. He has driven school buses, and he has taught school for 38 years.

He was a school principal, and coached football for a while at Watertown High. For five years he was instructional supervisor for Wilson County — and served the same county for five years as superintendent of schools.

During his stint as county superintendent, the system undertook a massive building program and underwrote integration.

Since he retired from school work in 1977, he has not missed an associational meeting, a Tennessee Baptist convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention. He has been to all of them.

Opal Jewell went back to teaching school after their three sons were old enough to be in school. Also a graduate of MTSU and now a Baptist, she has been active in the music program of every church they have worked with. She always played "the instruments," and is organist at Saulsbury.

"I taught for seven years — then was out for 14 while the boys were getting old enough for school." She taught school for 28 years, and "every grade," in schools ranging from just one teacher to the last eight years of her career with a vocational class at Lebanon High School.

Their three sons and their families (three grandchildren) form a close family. John lives next door, Bill is across the street, and Bruce is in Marietta, Ga.

What do the Jewells do now — since they have retired from teaching, and only Albert's preaching is a "steady" job? He does some painting — and they both work in their old-fashioned garden, and enjoy the grandchildren.

"We could have gone other places," they agree. "But somehow God has always burdened us with small churches," Albert says. "He told us, 'You just serve the small churches, and I will take care of you!'"

He has done that, the Jewells believe.

Senior adults turn TV 'stars'

So you think you recognize a senior adult couple who are "stars" of a television public service spot on several Tennessee TV stations?

The couple appears in a film that promotes the Nashville Electric Service and American Red Cross sponsored program called Project Plus I Help. It is designed to enlist people to donate for a fund that helps pay heating bills for senior adults and handicapped persons.

You're right — the two senior adults are Tennessee Baptists, Albert and Opal Jewell, of Watertown. He is pastor of Saulsbury Church, Wilson Association, and both are retired school teachers.

"A friend of ours was helping make the promotional film," Opal Jewell says. "When the crew discussed actors for the film, he suggested Albert and me."

The only problem that developed from the TV spot, Opal says, is that she gets a lot of questions about her health. "They had me in a wheel chair for the filming," she says, "but I'm really well."

A brief film was made in the Jewell home on Main Street, Watertown. It required a crew of eight for the filming — and they stayed about five hours. The crew also shot many photos of the Jewells, for handout bulletins at groceries and shopping centers.

"NES has told us the film and bulletins really helped with donations," Albert says. "And I'm thinking about charging a small fee for autographs!" — WFA

LaGuardo Church

Average congregation above average in mission starts

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
LEBANON — LaGuardo Church in Lebanon is like any other typical Southern Baptist church — almost.

The Wilson County Association church has an average Sunday School attendance of about 140 and a modest Church Training attendance of between 40-50 people each week.

Thanks to missions organizations, the church is likely to draw around 60 participants to the midweek service.

It is the church's commitment to missions that distinguishes the rural Lebanon congregation.

In the past eight years, LaGuardo Church has started four new missions. Two of those — Martha Church and Webb's Chapel, both located near Lebanon — are now full-fledged Tennessee Baptist Convention churches.

And Hobson Pike Church near Mt. Juliet, LaGuardo's latest mission endeavor, broke ground for a permanent building Feb. 12 and is now under the leadership of bivocational pastor James Youree.

In addition, the church bought a trailer and moved it into a nearby mobile home park where they hold a mission Sunday School program each week.

The church has no set formula for beginning a new work, but rather responds to a particular need, said Bob Johnson, LaGuardo's pastor since 1980.

Shortly after he arrived at LaGuardo, Johnson asked the deacons, "What do you want to happen in your church?"

The general consensus was they wanted to be more involved in mis-

sions. The church began a Brotherhood organization soon afterwards. In need of a project, the men chose to begin a mission.

Challenged to find an area "with a lot of people, but no church," the men learned about Rosa Webb, an elderly lady in her 80s who was not able to go to church on a regular basis. She agreed to let others come to her home to have Sunday School.

Johnson noted LaGuardo's members surveyed the area for prospects and established an outreach Sunday School. The number soon outgrew Webb's small home and eventually became a mission.

The church bought land for the mission with the assistance of a Tennessee Baptist Convention grant, and the men of LaGuardo constructed the building. When the mission was constituted as Webb's Chapel, LaGuardo gave the church the title to the land, Johnson said.

From that first project, members of LaGuardo continued to find areas where new works were needed.

Part of the emphasis to reach other areas centers on the fact LaGuardo could not grow at its present location because of a lack of space. Johnson noted they have tried to purchase adjoining property but to no avail.

Johnson related that in 1980, before LaGuardo became involved in church starting, the church was averaging about 125 in Sunday School.

Today, the combined Sunday School attendance at the mother church and the four mission endeavors is about 310 people.



MISSION GROUNDBREAKING — Hobson Pike Church, a mission of LaGuardo Church, broke ground Feb. 12 for its first permanent building. Assisting Pastor James Youree, left, in the groundbreaking were members of the building committee, from left, Debbie Lane, Fay Cripps, James DeLacey, Frances Jordan, Jr. Ellis, and Clayton Gray.

"It pays to get outside your church building," Johnson said, adding that if "there is a need, you have to go and meet it."

Larry Kirk of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department in Brentwood agreed with Johnson and the philosophy held by LaGuardo Church.

It's important to understand everyone can't go to one church, Kirk observed.

LaGuardo Church has "captured the New Testament concept" of the church marching into new areas, planting new works, and staying with them until they are constituted, Kirk added.

Despite the fact LaGuardo sends some of its members to begin new missions, the "mother church has not suf-

fered in membership," Johnson said. He added that the members return to LaGuardo when no longer needed at the new work and are ready to help establish another mission.

Even financially, LaGuardo has not suffered a great deal, Johnson said. He noted members who leave to start a mission tithed to that church instead of sending their tithes back to LaGuardo.

"We know it affects us financially, but it is not a drain," Johnson said.

The Lebanon pastor knows some churches are hesitant to give up members and finances to begin new works. And, he admits, it is "frightening when you send your chairman of the deacons" to begin a new mission.

"But, you gain more than you lose," Johnson concluded.

Knoxville couple makes missions a family affair

By Joy Jordan, news assistant
From Japan's teeming crowds to Jamaica's placid shores, their travels have spanned the planet.

Sounds glamorous. But the Massingill family's globe-trottings are motivated less by a fascination with exotic food and foreign cultures than by a love for missions.

Eleven years ago, Fred and Sue Massingill were part of a Church Training class discussion on Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust endeavor. One astute participant pointed out the SBC didn't stand a chance of achieving its goal if every church did as they were doing—merely sitting and talking about it.

Convicted, the Massingills, with their children, Rebekah and Michael, and

Senior adult training scheduled

Senior adults and their leaders may receive training at the 1989 Regional Senior Adult Workshops March 16 at First Church, Kingsport, and March 17 at Corryton Church, Knoxville.

Norman Hodges, retired Baptist Sunday School Board worker and author; Joe Burnette, retired minister of education from North Carolina; Dennis Lyle, senior adult leader in Nashville; and Bruce Coyle, planned giving officer, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; will lead conferences.

Participants should bring sack lunches to the workshops, which begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. Drinks will be provided.

several other families organized themselves into a mission team bound for the inner-city of Indianapolis, Ind.

The experience was addictive—and the Massingills were hooked.

The summer of 1978 marked the inception of the family's commitment to carry out an annual volunteer mission project together.

Their ensuing missionary journeys have encompassed Asia, the Caribbean, Africa, and various corners of the eastern United States.

But they've been conscious of the danger of allowing mission work to become correlated with passports. In 1980, for instance, the family served as volunteers with a senior adult facility in Knoxville.

And as active members of Cumberland Church, Knoxville, for the past decade, the Massingills have taught language classes for internationals. Fred Massingill is chairman of Cumberland's local missions committee, working closely with the church's Korean mission.

He is quick to point out that through the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the family "determined where to go according to where we were most needed.

"I'd be the first to admit that we enjoy traveling," he added. "The trips have afforded us some tremendous experiences. But that's just a nice by-product."

Indeed, Massingill's depiction of their sundry assignments sketched

family "vacations" hardly of the Hollywood genre.

Stationed amid the palm trees and straw markets of Montego Bay, Jamaica, for instance, the Massingills drove an hour outside the city every day to teach Vacation Bible School. After a hasty lunch, they drove 30 minutes to the next remote site where rambunctious youngsters awaited another three-hour VBS session.

By the time the family motored the final hour back to their hotel, Massingill remembers, "We were exhausted. There certainly wasn't much time for the beach. Mostly, we went home, took a bath, and went to bed."

In some instances, the Massingills provided necessary manual labor: splitting firewood in Lebanon, Penn.; repairing roofs, mowing lawns, and replacing broken windows in Barbados; and babysitting preschool children of Southern Baptist missionaries in Japan.

But other mission duties required their specific talents and training. A civil engineer with Tennessee Valley Authority for 17 years, Massingill learned his capabilities were needed at the Baptist Medical Center in Nalerigu, Ghana.

The Foreign Mission Board had requested a business manager for the hospital who could begin Oct. 1, 1988, and remain three months. Massingill calls it "fortuitous timing" that the elimination of his job was part of TVA's "downscaling," setting his final

day of work for Sept. 30.

"Maybe God was giving me the opportunity to do something I really wanted to do," he reflected, adding that he and his wife are exploring what they believe is God's calling to some form of career missions.

Ghana proved to be, for Massingill, "not exactly a tourist's Mecca. It's not an impossible life—but certainly not an easy one by American standards."

Yet despite the work he described as involving less glamour than "drudgery," he found there "wasn't anything to dissuade me . . . It was affirming for both my wife and me."

Neither have the years of volunteer mission work been without effect on their children, fostering in them maturity and a sense of personal involvement in sharing Christ's love worldwide, he said. Currently preparing for college, Rebekah is considering foreign missions as a career.

However, though the younger Massingills now appreciate the unique opportunities afforded them through mission trips, their father concedes that "sometimes the kids were not as enthusiastic about it—like eating strange food. They were typical American teenagers, craving hamburgers and french fries."

Eager to share with church groups the experiences that have "enriched (their) lives," the Massingills "like to speak as a team," recommending volunteer missions—halfway around the world or in one's own backyard.

TenneScene ...Starting in McBurg, east to Miser Station and west to Nankipoo ...

Leadership ...

First Church, Cleveland, recently gave its minister to adults, Dan Dockery, a reception in honor of his fifth anniversary in that position.

Basil Jones resigned as pastor of Stoney Creek Church, Elizabethton, to accept the pastorate of First Church, Surgoinville.

Lone Chestnut Church, Bath Springs, called Kevin Kennedy as pastor.

Cobb's Creek Church, Butler, held a pastor installation service for Richard Totherow, followed by a fellowship dinner.

Mike Cook accepted the call of Oak Grove Church, Benton, as youth minister, effective Feb. 19. Cook comes from Westwood Church, Cleveland. Doug Boucher is pastor of Oak Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. White of Newport celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 5. The couple has been serving East Tennessee churches for 50 years. Currently, White is pastor

About 1500 expected for annual conference

The 35th annual Tennessee Congress for young men and boys will draw about 1500 to Mt. Juliet March 24-25.

The congress will feature William Tanner, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; Ike Reighard, a Georgia pastor; and Tom Madden, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive secretary. The Visions, a singing group from First Church, Woodbury, will perform.

Other special events will include congress officer elections, missions fair, campcraft rodeo, project hall, missions conferences, missions speak out, RA racer competition, missions offering with a goal of \$5500, High School Baptist Young Men's breakfast and missions project, and the Pioneer 5K walk/run for missions.

Southern Baptist foreign and home missionaries also will be speaking to the congress participants.

For more information, contact TBC Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

of Beulah Church, Mohawk.

They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Mount Pisgah Church, Niota, called Clayton Dunsmore as pastor. For the past five years, Dunsmore served Harper's Creek Church, Battle Creek, Mich.

Dunsmore and his wife, Frances, have a son, Tim.

Phil Rogers has accepted the call of Southside Church, Shelbyville, to spearhead its counseling program. Rogers will be clinical director for the Southside Family Counseling Center. He will also lead a class on family relationships.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va., and a master's from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. He has held pastorates for eight years in Tennessee and Virginia.

Second Church, Union City, called Jerry Essary as minister of youth and education.

He comes to the position from the pastorate of Alamo Church near Rives. He formerly served in various capacities with churches in Texas, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Stewart earns top HSBYM award

Kyle Stewart, a member of the Joe Bruce unit at Woodmont Church, Nashville, has earned the highest award in the High School Baptist Young Men's program.

Stewart completed 750 hours of volunteer service in the five units of the Missions Challenge program. The units covered the areas of the base unit, worship, witness, ministry, and education.

The award, which includes eligibility for a \$1200 scholarship to one of the three Tennessee Baptist colleges, will be presented at the annual Tennessee Congress in March.



STEWART

A graduate of Union University, Jackson, Essary and his wife, the former Nancy Jean Lee, have two children.

Gil Bates accepted the call of New Hopewell Church, Knoxville, as minister of youth. He is a recent graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Ordinations ...

Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, recently ordained Sue Jordan as a deacon. Jack C. Bishop Jr. is pastor.

Richard Cox and Bill Montgomery were ordained as deacons by First Church, Ashland City. Bill Sims is pastor.

First Church, Strawberry Plains ordained Mike Anderson, Tommy Smith, Perry Trent, and Bob West to the diaconate. Norman Turley is pastor.

Antioch Church, Johnson City, recently ordained five of its members as deacons: David Watts, David Beverage, Bobby Harrell, Dwight Harrell, and Alan Lyle. Earnest Foster and Claude Duncan were installed as deacons.

People ...

Ida Sellers, a member of First Church, Franklin, celebrated her 100th birthday.

Colleges ...

The Chorale of Belmont College, Nashville, recently released its second professionally-recorded album. Recorded in the Belmont mansion, the production is a collection of 20 spirituals.

The Chorale will present its home concert March 14, 8:00 p.m., at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

Churches ...

On Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day, Orlinda Church, Orlinda, hosted William Crews, president of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., as guest speaker.

ASSISTeam training offered at Crieveewood

Training for associational Sunday School workers will be offered March 17-18 in Nashville.

The workers, called ASSISTeam or Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team workers, and directors of missions and their associates will gather for the Assist Training Institute at Crieveewood Church, Nashville.

Leaders will include Harry Piland and David Tiller of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Tiller will speak on "Conference Leading Techniques."

The institute will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday. Reimbursement for expenses is available.

To make reservations, contact Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.



IN LINE — First Church, Donelson, dedicated its new Family Life Center Feb. 26. After the service in the sanctuary, members filed to the new facility for a performance by Christian illusionist David Garrard of Louisville, Ky. Helping themselves to popcorn are Pastor Roy Fisher, left, and Roy Startup, chairman of the building committee.

Associations ...

Nearly 100 women gathered Feb. 9 at Childs Memorial Church, Harriman, for the annual Big Emory Association mother/daughter banquet.

Ten churches were represented: Childs Memorial Church; Shiloh Church, Kingston; Walnut Hill Church, Harriman; Trenton Street Church, Harriman; Union Church, Wartburg; Union Chapel Church, Kingston; South Harriman Church, Harriman; Middle Creek Church, Oliver Springs; Crab Orchard Church, Oakdale; and Mossy Grove Church, Harriman.

Tim Thompson, minister of music and youth at Middle Creek Church, was the speaker.

Alma Jackson honored for 60 years' service

First Church, Oliver Springs, recently honored Alma E. Jackson for nearly 60 years of service as church clerk. She was elected to the office Dec. 22, 1929, during a church business meeting.

The native of Oliver Springs lives with her younger sister, Frances Jackson. "Miss Frances," as she is known, reported that her sister "looked forward to performing her duties as church clerk from month to month. First Baptist has been her life."



JACKSON

In addition to six decades of clerical duties, Alma Jackson served as a Sunday School teacher, Church Training teacher, Sunbeam leader, sang in the choir, and was an active participant in Woman's Missionary Union. "I try to support the programs of the church," she explained.

In regard to her work as church clerk, Jackson said, "I stumbled along and did the best I could. I really wasn't trained for the job, but did the best I knew how. That's all God asks from us."

At the reception in her honor, Jackson was given a money corsage, a television, and a "memories book." A dozen roses were presented to both Jackson sisters.

Year of the Laity

Charles Horton Jr. • Second Church • Savannah

Charles Horton Jr., an employee of Savannah Glass Company, became a Christian five years ago, at age 20. Following his conversion, he began working with the youth of Second Church, Savannah, and is currently Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador director for Shiloh Association. He and his wife, Charlotte, have a three-year-old son.

"I was led to the Lord by a layperson on visitation.

"It's up to us (the laity) to get out and do the work of the church, not do it inside the church walls—and not representing a church but somebody who cares.

"Instead of 'Hey, let me invite you to church,' we should be saying, 'Hey, let me share Jesus with you.' That's tough.

"Unbelievers can relate better to a layperson. They figure you're just like them—with troubles and bills and pressures, not up on a pedestal. And they know a pastor's got to be out visiting — that's his job, but a layperson could be comfortable at home."

— 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.

The Gospel spreads among the Gentiles

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

Prejudice is a very familiar part of our world today. Throughout our society and in our churches we find racial prejudice, social prejudice, geographical and economic prejudice. The same was true in the early days of the church.



WILLIAMS

Persuasion in Jerusalem (Acts 11:1-18) Two thousand years ago, the church was faced with the prospect of a change in their attitude toward Gentiles. Church members were called on to renounce their prejudice of "the Gospel for Jew only" and accept the fact that God Himself had opened the door for all people everywhere to come into the kingdom.

The conversion of Cornelius and others in his household was an event of such magnitude that word spread quickly. By the time Peter returned to Jerusalem, those in contention (v. 2) were ready with their questions. It appears that some were more upset that Peter had eaten with the Gentiles than that he had preached to them (v. 3).

Peter was ready for them (v. 4) simply and matter-of-factly sharing with those who listened to what God had done in his life. As Peter came to the end of the account of his vision and God's word for him, in addition to

Cornelius's vision, Peter related how he had witnessed the Holy Spirit falling on the Gentiles just like it had happened in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost (v. 17).

Peter asked a question that we need to ask ourselves today. Who are we to stand in God's way? What right do we have to try to limit God?

When those who had stood in opposition to Peter heard what God had done, they became silent. They could no longer argue, for they had seen God's hand at work. Their silence was followed by praise to God for granting repentance and salvation for everyone, even to the Gentiles (v. 18).

Preaching in Antioch (Acts 11:19-30)

The scattering of the church as recorded in Acts 8, following Stephen's martyrdom, is further mentioned in the account of the founding of the church at Antioch. We are not told who these faithful preachers of the Gospel were. We are told that they were selective in their outreach as they preached only to Jews (v. 19). God blessed them in their efforts and "a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord" (v. 21).

Just as the church at Jerusalem sent Peter and John to investigate the Samaritan revival, now the church sends Barnabas to investigate what was happening at Antioch as Jew and Gentile alike (v. 20) were being saved.

When Barnabas arrived at Antioch, we are told that he saw "the grace of

God" (v. 23). He saw God's grace manifested in the changed lives of those newborn believers of the church.

The Gospel is spread abroad by and through the lives of those who believe. It proves itself by the alterations manifested in lives of believers. Have you ever wondered how much of God's grace is seen in your life?

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

March 12 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 11:1-30

Focal Passages: Acts 11:2-3, 17-22, 25-30

What Barnabas saw and experienced made him glad and he was able to wholeheartedly encourage and exhort these new believers. Barnabas began what might well have been the first discipleship program in a local church. We need to learn from Barnabas and encourage young believers, whether they are ten years of age or 50 years of age, that they should "with purpose of heart . . . cleave unto the Lord" (v. 23).

Barnabas continued to live up to the meaning of his name (son of encouragement) by finding Saul of Tarsus and bringing him to Antioch to be a part of Barnabas' year long ministry in the building up of the church there (vv. 25, 26).

Testimony to the spiritual growth of the church at Antioch is given in two examples. First, the believers at Antioch were "called Christians" (v. 2). "Christ's People" were known by their

representation of Christ in the city. Their lives were lived so that they were known to be "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

The second evidence of spiritual growth is seen in the fact that when the need arose in Judea, the whole congregation gave as they were able (v. 29) to a relief fund for their brothers in Christ.

Coltharp accepts call of First, Jackson

H. Garrison Coltharp accepted the call to the pastorate of First Church, Jackson, effective March 26.



COLTHARP

Coltharp earned his bachelor's degree from Murray State University, Murray, Ky., and his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Having been pastor of First Church, Madisonville, Ky., the past eight years, he has served on the the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board and on the board of directors for the Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptists' newsjournal. Coltharp was president of Southern Seminary's alumni association and participated in volunteer missions in Kenya.

He and his wife, the former Martha Scott Terry of Paducah, Ky., have a daughter, Paula.

Citizens of a new kingdom

By Joe Wiles, pastor; Silverpoint Church, Silverpoint

The church at Colossae (Colossians 1:1-2)

Paul wrote this letter to the church at Colossae. While he seems never to have been there, he was concerned about them. The church was faithful and hardworking. Paul asked a blessing on them as he began his letter.



WILES

This letter gives us a high view of Jesus as the Christ. Paul was writing to them about a false doctrine that had been circulating, a heresy against the person of Christ.

Praise and thanksgiving (Colossians 1:3-8)

After Paul's greetings, he thanked the church for its life and witness. Imagine how good they must have felt after reading this portion of the letter. Too often we sincerely appreciate others, but never tell them. Paul told them. They were doing a good job. They were being Christ-like in troubled times and needed the encouragement of praise.

These Christians showed their faith toward God by their actions toward others. The hope they had of heaven was manifested in help to the saints in their care. No wonder Paul could praise them so easily.

The Gospel of Jesus was producing fruit all over the Roman world. It was especially productive in Colossae. Not only that, but it had been fruitful as long as the church had been there. There were no days of the Gospel's failure to work out salvation.

Sometimes we seek to excuse our lack of successes for the kingdom by thinking the Gospel just isn't what it used to be. Worse, we think the world just doesn't seem to need the Gospel anymore. Both views are total nonsense! Jesus is the same always and so is the power of the Gospel.

The Colossians had learned of the love of Jesus through the evangelizing work of Epaphras. That work continued to bear fruit as they learned more about what it meant to be part of a new kingdom. They reached this kingdom through grace. Considering the moral state of the Roman Empire in general, the difference between the two kingdoms must have been a stark contrast.

Paul's prayer (Colossians 1:9-14) Paul continued his praise by telling them they were on his prayer list. He had not forgotten them and was concerned about them. His dream of a lively church growing and reaching out is evident. He wanted them to continue to increase in the knowledge of God and what God needed them to be doing. He wished to see them increasing in the spiritual wisdom needed to be

good citizens in God's kingdom, pleasing God in all they did.

The way the Colossians could best please God was by producing fruit in good works and living Christian lives. As they produced Christian fruit, they would grow in the ways of the Lord. Understanding would increase.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

March 12 Lesson

Basic Passage: Colossians 1:1-14

Focal Passage: Colossians 1:1-14

This, in turn, would help them to endure the troubles they faced. They would be able to do this joyfully, not that the troubles were fun, but that they had the capability through the Lord to endure. These troubles showed that they were part of His kingdom.

All of us who claim the name of Christ are a freed people. Lifted from darkness to light, we are in the kingdom of Jesus. We are there because Jesus paid the redemption price and so we have forgiveness of

sins. No wonder Paul could be so thankful for the Colossians. They had to have been a bright spot for him.

Lesson in life

Paul was thankful for the life and works of the Colossians. How often do we express our thanks for those in our church? Sunday after Sunday, through sickness and problems, good times and bad, conscientious teachers and workers keep the faith and go on. Praise is little enough pay for a job well done. It certainly should be the least we do.

Somewhere we have been taught that too much praise may ruin a person. They might become conceited. Do you really believe that? How much praise have you had lately? Was it too much? I suspect that most answer that question by not remembering any praise at all recently.

One of the finest things we can do for the Lord's work is to encourage and praise those who are busy doing what the Lord wants. As we are in service to others, we show that we are a part of the kingdom. Paul found that honest praise for work well and faithfully done helped others to be better citizens of the new kingdom.

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Love, the better way

By Phil Jett, pastor; Englewood Church, Jackson

As these lessons move to 1 Corinthians 13, Paul continues to highlight the idea that the way to use our God-given gifts is through love. He has dealt with the concept of spiritual gifts in chapter 12, and he will specifically deal with the gift of tongues in chapter 14. Chapter 13 deals with the goal of putting into proper perspective the whole idea of gifts and especially Paul's concern about speaking in tongues.



JETT

This classic chapter shows the necessity of love for unity and growth within the fellowship of the Christian family, the church. Paul begins with the principle of love, then deals with its practical nature, and concludes with the priority of love. It would be difficult to write anything new about this chapter. But to have the privilege of again reflecting on its

truths is refreshing.

We first have the principle of love (1-3), which is at the heart of every gift from God. It was love that brought Jesus Christ into the world. It was love that sent Jesus to the cross.

This redeeming love is the very essence of God's nature. The principle, therefore, is that if our speaking, knowledge, faith, and giving are not centered in love, they really amount to nothing.

Paul, to be sure that these self-centered church people understood what he was talking about, used 15 practical terms to show the nature of love in relationships. Seven of these qualities are positive and eight are negative.

They begin with long-suffering. This term relates to having patience with people who, by their actions, do not justify our patience. It's going the extra mile. The word "kind" also relates to an attitude of goodness to others — even those who hurt and disappoint us. This is an active word.

The first negative term relates to being jealous of another's honor. The idea of boastfulness and arrogance is the very opposite of the servant's spirit which is basic to the Christian walk. Rudeness, insisting on one's own way, being easily provoked and resentful

are indicative of a person who is difficult to get along with, one who stores up grudges and must have his or her own way.

Paul then contrasts (v.6) a person who rejoices at wrong with one who rejoices at right. Love always wants right to prevail. The last four are all positive (v. 7), showing an optimistic attitude that makes allowances for faults and is always going forward.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

March 12 Lesson

Basic Passages: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13
Focal Passages: 1 Corinthians 12:31b, 13:8, 13

It is clear to me that this word "love" is much more than just trying to do the best we can. It is a quality of love we can have only when we have been instilled with the very presence of God in Christ. We cannot truly love without having the love of Christ living in us.

This brings us to the third and concluding area of this week's lesson: the priority of love (vv. 8, 13). Love has that eternal nature which causes it to stand alone. Preaching will one day be unnecessary because Jesus Christ will climax history. Tongues will no longer be needed.

In light of what Paul said in chapter 14, that time had already come for the church at Corinth. Even knowledge will not last forever. This refers to our understanding of the Gospel. It is limited to time, for one day we will see face to face.

Only three things remain: faith,

hope, and love. Faith is the essence of our personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Hope lasts because it is the result of our faith commitment.

However, as great and as lasting as these are, love is the most excellent way (12:31b) because it is the very nature of God and the basis of all revelation. For us to use any gift without love is always to abuse the gift and to misrepresent the giver of that gift.

The word used for love (agape) was seldom used in secular Greek writings. Paul has not clearly defined this term. It is not some abstract virtue, but rather action that reaches out with a real interest in another's needs. It is an attitude of forgiveness, caring, and spontaneous use of God's gifts to redeem the time. It is the essence of God's nature and therefore, the essence of Jesus Christ. Thus, it is the essence of Christ's followers.

For God so loved that He gave. When we respond to that love by placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we also give of ourselves.

Acteens Summit set for Opryland Hotel

"Stepping Out...with Hope, in Faith, for Love" is the theme of the annual Acteens Summit to be held March 23-25 at Nashville's Opryland Hotel.

The conference affords Acteens, girls in the seventh through 12th grades, the opportunity to "see how a personal relationship with Christ gives such resources as faith, hope, and love to face life's decisions," according to Woman's Missionary Union personnel.

A new feature, Familytime, will allow sessions for Bible study, fellowship, and discussions with home and foreign missionaries, missionary kids, journeymen, and US-2ers in a small group setting.

Program personnel include Gwen Williams, home missionary in New Orleans, La.; Terri Willis, Foreign Mission Board; Laura Moak, foreign missionary in Korea; and musicians Lance and Susan Howerton of Gaithersburg, Md.

Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. with the general session beginning at 8:00 p.m.

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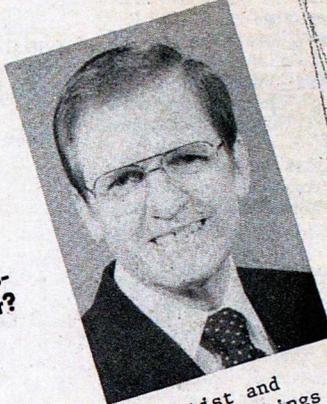
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In Christ,

Jerry L. Glisson
Jerry L. Glisson

JLG:jmn

**Pastor Jerry Glisson of Leawood Baptist
Church explains benefits of the church page
combination . . .**

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