

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Annual convocation

### Alliance votes to start new seminary

From Baptist Press reports  
GREENVILLE, S. C. — Representatives of the Southern Baptist Alliance, meeting here March 1-3 for its annual convocation, debated, discussed, heard guest speakers, and acted on agenda items.

Meeting at Greenville's First Church, the Alliance representatives:

- Voted to start a seminary.
- Postponed a decision on changing the method of government.
- Ratified a request that the board of trustees consider changing the organization's name.
- Re-elected Anne Thomas Neil of Wake Forest, N. C., as Alliance president.
- Elected new members to the board of directors, chosen by their state or regional chapters.
- Approved a motion directing "as many of us as will permit ourselves" to write letters to Bill Moyers and the

Public Broadcasting System, supporting Moyers' TV special, "The Battle for the Bible."

The proposal for a new seminary was approved 462-42.

The Alliance is an organization of Southern Baptist "moderates," claiming almost 44,000 members from 40 states. They have voted to remain in the SBC but have charged current SBC leaders with rejecting principles and causes they hold dear.

For example, Alliance members have cited "loss of academic freedom" at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest as a cause for concern.

In October 1987, Southeastern trustees' new conservative majority altered the way the school chooses teachers. President W. Randall Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft and other faculty and administrators subsequently resigned, citing the policy changes —

which they interpreted as ensuring that only Biblical inerrantists can be added to the faculty — as their reason.

Since that time, SBC moderates on the Eastern Seaboard have spoken of a need for new ways to educate their ministers.

Last September, the Alliance board of directors created a theological education fund to support "alternative ministerial training." In November, it voted to raise \$250,000 in 1989 for theological education and determined five percent of undesignated gifts will support the cause.

Since November, a seminary task force has worked on giving shape to the Alliance's desire for "alternative" ministerial training. Participants in the Greenville convocation ratified the task force's four-part recommendation:

- "That the Southern Baptist Alliance move toward establishment of a school in Richmond (Va.) for the preparation of ministers, in the hope that it will be a cooperative venture between the SBA and theological institutions in Richmond and elsewhere.

- "That the proposed seminary be opened as soon as all necessary plans can be implemented and all necessary funds provided.

- "That the new seminary seek accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada at the earliest possible date.

- "That the (SBA) theological education committee be authorized to name seven SBA members to serve on (See page 5)

### Baptist Center ready for March 17 move

It's moving time, March 17, that is.

At press time, several occupants of the Executive Board Building in Brentwood were scheduled to move to permanent or temporary quarters in the new Baptist Center. Friday is the scheduled day — barring unforeseen circumstances.

Under construction for almost a year, the Center is nearing completion. Major work yet to come includes completion of renovation of the Executive Board building, parking facilities, and landscaping.

Scheduled to move into permanent quarters in the Baptist Center are the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Woman's Missionary Union, and Baptist and Reflector. The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, now in temporary offices on the Franklin Road campus, is scheduled to move to the Center about March 24.

Moving to temporary quarters in the Center on March 17 are Brotherhood Department, Telecommunications Department, Partnership Missions, and Baptist Student Department.

This group will move back to renovated offices, later. Renovation continues for all other departments and offices in the Executive Board Building.

Since Friday is moving day, affected entities will be closed down during the process.

Phone numbers for the "moving" group will remain the same.

### Bills would limit adult housing

There is proposed legislation in Tennessee's state House of Representatives and Senate that would affect housing for mentally disabled adults.

Senate Bill 108 and House Bill 78 would severely limit "cluster" type housing that some groups already have planned.

The bills would limit facilities to one home — instead of allowing more than one home per location as some groups have planned.

"While we do not necessarily plan to have cluster homes," said J. L. Ford, executive director of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, "We see these bills as

limiting the freedom of choice for retarded people and their families. We have no plans for cluster homes at this time, but later we could need to place a second home on a location."

Ford added that for some groups, cluster homes could be the best plan.

Last fall at the annual Tennessee Baptist Convention, messengers voted to begin work with mentally disabled adults and assigned the work to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

Ford said that Tennessee Baptists can contact their local legislative representatives and express their feelings about the proposed bills.



**HILLCREST ANNIVERSARY** — Located in Clarksville, Cumberland Association, Hillcrest Church celebrated its 25th anniversary March 5. John Laida moderated a meeting when the mission was organized in March 1964 on acreage bought by First Church, where he was pastor. At the anniversary, from left: John P. S. Humphrey, first pastor, who preached the sermon; Bryan Edgin, anniversary committee; Pastor Steve Murphree; and Ron Gunter, pastor of River Oaks Church, Ft. Worth, who was ordained by Hillcrest.

### Former SBC presidents call meeting

By Dan Martin and Greg Warner  
ATLANTA (BP) — About 100 Southern Baptist conservatives discussed evangelism and politics during a five-hour invitation-only gathering here March 3.

The meeting, called by four former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention and held in First Church, Atlanta, also dealt with revival, missions giving and featured an hour-long prayer meeting.

According to a news release issued following the meeting, "Prayer, fellowship and reflection regarding the state of our churches and denomination have motivated this assembly of pastors and laymen from across the nation."

One of the participants, James C. Hefley of Hannibal, Mo., said that while "there was a lot of talk about evangelism in Las Vegas," site of the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, the meeting was "more like a rally ... to get people hepped up to go to Las Vegas."

Although organizers said the meeting had been planned for some time, participants discussed a recent news conference by Baptists Committed to the

Southern Baptist Convention in which the group announced it likely will organize for Las Vegas and support a presidential candidate to oppose incumbent Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, and SBC president 1979-80, and 1986-88, when asked why 100 men from 20 state conventions would pay their own way to attend the one-day meeting, said, "I think it was because of the shenanigans of the (Southern Baptist) Alliance compounded by the intentions of the erstwhile group now calling themselves 'centrists,' and seeing they might be trying to unseat Jerry Vines."

(See page 5)

### An inside look

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

## Editorials

# When dark days descend, look for the Son

Events of February and early March have left many Southern Baptists with a feeling of "it's happening again."

Recent meetings remind us that, indeed, it is happening again.

The Southern Baptist Alliance, an organization of about 44,000 "moderates" from forty states, held its convocation in Greenville, S. C., March 1-3. The organization made some startling decisions.

As that group was concluding its meeting, a group of about 100 "conservatives" met in Atlanta, about 160 miles west on Interstate 85. They too made some decisions.

A couple of weeks before those two groups met, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee had a three-day session in Nashville — and arrived at some strange conclusions.

We reported all three. Now, with editorial comment, we risk criticism for:

- Reporting too much about each meeting.
- Reporting not enough about each meeting.

- Reporting from a journalistic view.

The meetings were different. In Greenville, the meeting was open to observers and the press, as was the Executive Committee meeting. The Atlanta meeting was by invitation only, so reports from that group were rendered to the press by representatives of the group.

## Southern Baptist Alliance meeting

The Alliance meeting magnified differences between major Southern Baptist factions. In a major move, the group voted to start a seminary. There is a budget. The Greenville vote moved the Alliance a step closer to formation of a seminary — and a step farther away from the Southern Baptist Convention.

The seminary plan calls for raising \$250,000 for the upstart, seeking accreditation, and working with six non-Southern Baptist theological schools.

## New seminary plans

The plan calls for the seminary to be a "cooperative venture" with the six schools, probably located in Richmond. A master of divinity degree will be offered initially.

Alliance members, like other Baptists, say they are tired of conflict with the SBC.

However, also like other Baptist meetings, their meeting did not have unanimity. Even the seminary plan was debated — and opposed by some members. They said the move would be perceived as divisive, and would compound existing differences between "sides." They are right.

It has been pointed out, however, that criticism should be tempered with the reality that other Southern Baptists already direct two seminaries — Mid-America and Luther Rice. Staying with the task

Catherine Allen, associate executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, was one of several alliance speakers. But she made WMU's position clear. "WMU has made a statement in sticking with our denominational program," she said. "We have the grandest missions program in the world. It is not perfect, but it is ours. We would no more abandon it now than abandon a child who wrecked the family car."

Other speakers urged the Alliance to search carefully for the right path. While we have never attended an Alliance meeting, we observe that some Tennesseans associated with it are dismayed with some of the directions taken, and feel disenfranchised.

## Atlanta meeting by invitation

The Atlanta meeting was organized by Charles Stanley, Adrian Rogers, James Draper, and Bailey Smith — all former SBC presidents.

It was closed to the press and anyone else who did not have an invitation, which is the prerogative of the organizers. Closed meetings, however, no matter how pure the intent, often lead to suspicion of motive.

One of the leaders said the meeting was not primarily political. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, said the meeting was called because of the "shenanigans" of the Alliance, and the intentions of the Centrists group, who apparently plan opposition against SBC President Jerry Vines' re-election bid.

Others who attended said there was discussion about the importance of getting people to Las Vegas for the June SBC meeting, in order to vote.

## Courage, self-denial needed

Sad times these are. Many Southern Baptists will go to Las Vegas only to vote.

If we ever, ever have peace again, it will come only when we stop opposing every action of the other "side." Somewhere, sometime, someone has to make a bold and courageous move. For example, we believe there should not be a candidate to oppose Jerry Vines. Until a very few years ago, it was traditional for SBC presidents to be re-elected without opposition. In the present case, it would be a strong move for reconciliation.

Constantly claiming to be more in God's will than others, is not the answer to peace. The failure of the Peace Committee should awaken us to the fact that all of us — in God's will — provide the answers.

The more we organize to defeat each other, the less we depend on God's guidance and wisdom. How can we expect miracles from Him when we continue to tell Him what to do and then try to do it ourselves?

## Dark days of February

The Executive Committee's action recommending a Religious Liberty Commission sounded the death knell for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. If Southern Baptists approve that recommendation in June, funds for BJCPA could soon dry up. The tactic of routing BJCPA funding through the new commission could abolish BJCPA effectiveness.

The Executive Committee's decision to publicly censure the Bill Moyers' television program about Southern Baptist strife was wrong. If we cannot be strong enough to stand public scrutiny, we should change our ways. The question of whether Moyers was fair should not be debated by the Executive Committee. It is likely that many Southern Baptists thought he was reporting fairly and with integrity.

So what do we do about these dark days? We must display sounder thinking and deeper concern for our role in God's plan for salvation. When we are perceived as Christians because we live that way — perhaps our witness will be clear and understandable, and Southern Baptist evangelism will be as effective as it once was. — WFA

# More FMB flexibility set for older candidates

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND (BP) — More flexibility to consider older candidates for career missionary appointment will result from a revised statement of qualifications at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The updated document removes all references to upper age limits for missionary service. Former guidelines said candidates for career appointment could be no older than 45.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff members presented the changes in February to trustees on the board's mission management and personnel committee, which approved the new document.

"Less emphasis will be placed on the age of the candidate and more emphasis upon the candidate's ability to meet the assignment on the field," said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel.

The board hopes "this added flexibility will contribute to an increased

flow of candidates for the last decade of Bold Mission Thrust," Spurgeon said. Bold Mission Thrust is Southern Baptists' effort to share the Gospel with all people of the world by A.D. 2000.

The board still must consider certain factors in evaluating such candidates, Spurgeon noted. These include fluency in the necessary foreign language or the ability to learn the language, and the time required for a particular candidate to become proficient in a given assignment.

Determining whether candidates measure up to these and other factors "will not be an easy task," Spurgeon said, "but we believe the advantages of greater flexibility will outweigh the difficulties."

Unlike the former guidelines, the new document makes no reference to American citizenship as a requirement for appointment. However, because appointment is limited to persons with "an extended and current record of

meaningful membership and participation in a Southern Baptist church,"

Spurgeon said he does not see this change having a broad impact.

## Baptist and Reflector

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# Patterson, Criswell College might buy Belgium school

By Art Toalston

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — Criswell College of Dallas is negotiating for the purchase of a financially troubled evangelical school near Brussels, Belgium, and the talks have stirred concern among European Baptist leaders and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials.

Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, is at the forefront of the college's negotiations with the Belgian Center for Biblical Education. Patterson also is a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board and a leader of the conservative movement within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Criswell College, also known as the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, is an arm of First Church, Dallas, where W.A. Criswell has been pastor 44 years.

Patterson described any purchase as "extremely tentative." Criswell College trustees have not voted to buy the property, nor has the Belgian institution's administrative council voted to sell it, he said.

"All that is transpiring at the present time is that we are exploring those possibilities further," Patterson said during a telephone interview March 6. He was in Alexandria, Va., for a church Bible conference. He said he hopes Criswell College trustees will arrive at a decision on the purchase within 60 days.

Patterson would not disclose a possible purchase price, but the 500-room Belgian facility was up for sale last fall for \$3 million. Formerly the cam-

pus of a Jesuit (Roman Catholic) seminary that closed in the early 1970s, it was purchased with funds supplied by the Greater Europe Mission in Wheaton, Ill., and European evangelicals.

The ten-acre site is on the outskirts of Louvain, Belgium, 16 miles east of Brussels. The evangelical school has about 160 students, a minority of whom are Baptist. The school has operated in the red for a number of years, according to Robert Johnson, European director for the Greater Europe Mission.

"I foresee that it could be a rather serious problem" if Criswell College buys the Belgian school, said Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, the representative body of 26 Baptist unions, or conventions, in Europe.

Criswell College "is going to bring to us something which we haven't asked for," Wumpelmann said March 6 in a telephone interview from Washington, where he was attending a Baptist World Alliance Council meeting. Wumpelmann is one of the BWA's vice presidents.

The European Baptist Federation asked last October for ownership of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, Wumpelmann said. Foreign Mission Board trustees approved the request by a 59-8 vote the same month. Patterson cast one of the dissenting votes.

"We are deeply thankful to the Southern Baptist Convention" for founding the Swiss seminary in 1949

and for placing it in European hands, Wumpelmann said. "We as European Baptists have never received a greater gift." The seminary played a key role in healing divisions among European Baptists after World War II, he said.

Wumpelmann said he is concerned that the Belgian school, if affiliated with Criswell College, "could create division by emphasizing the differences (among European Baptists), which of course always will exist, but we do not need to have the problems enlarged."

Causing controversy among European Baptists is not Criswell College's aim, Patterson said. "If (the Belgian school) proves to be divisive, it will not be because of anything we do, (but) because of attitudes that some European Baptists might develop toward it," he added.

Referring to the seminary at Ruschlikon, Patterson said, "Our purpose in being in Brussels will not be to act as an antagonist in any way."

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks voiced concern about the potential impact of a high-profile Southern Baptist like Patterson on European Baptists. "They know he is a dominant voice in the Southern Baptist Convention," Parks said. "They know he is a member of the Foreign Mission Board. Many Europeans will see (the Belgian school) as a quasi-official arm of the Foreign Mission Board."

Patterson replied, "We would be happy to make it crystal clear, and we would be happy for (Parks) to make it crystal clear, that this (possible purchase) has nothing to do with the Foreign Mission Board at all."

Patterson cited two reasons for his interest in purchasing the Belgian school:

"First and foremost, it seems to be an important witness for Christ in Belgium and it seems to have some positive effect even beyond Belgium."

Second, a center for studying the Anabaptist movement of the 1500s might be established there, he said. Anabaptists advocated baptism of believers instead of infants, and thousands of these Baptist forerunners were put to death both by the Roman Catholic Church and Protestant reformers in Europe.

FMB leader Parks thinks Criswell College's unilateral purchase of the Bible school would violate the spirit of cooperation that Southern Baptists, through the Foreign Mission Board, have forged with European Baptists. "We have spent years developing this relationship and partnership," he said.

Patterson could have helped by consulting with European Baptists and Foreign Mission Board officials "even if we disagreed," Parks said. "There would have been an effort to discuss it and come to an understanding."

"The attitude of doing it without consultation says, 'I don't care what you think. I want to do my own thing regardless,'" Parks said. "It does not engender a cooperative spirit."

Parks said both he and Patterson share a deep concern for spreading the Gospel in Europe. "We just disagree on the way to work."

## First Church, Athens calls Carlos Peterson

Carlos R. Peterson accepted a call to the pastorate of First Church, Athens, effective March 20. He succeeds Ansell T. Baker, who retired last June after 15 years with the church.

A native of Erwin, Peterson holds degrees from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

For the past three and a half years, he has served as associate pastor of First Church, Tallahassee, Fla., and prior to that, as pastor of First Church Kingstree, S. C., for five years.

## Anderson, Madden join Adult Homes staff



ANDERSON

MADDEN

Directors of the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc. have approved the employment of two staff members.

Filling two new positions with the adult care institution are Mark William Anderson as director of ministry to developmentally disabled adults, and Tom J. Madden as consultant.

Anderson, of Antioch, will join the staff on April 1. Madden will begin work on May 1 upon retirement as executive secretary-treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

J. L. Ford, TBAH executive director, said, "We are pleased to have join our staff these two men of Christian strength, character, and integrity. They will enhance our work with adults throughout Tennessee."

Anderson is currently employed as social worker for the 42-bed Mental Retardation Secure Facility, and is responsible for daily liaison among clients, their families, and all outside agencies.

He is a graduate of Belmont College and will gain his MA in psychology at Tennessee State University in May. He and his wife Vickie are members of Creeview Church, Nashville. He has served as minister of music/youth for

First Church, Ashland City, and has written daily Bible studies for Home Life magazine.

Madden will retire April 30 after serving in his present position for ten years. He has been pastor of several churches, including First Church, Tullahoma, prior to joining the Executive Board staff.

With the TBAH, Madden will support the staff in all its work.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention last fall approved work with mentally retarded adults. Anderson's post stems from that decision.

## Church history workshop planned for TBC churches

NASHVILLE — The Historical Commission, SBC, has designed a workshop to train church history committee members in Tennessee Baptist churches. Titled "Heritage Workshop '89: How to Do Your Church's History Work," this training opportunity will be led by Andy Rawls, director of media services for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The workshop will be offered twice: April 24, 3-5 p.m., and April 25, 7-9 p.m. Both sessions will be in the auditorium of the Southern Baptist Convention Building, 901 Commerce St., Nashville.

For information, contact the agency at 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville 37203-3620.

The workshops are during the annual meeting of the Historical Commission and Southern Baptist Historical Society. To register for the entire April 24-26 meeting (including the workshop), contact the commission at (615) 244-0344.

## Here's Hope revival materials available in six languages

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Materials to help pastors prepare for 1990 "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals are now available in six languages from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The diversity of free materials was announced during the annual language church extension conference in Oklahoma City. Nationwide revivals are scheduled for March 18 through April 29, 1990.

Thad Hamilton, associate director of the HMB's mass evangelism department, said revival aids have been prepared in Spanish, Korean, French/Haitian, Vietnamese, and basic English.

The materials will be mailed to the denomination's 4600 ethnic congregations in mid-April, he said. Ethnic churches not receiving a packet or Anglo congregations desiring the materials may call the board's toll-free "Here's Hope" telephone number, 1 800 346-1990.

Production of the multi-lingual materials and increased training signal the denomination's recognition of the growth potential of ethnic groups, Hamilton said. During the 1986 simultaneous revivals, materials were

produced in only two languages.

This year's free materials include a pastor's awareness guide, evangelistic people search booklet, and information on how to prepare for a revival, he said. Additional ethnic materials available for a small fee include booklets on presenting evangelistic invitations, how to prepare spiritually for revival, and the plan of salvation.

New Testaments are also available in the six basic languages as well as in Chinese and Polish. Gospels of John are being produced in Arabic, Cambodian, Japanese, Vietnamese, Laotian, Tagalog, Romanian, and German.

During the four-day Oklahoma City meeting, Hamilton trained six ethnic pastors and two evangelists who will serve as national revival consultants for their language groups. "Evangelism is more caught than taught, and we're using these consultants to spread the spirit of revival among their language congregations," he said.

Hamilton said he hopes the simultaneous revivals will result in 175,000 baptisms — a projected increase of 72,000 from the 1986 national revivals. Much of that increase should come from ethnic participation, which was lacking in the previous evangelistic thrust, he added.

# Our Readers Write ... on missions, documentary, and more ...

## Missions important

I would like to commend you for editing such a fine Newsjournal. It is a pleasure to receive it each week. It is filled with good material, promoting and emphasizing special events, news items, and just a wealth of information and inspiration.

The March 1 issue is excellent. The full page on the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the editorial certainly will not go un-noticed. This is so valuable and necessary if the work is carried on as it needs to be. The needs are great, and the emphasis given will certainly alert people to pray and give, and even go.

I want you to know how much I appreciate the space that is given to this special week. Sometimes some of us have to be on tiptoes and be very quiet about the special missions weeks and offerings. In some of our churches the men seem to get turned off if they read or hear these things.

Thank you again for work well done. I am WMU Director at Antioch Baptist Church, Humboldt. It is a real blessing to serve in this place.

Dorothy Sue Goodrich  
211 Jackson Hwy.  
Medina 38355

## Concern for witness

I agree with John B. Wright in the front page article of Feb. 15, about giving missions and evangelism a new thrust. I find no fault in that.

I do, however, find fault in some terminology in describing lost men and women about us. He states, "We desire to emphasize the need for penetrating the 'pagan pool' with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." I first heard that term several years ago and it offended me then and now.

There is no doubt that we need to reach lost mankind but I have a feeling that if here in Smithville the lost people knew that they were being referred to as the "pagan pool" it would make our job much harder. I don't believe that we need to use terms like "pagan pool." I have a hard time believing that that type of label would open many doors for reaching the vast numbers of lost people around us with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope this doesn't sound nit-picky. It is

an opinion expressed out of concern for our witness to lost people.

Bill Robertson  
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Smithville 37166

**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.**

## Off to Philippines

We completed our orientation at the Missionary Learning Center here in Rockville, Va., on March 7 and are in Tennessee for two weeks. On March 21, we will fly out to begin our first term in the Philippines. We have had a tremendous learning experience here and are grateful to all Southern Baptists for their support.

We would like for you to continue positively emphasizing the partnership of Tennessee with the Philippines. We would like to see many teams from Tennessee involved in the work there. We have a fond place for the Filipino people in our hearts and the harvest is truly plentiful. We definitely need the laborers of Tennessee to prayerfully seek God's will as to how they might be used in His harvest field.

Thank you for the kind words you have written about us in the past few months. We hope to keep in touch with you and let you know what is going on in our ministry. We will include you on our newsletter mailing list.

Our address in the Philippines will be P. O. Box 94, Davao City 8000, Philippines.

Jeff and Regina Palmer  
Rt. 3, Box 13  
Waverly 37185

## Not an ostrich

Viewing "Battle for the Bible" by Bill Moyers and reading about events related to this documentary in the March 1, Baptist and Reflector have prompted me to ask a series of questions which I have entitled, "Not an Ostrich."

What if Southern Baptist leaders have pure motives, no political connections, and base all their decisions on the best interests of the people they serve?

What if the Executive Committee of the SBC protects its members from the embarrassment of perceived biased reporting and one-sided views?

But, what if the Executive Committee suppresses the right of Southern Baptists to free speech, a free press, and a knowledge of the truth?

What if God invests the power for Biblical interpretation in certain charismatic leaders?

But, what if the Holy Spirit gives power to all Christians to read and interpret the Bible?

What if women are ordained by God to be second-class citizens who can receive the Holy Spirit but who cannot receive certain spiritual gifts that men can receive, such as the gifts of being a deacon or a minister?

But, what if women are ordained by God to be equal recipients of the Holy Spirit and equal recipients of all spiritual gifts, including those of being a deacon or a minister?

What if all SBC women who tithe and contribute of their incomes never demand equal representation in the decision-making structure of the church, including the deacon council and the finance committee, which decides how that money is to be used?

But, what if they do?

What if I, as a Southern Baptist, could bury my head in the sand?

But, what if I couldn't?

Linda J. Kerley, RN, MSN  
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Jonesborough 37659

## Victory from defeat

The Bible commands Christians to be full of zeal and enthusiasm, to be optimistic, confident always of God's love and His ultimate control over life's realities. We are further instructed to love one another. Yet, for those of us over 30 life has taught us some lessons that make it difficult to follow these Biblical instructions.

From defeat, we have learned not to

## Listening session held at Big Emory

Big Emory Association is included in a series of listening sessions with various associations in Tennessee with editors of Baptist Sunday School Board publications (See Feb. 22 issue).

The association's name was left off a list provided to the Baptist and Reflector.

The dates and places for the Big Emory sessions are March 20, Trenton Street Church, Harriman, and March 21, Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield. Both sessions begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

A session will be held at 10 a.m. on March 22 for pastors and church staff members only at the associational office in Harriman.

Bill Bargiol is director of missions for the Big Emory Association.

try so hard. When we love deeply and are hurt, we learn to care less intensely; to be cautious in relationships; to distrust the motives of others. When we are stifled in our creative, often God-inspired thoughts, we soon learn to stifle these thoughts ourselves.

How then can we reckon God's Biblical instructions to us with reality? God uses life's experiences to teach us more about His ways. But we often learn the wrong lessons. We often choose to accept as truth the lessons of the world, while denying God's wisdom. God teaches that we must genuinely care about even those who betray us. Just as our Lord forgave Peter and accepted him back into His inner circle, so are we to forgive and love again those who betray us.

God teaches that what appears to be certain defeat is often only a temporary setback. From the defeat of the cross, our Lord won His proudest victory. Faith is not faith when it is reality. We must believe God through the clouds.

Is there then any hope for those of us who have learned so well the harsh lessons the world has taught us? From psychology, we are told that anything learned can be unlearned. But we must be committed to the reprogramming of our lives. We must reflect on past experiences from which we have learned caution, cynicism, and distrust.

In this reflection we must now discern what God was really trying to teach us. Then, as life's experiences continue, we must learn from each that which God would have us learn.

Helen Hargrove  
2601 Hillsboro Rd.  
Nashville 37212

## Total membership increases in Nashville Association

NASHVILLE — The number of baptisms in the Nashville Association reached its highest level in eight years during 1987-88, according to a report released by the association.

In 1987-88, the association's 117 member churches reported 2403 baptisms, a gain of 233 from the previous year.

According to the report, there were 4340 other additions during the year, a gain of 292 members. The report added that 4440 members left the association during the year.

Total resident members in 1987-88 were 70,959, a gain of 799. Total church membership reached 97,155, a gain of 1268 members.

Sunday School enrollment also showed an increase last year, the report stated. Total Sunday School enrollment for the year reached 58,985, up from 56,800 the previous year. Average Sunday School attendance in the association was 26,377.

The report also indicated a total of 11,614 tithers, an increase of more than 1600. Total receipts from the churches for the year was \$38,963,438, an increase of \$1,477,071. Local expenditures totaled \$39,227,523, according to the report.

Missions-related expenditures during the year exceeded \$6 million.

Church Training enrollment increased to 12,392, a gain of 123 members, but average attendance during the year dropped from 5597 to 5549.

The value of church property in the association increased by more than \$9 million during the year to \$160,916,371.

## Porter retires after 33 years as pastor

J. Arnold Porter, pastor of First Church, Centerville, since 1976, retired March 5 after 33 years as a Southern Baptist pastor.

A retirement banquet was held in his honor March 1 at the Centerville church. Program participants included Tom Madden, Johnnie Hall, and Clarence Stewart of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Charles Livengood, director of missions, Alpha Association; and Michael Prowse, director of missions, Stone Association.

A native of Spring City, Arnold was ordained into the ministry at First Church, Dayton.

Arnold, a graduate of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

in Louisville, Ky., held several pastorates in Kentucky before returning to Tennessee in 1963 as pastor of Highland Park Church in Lawrenceburg.

Other pastorates in Tennessee include First Church, Fayetteville and Parkway Church, Goodlettsville.

During his ministry Porter served as moderator of three Tennessee Baptist associations — Lawrence County, William Carey, and Alpha.

Porter served five terms (14 years) on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He also served as recording secretary for the convention and was a member of the state missions committee.

Porter, who will continue to live in Centerville, plans to remain active in retirement and will continue to serve as chairman of the evangelism committee for the Alpha Association.

Porter and his wife, Violet, have a son, Gerald, and a daughter, Janelle Porter Briley.



PORTER

## Southern Baptist Alliance votes to begin . . .

(Continued from page 1)

a provisional board of directors, along with six others consisting of the chief executive officers, or their designees, from the School of Theology of Virginia Union University, the Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Andover-Newton Theological Seminary."

Theological education committee Chairman Tom Graves presented the proposal. He defined three purposes of the new school: "The seminary would be distinctively Baptist in terms of the Baptist heritage, but it would be racially and gender inclusive, with an ecumenical commitment and global perspective. The seminary, while stressing classical theological disciplines, would include in its curriculum opportunities for hands-on practice in ministry. And the seminary, while seeking excellence in scholarship, would provide for and encourage the spiritual growth of its faculty, staff, and students."

The proposed seminary would be "no larger than 150 students," said Graves, pastor of St. John's Church, Charlotte, N.C. Planners have in mind "a free-standing school, with its own students, its own board, offering its own degrees in its own identifiable building," he added.

The Alliance did not set a date for the start of the new school. Before the convocation, task force members talked of opening this fall, but their recommendation left the opening contingent on receipt of "necessary funds."

Ashcraft, a task force member who has been a primary researcher and

planner in the project, said trustees would be responsible for setting a specific budget.

The school probably would need between \$400,000 and \$500,000 during its first year, with perhaps \$100,000 recovered in tuition, he predicted. Tuition could range from \$2400 to \$5000 annually, according to a report released by the task force.

The seminary "would be a cooperative venture" with the three schools that comprise the Richmond Theological Center consortium — the School of Theology of Virginia Union University, a predominantly black American Baptist school; the Presbyterian School of Christian Education; and Union Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian school — and the three American Baptist seminaries, "if they are so disposed," the task force report said.

The new seminary has been assured of classroom space at Northminster Church, Richmond, and access to Union Theological Seminary's library, Graves said.

The seminary initially will offer a master of divinity degree, the task force report said. However, the proposed consortium arrangement with other schools will afford "numerous possibilities for students to achieve their specialties in other institutions," it noted, citing five other degrees available through the Richmond schools.

### Speakers exhort

Catherine Allen, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, challenged the Alliance to "move to the middle of the (convention's) stream, even at risk of losing public identity, in order to gain power to support the denomination."

Allen affirmed the SBC's mission boards as "the best in the world." The Home Mission Board "gives more opportunity than any other denominational entity to be involved in service," she said, noting 52 percent of 45,000 Southern Baptists involved in home missions last year were women. She also commended the Foreign Mission Board's global strategic planning for opening more opportunities for ministry.

### Role for women

During a question-and-answer session, Allen was asked if WMU could "make a very affirming comment on the role of women as pastors and preachers." She responded: "I don't believe WMU has ever made a statement using those words and don't know if a majority would vote for it. But we have endorsed women in all forms of ministry. . . . We have plowed new ground." She added she would "take your comment and reaction" — a standing ovation — back to the WMU.

Larry McSwain, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Theology, urged the Alliance to analyze itself by asking three questions:

- Is a new vision a vision for the SBC or the SBA — for this denomination or a new denomination? "I think you decided your identity yesterday" with a vote to start a new seminary, McSwain said. "I heard more about the Eastern Seaboard than the Southern Baptist Convention."
- Will a vision for the SBA be mission or institutional? "I hoped the SBA could fill gaps not filled elsewhere, to provide resources for congregations that don't fit" the typical SBC mold, he said.
- How can you be consistent to (your) resources? "The SBA can be vi-

sionary only if that vision is rooted in your resources," McSwain said. "You have made a commitment to focus your resources in a particular direction (starting a seminary). If you fail, the SBA probably will die. It will take all your resources."

W. Randall Lolley, former president of Southeastern Seminary, said his vision for the Alliance is "far too personal to be of much use to you."

Organizations "need, periodically at least, to be repotted," he said. "My vision for our denomination — and I'm committed to it — is to find ways to have some repotting happen. We need to keep what is a growing plant and jettison what's not."

Only two major national efforts have emerged within the SBC in the past ten years, Lolley said, citing the Alliance and the "very fine" Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, urged the Alliance to ponder its "ambiguities" and drew four conclusions:

- "The Southern Baptist Alliance is, and must be, a specifically purposive enterprise," he said. "Rationality and intentionality must be our hallmarks, not reaction and definition by 'who we're not' than 'who we are.'"
- "The SBA will be a coalition of dissimilar elements. The cultural and religious pluralism of our day guarantees that. Our nature as a soul-freedom people locks us into this dissimilarity."
- "The SBA and the SBC are, and will be, different," he added. They both contain the same four sociological types, but "functions of size, age, geography, and leadership order the relative strengths of the ideal types differently."

## Former Southern Baptist Convention presidents call . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Rogers added: "The meeting was not primarily a political meeting. It was an exhortative meeting, a revival meeting, a soul-winning meeting, a meeting to discuss the state of the convention. It served to show us we have to keep our lives keen and our hearts warm."

James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, and SBC president 1982-84, told Baptist Press: "This is the first meeting we have had since the last convention. We wanted to assess where we felt we were and to encourage our people to participate in the convention in Las Vegas . . . to encourage them to come ahead of time and be involved in the witnessing" project planned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Fred Powell, senior associate pastor of First Church, Atlanta and one of the meeting's organizers, said there "was a lot of discussion about various aspects of how important it is to go to Las Vegas, for them to pick their ten messengers right now and get a commitment from them to go. And to train them in soul winning, right now."

Powell said participants heard messages from three presidents, as well as "brief remarks" from host pastor Charles Stanley, SBC president 1984-86. They also participated in an hour-long prayer meeting, listened to a

panel of Stanley, Draper, and Rogers and heard a tape recording of a confrontation between Richard Jackson of Phoenix and Houston Judge Paul Pressler.

"Jimmy (Draper) affirmed missions giving through the Cooperative Program; Adrian (Rogers) talked about recommitting ourselves before God; Jerry (Vines) powerfully admonished us that soul winning must be what we are about," Powell said.

The meeting was called by Stanley, Rogers, Draper, and Bailey Smith, an Atlanta evangelist and president 1980-82, who was unable to attend, reportedly because of a previous engagement at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

Vines said he was invited by the four past presidents and stopped over in Atlanta enroute to a Bible conference in Alabama.

Hefley said conservatives are concerned Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention "will come up with some (presidential) candidate" who could defeat Vines, who announced in late February he is willing to be nominated for a second one-year term as president.

"In Atlanta, the people were concerned that the conservative resurgence could be reversed and it could start in Las Vegas. Many people

thought Las Vegas was going to be a routine convention, but it is going to boil down to who can get out the votes."

Draper said: "Our desire is to see Jerry (Vines) re-elected. At this point, there is no announced candidate (to oppose him) and our hope is that there won't be one. We recognize that may be wishful thinking, but we are still hoping."

Hefley was one of two reporters allowed at the meeting. The other was Robert M. Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Church, Morganton, N. C., and editor of the *Southern Baptist Advocate*. Both men are closely identified with the conservative movement in the SBC.

The meeting was not off the record, Hefley said, and added he will include an account in volume four of his series which concerns the conservative resurgence in the SBC. The volume is expected out in advance of the 1989 annual meeting.

Powell said neither Tenery nor Hefley was invited as "a reporter, but because of their commitment to the (conservative) movement."

Baptist Press asked to be allowed to attend the meeting, but was refused permission. Another reporter, Everett Hullum of Atlanta, representing the *Florida Baptist Witness*, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention, was

turned away at the door because his name was not on the invitation list.

Powell said organizers sent out 120 invitations. "We asked friends in every state to send names," he said. Hullum, however, said he was told at the door the participation list was drawn up by Powell, Rogers, and Pressler, one of the architects of the conservative movement.

Rogers said he "did not know how the (invitation) list was drawn up. It probably was just pieced together." Pressler declined to comment on the meeting.

Robert Crowley, pastor of Montrose Church, Rockville, Md., and chairman of trustees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, informed participants on events at the seminary, which has been involved in controversy regarding accreditation.

Hefley, who made the recording of the Jackson-Pressler corporation, and provided copies to Pressler, Jackson and Powell, said it was played "as an awareness thing to let them know what is going on."

Hefley said "quite a few people prayed" for Jackson "that a spirit of understanding and love would prevail. There was no animosity toward Richard Jackson. Animosity, no; sadness, yes."

# Sunday School Board considers concerns about child abuse

NASHVILLE (BP) — Child sexual abuse has become an epidemic in the United States and Southern Baptists are not isolated from the problem, a counselor told preschool, children's, and youth ministry employees at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Joe Richardson, personnel counselor at the board and a certified psychologist, said a dramatic increase in the number of youth attending board-sponsored summer programs who seek counseling about abuse situations is one indication that Southern Baptists must address the problem.

For example, during one week at a summer conference center, Richardson said as many as 20 persons sought him out to talk about sexual abuse situations. He emphasized that none of

those cases occurred while a child was participating in a board-sponsored program.

The board needs to deal with the problem and find ways to help churches deal with it, Richardson said. "Southern Baptist churches and the denomination have been silent on this. We don't need to be silent."

Richardson and Norm Finney, manager of technical services and a board attorney, met with employees as an initial step to consider board response to the problem.

Richardson cited U.S. Department of Justice statistics estimating perhaps one million cases of child abuse occur each year. In Tennessee, statistics indicate child sexual abuse increased 254 percent from 1982 to 1985.

Richardson said there are no statistics for Southern Baptists. However, college students in a 1987 survey conducted by The Student magazine ranked child abuse first among a list of society's greatest needs and concerns.

The board needs to take an active role in helping churches deal with child sexual abuse, said Bill Young, manager of the preschool-children's section of the church training department.

The church training department has an Equipping Center module, Helping Children in Crisis, and a BTN tape series, Ministering to Children in Crisis, which both deal with child abuse as one of several crises, Young said.

But, Young said, more needs to be done relating specifically to the problem. "We need to be alerting churches to help them become aware of the problem and how to deal with it. We tend to think the church is immune to this, but it's not."

Churches and the board may have to deal with requirements of stricter laws designed to protect children from abuse, Finney said.

Laws in some states now require screening for persons working with children to determine whether they have committed particular criminal acts or acts of abuse or neglect, he noted.

Baptist Press in January reported on court cases involving churches being charged with liability for the abusive

acts of employees.

Care must be exercised by Sunday School Board employees who hire temporary and part-time workers who have extended contact and direct supervision over persons under 18 years of age through summer preschool, children's and youth programs, Richardson said.

He said the next step for the board likely will be a recommendation that a task force be established from various program areas to draft policies on screening applicants, training employees and volunteers in preventing sexual abuse and establishing procedures for handling any reported cases. Identifying ways to help churches deal with the problem likely would also be part of the task force assignment, Richardson said.

## Belmont advances to NAIA tournament

Belmont College's men's basketball team captured the NAIA District 24 tournament championship with a 98-81 victory March 8 over Lincoln Memorial University of Harrogate.

The win enabled Belmont to advance to the NAIA championship tournament this week in Kansas City, Mo.

On the road to the district title, Belmont defeated David Lipscomb University of Nashville, the number one rated team in the NAIA. Before the Belmont victory, Lipscomb was 38-1.

Belmont, led by Coach Rick Byrd, is 25-9 for the season.

## First Church, Memphis, celebrates sesquicentennial

"A Landmark ... A Lighthouse 1839-1989" is the theme for the 150th anniversary celebration of First Church, Memphis, April 8-9.

The church began services at Magevney School, Memphis, in April 1839. The first baptism, that of Mary Mosby, took place in the Mississippi River. A log building was constructed later in what is now downtown Memphis.

The two-day sesquicentennial event will be highlighted by a historical pageant at 7:30 p.m., April 8, in the church sanctuary. Over 175 people including the sanctuary and children's choirs will participate in a multi-media production whose script and music were written by the church's minister of music, Ray Hatton. Hatton has also composed a sesquicentennial introit which the choir is performing every Sunday morning in 1989.

Other April 8 events include a homecoming open house from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with tours of the new Heritage

Room, a permanent display of church-related memorabilia.

At 2:30 p.m. on April 8, a cake with 150 candles will be cut by Pegeen Davis, wife of First Church's pastor, Earl Davis. At 3 p.m., Pastor Emeritus R. Paul Caudill will autograph copies of his book, *Inter-twined, A History of First Baptist Church*, which chronicles the church's history as it relates to the history of Memphis. Caudill was the church's pastor from 1944-1975. Davis became pastor in 1976.

The sesquicentennial worship service will be at 10:30 a.m., April 9. Duke McCall, former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a former First Church member, will deliver the sermon. An open house in the fellowship hall will follow the service.

All former staff members, former church members and others interested in early Baptist history in Shelby County are urged to join the congregation in the two-day observance.

## Personal Perspective

By Tom J. Madden

On March 3, for all practical purposes your Baptist building here in Brentwood was closed. It wasn't by our choice. The doors were open and we were willing but the Nashville Electric Service was installing a new transformer and that meant the power was shut off. I was impressed again how we are dependent upon electricity. While we use natural gas to heat, the furnace will not function without electricity. We had to bring a single phone in by outside wiring because the phone system depends on electric power. The building was in darkness.

I realized again how dependent we are on outside sources. Much of my boyhood was spent in a home warmed by a wood stove, water from a hand-pumped well, and coal oil lamps for light. I remember how thrilled we were when we got our first Aladdin lamp. However, we were not dependent on outside sources.

Another thought crossed my mind:



MADDEN

the typewriters were in place, the desks and equipment were unchanged but nothing was working because there was no power. It made me recall the words of the prophet Zechariah, "This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, said the Lord of hosts," (Zechariah 4:6).

This reminded me that we can have excellent buildings, superb equipment, well-trained workers, but if the Holy Spirit is not present, all else is in vain.

I know also as a preacher, that you can study and prepare well, have a beautiful worship center, and many people present, but if the spirit of the living God does not anoint, the message will be as sounding brass or tinkling cymbal and God's people will depart spiritually hungry. It is also true that when God's people experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the preachers voice takes on a powerful eloquence, hearts are opened, lives are blessed, souls are saved, and God is honored.

I hope we can never have the power shut off in the building again. I pray that God's Spirit will always be poured out on our churches and the Holy Spirit will never be quenched.

## NOBTS

## Carl Duck establishes scholarship

By J. Brian Broome

NEW ORLEANS — Carl Duck, director of missions for Nashville Baptist Association, like all missions-minded Southern Baptists, is committed to the future of the Southern Baptist Convention.

And, as an expression of his commitment, he is "going the second mile." Not only is he deeply involved in the relationship between churches and association, he and his wife have established a scholarship to provide financial aid to students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"This is the most exciting time ever to serve in associational work," Duck said. "The association is recognized as a vital member of the missions team in Southern Baptist life. The association is close to the local church and thus has the opportunity to maintain that fellowship which is so very vital to us as Southern Baptists.

"I see missions as the focus of everything we do in the SBC," he added, "and associational missions is right there in the heart of it all. The association serves in a supportive role as it enlists and encourages churches on the local level to do missions and evangelism. As we Baptists do our work, it will not be done as well as it should be unless associations fulfill their role."

With 32 years of pastoral experience, Duck understands all levels of his multi-faceted responsibilities. And with 134 churches in his association, totaling 97,000 members, he needs every bit of that experience.

Since 1978, Duck and his team of five professional staff members and four support staff members have seen 24

new churches and/or missions begun in the Nashville area.

In addition to his concern for churches and associations, Duck has a concern for NOBTS and future ministers. His feelings are so strong that he and his wife have made a stipulation in their will which will provide financial assistance for New Orleans students in the form of a memorial scholarship.

The Reginald Carl Duck scholarship will be in memory of their son, a sociology teacher at Dallas Baptist University when he was killed in an automobile accident at age 24.

## Alirio Eustace asks for volunteers' help

Volunteers who served in Venezuela July through December 1988 during the recently-concluded Tennessee/Venezuela Partnership Mission, your help is needed.

Clarence Stewart, TBC Partnership Mission director, asks that such volunteers check to see if you could have a box of books or a box of photos, that should have gone to Venezuela.

Alirio Eustace attended Southwestern Seminary. Upon his graduation last June, he sent several boxes of books, photos, and school supplies to Stewart's office in the Baptist Building. Volunteers were asked to help transport them to Eustace.

Eustace has communicated that several boxes are missing. One was filled with irreplaceable photos made during his stay in the United States. Another had a set of books vital to his teaching at the seminary.

Neither of these boxes has been located in Venezuela.

Rebuilding damaged churches

# Retirees willing to pay to work in Jamaica

By *Connie Davis, assistant editor*

Curtis Fowler is going back to Jamaica even though the food was bad, the hours were long, the work was hard, and most would agree a retiree deserves freedom from work.

Fowler is one of some 280 Southern Baptists who has served in Jamaica to help rebuild the 180 Southern Baptist churches damaged by Hurricane Gilbert last September.

As a coordinator with fellow Knoxville Don Byrd for 21 days, Fowler often worked 18-20 hour days directing up to 56 volunteers a week.

He didn't enjoy the popular Jamaican dish, cabbage and codfish. Traveling was frustrating at best and hazardous at worst. And the heat was oppressive.

## Secretaries' conference planned at Carson

The annual Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Secretaries' Conference will be held April 10-12 at Camp Carson in Newport.

The theme of the conference is "Achieving Excellence." Sessions will deal with topics such as computers, newsletters/bulletins; grammatical review; understanding your boss; and charm, poise, and public relations.

Total cost of the conference including registration, meals, lodging, and organization dues is \$45.75.

For additional information and registration form, contact the TBC Church Training Department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

But the retiree will pay for a return trip for other reasons.

A woman Fowler met who worked at the college where the volunteers stayed made an impact on his life.

Her prayer time began at 3 a.m. She told Fowler that she would pray for him. He added that every morning since he has returned he has awakened at 3 a.m.

"It was something else to see those people come and put those roofs on and go home to get rained on (in their homes)."

"They would continue to hold services if it wasn't raining," continued Fowler.

Many deacons conduct services in churches that share their pastor with several churches. Often those families serve as hosts of the volunteer teams. Fowler added that the homes might not have running water or electricity.

"Believe you me they're dedicated deacons," reported Fowler.

The average adult in Jamaica makes \$15 a week, observed Fowler. The country has very few restaurants, cars, or other signs of prosperity.

The only truck the volunteers could find on the island to deliver the materials to the churches is so old a person can "see the air in the tires," commented Fowler. The insured churches only received 25 percent of the value of the building.

In addition to the nurse at the college Fowler befriended, he also met the college's dietitian, who had a "wonderful personality," he said. She



**VOLUNTEERS FOR JAMAICA** — Curtis Fowler, left, and Don Byrd reminisce and plan for another tour in Jamaica.

became a Christian because of the witness of some of the volunteers. She requested his address so she could invite him to her baptism.

The project is supported by the Foreign Mission Board which provides construction materials and the Brotherhood Commission which is supplying much of the labor. Work began last December led by a retired layman from Florida.

Fowler told of one team who was "so proud of the church (they repaired) that they had to go back nearly every service though it was a long way to drive (from their new work site)."

Besides Fowler and Byrd, four other members of West Lonsdale Church,

Knoxville, worked in the project: Jack Vallentine, Ollie Stewman, Bob Loy, and Kenneth Ford. The six men also serve on the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief team.

Byrd and Fowler hope one team of 6-8 Tennesseans will serve each week during April while they work in Jamaica.

## Women's conference location filled

State Woman's Missionary Union personnel reported Mar. 10 that Gatlinburg's Park Vista, which is hosting the Baptist Women Get-Together April 7-9, is filled.

However, WMU will continue accepting registration for the weekend conference until the ballroom reaches capacity.

# Sunday School enrollment on the rise in Tennessee

Tennessee Baptist churches reported an overall increase of 2956 in Sunday School enrollment for 1988 — despite the fact that enrollment dropped by 30,733 across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Tennessee ranked second among state conventions, just a step behind

Florida Baptists who increased their enrollment by 5441. Following the two leaders were the states of Arizona, Hawaii, Ohio, Georgia, New England, Wyoming, Nevada, Indiana, Michigan, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and West Virginia.

In all, the other 23 state conventions

showed enrollment decreases.

Greer Ruble Jr., TBC Sunday School Department director, points to several reasons for Tennessee's good showing:

Increased attendance at regional, associational, and church study course training programs; associational Sunday School Growth Campaigns; churches on Growth Spiral; Outreach Bible Study programs — to name a

few.

Total TBC Sunday School enrollment as of Sept. 30, 1988, was 543,252.

Two Rivers Church, Nashville; Central Church, Hixson; and Germantown Church, Germantown, led the way in enrollment increases.

Net enrollment percentage leaders are First Church, Watauga; Mt. Sinai Church, Erin; and Rosemark Church, Millington.

| Top twenty-six churches TBC based on 1987-88 number of persons increase in Sunday School enrollment |                      |                   |                    |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Association   | Church               | Pastor            | Net Inc. 1987-1988 |
| Nashville   | Two Rivers           | Jerrell Sutton    | 506                |
| Hamilton  | Central Hixson       | Ron Phillips      | 450                |
| Shelby  | Germantown           | Ken Story         | 421                |
| Clinton   | Central Oak Ridge    | Tom Melzoni       | 340                |
| Watauga   | Fairview             | David Shorter     | 313                |
| Shelby  | Bartlett             | Jackie Kay        | 296                |
| Nashville   | Hendersonville First | Glenn Weekley     | 291                |
| Knox  | Chilhowee Hills      | John Shepherd     | 274                |
| Nashville   | Franklin First       | Richard White     | 272                |
| Knox  | Central Bearden      | Larry Fields      | 257                |
| Hamilton  | Woodland Park        | Wayne Barber      | 256                |
| Nolchucky   | Manley               | Richard Emmert    | 250                |
| Hamilton  | Oakwood              | Bill Belva        | 249                |
| Nashville   | Tusculum Hills       | Doug Westmoreland | 239                |
| Shelby  | Bellevue             | Adrian Rogers     | 211                |
| Shelby  | Whitten Memorial     | Kenneth Bruce     | 208                |
| Lawrence  | Lawrenceburg First   | William Henard    | 196                |
| Sevier  | Pigeon Forge First   | W. W. Cope        | 196                |
| Nashville   | Harpeth Heights      | Mack Hannah       | 189                |
| Nashville   | Temple               | Robert Hammer     | 185                |
| Shelby  | Collierville First   | Gary Watkins      | 183                |
| Shelby  | Hickory Ridge        | Walter Jackson    | 162                |
| Carroll-Benton  | Huntingdon First     | Fred Ward         | 157                |
| Clinton   | Calvary              | Steven McDonald   | 150                |
| Maury   | Columbia First       | Tim Floyd         | 150                |
| Shelby  | Leewood              | Jerry Glisson     | 150                |

| Top twenty-four churches in percentage increase in Sunday School enrollment |                     |                  |                        |
|---|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Association   | Church              | Pastor           | Percent Inc. 1987-1988 |
| Watauga   | Watauga First       | Edgar Pierce     | 521.4                  |
| Stewart   | Mt. Sinai           | Ray Barrow       | 510.0                  |
| Shelby  | Rosemark            | Wade Taylor      | 350.0                  |
| Grainger  | Panther Park        | Curtis Webber    | 318.8                  |
| Truett  | Immanuel            | David Deavers    | 219.0                  |
| Dyer  | Miston              | Carmon Dennison  | 173.9                  |
| Big Emory   | Coal Hill           | Roy Bowlin       | 142.4                  |
| Beulah  | Lake Road           | Jerry Leggett    | 140.0                  |
| Big Hatchie   | Woodlawn            | James Edmonson   | 136.4                  |
| Sequatchie Valley   | Cold Springs First  | Lowell Cantrell  | 114.6                  |
| Stewart   | Fairview            | Richard Stafford | 111.1                  |
| Loudon  | South Holston       | Stanley Seay     | 108.8                  |
| Bradley   | Brittsville         | Johnny Jones     | 107.7                  |
| Shelby  | Lamar Terrace       | Robert West      | 106.3                  |
| Stone   | Brotherton          | Mark Fuqua       | 100.0                  |
| Cumberland  | Northside           | John Amyx        | 93.1                   |
| Midland   | Ruggles Ferry       | Bob Griffin      | 90.2                   |
| Duck River  | Westwood            | Roy Carter       | 89.4                   |
| Carroll-Benton  | Holladay Unity      | No Pastor        | 85.7                   |
| Bledsoe   | Red Boiling Springs | Stephen Bode     | 81.7                   |
| Holston Valley  | McCloud             | Bobby Bentley    | 80.0                   |
| Sequatchie Valley   | Palmer First        | John Coffelt     | 80.0                   |
| Beulah  | Mooring             | Donald Peeler    | 76.5                   |
| Watauga   | Harmony             | Walker Robinson  | 75.4                   |

# Dandridge pastor defies tenure stats: 30 years at one church

By Joy Jordan, news assistant  
It may be the best of times and the worst of times—too often the worst of times—for many Southern Baptist pastors.

Documenting information from convention administrators, a Baptist Press article recently noted, "Every month, 116 Southern Baptist churches and pastors sever relationships through involuntary terminations," a 31 percent increase over 1984.

Bill Harbin, director of the TBC's Church-Ministries' Information Department estimates the average tenure for a Southern Baptist pastor at two and a half years.

But then there are the Robert McCrays whose lengthy tenures belie the dismal statistics.

March 22 marks the 30th anniversary of McCray's accepting the call of First

Church, Dandridge, as pastor.

His unwonted three-decade pastorate at the county seat church may have resulted partly from his own sense of calling: "I don't need to be pastor of a megachurch to be fulfilled. I'm where my ministry is supposed to be . . . . And 700 members are enough to keep me busy!"

"Missions is our number one priority," contends its pastor, "not only foreign and home missions, but also in our immediate area."

Ministries the East Tennessee congregation spearheads or supports in conjunction with other local churches include a food pantry, the Samaritan House (homeless shelter), Safe Space (shelter for abused women and children), and weekly worship services at a nearby nursing home.

And First Church accompanies ad-

ministration of its missions programs with fiscal response: currently, Cooperative Program giving constitutes approximately one-fourth of the total budget.

Over the years, McCray has defined ministry as "meeting the needs of the total person: spiritual, physical, emotional . . . . So many times we get hung up on saving souls that we forget people's total needs—helping them develop spiritually, assisting those who are sick, sad, hungry, lonely, disadvantaged, abused.

"Jesus dealt with the total person—and we are an extension of his ministry."

From the pinnacle of his 30 years' experience, McCray reflects that a primary benefit of serving one place for a long time is "the trust factor," earning the respect and confidence of members, trust that only time can produce.

And the major drawback of extended pastorates, he said, is "the challenge of trying to keep the sermons fresh."

Through the years, McCray has observed "a deeper awareness of missions and social concerns," to which he credits the "capable and committed lay leadership."

Foundational changes in its physical plant, as well, have altered the face of First Church, Dandridge during McCray's leadership. In 1982, it moved from the site on which it was begun in the late 18th century and on which Carson-Newman College (now in Jef-

## Baptist Health System appoints assistant vp

John B. Couch, administrator of Baptist Hospital of Roane County in Rockwood since 1974, has been named assistant vice president of affiliate development for the Baptist Health System of East Tennessee.

J. Clifton Quinn, director of management services for the Baptist Health System, was named acting administrator of the Roane County hospital, which has been a part of Baptist Health System since March 1988.

In his new capacity, Couch will direct the development of programs and services to be used by the affiliated hospitals of the Baptist Health System.



**A 30-YEAR HABIT** — For three decades, Pastor Robert McCray has welcomed Dandridge residents to First Church.

(first City) was founded. Relocating closer to interstate 40, the church took with it, McCray notes, "all the antiques—the church bell, the stained glass windows, and the preacher."

McCray's most vital lesson in a 30-year "marriage" with one congregation? "That I can't do it by myself," he asserts.

"Ministry is a two-way street. I've learned to let people minister to me and my needs too. I need them as much as they need me."

## One Woman's View

By June McEwen

"Whatever thy hand finds to do, do with all thy might." We often have heard this verse quoted to encourage us to do a job, usually a distasteful job or one that is especially hard to do. We are meant to hear a command to do the job well and in an uncomplaining manner. Everyone has certain tasks that must be done which are low on our list of things we really like to do.



McEWEN

Recently a friend told of an incident which brings a different meaning of this verse to mind. Perhaps there is an attitude shown that one would do well to emulate.

The office suite was scheduled for daily cleaning and dusting but had gotten very little attention and even that on an irregular basis. Suddenly all was changed. A new shine was apparent. Floors were spotless, desk tops and bookshelves were dustless, waste baskets were emptied. The office had a glow which made a pleasant working

environment, a great contrast to previous conditions.

People whose offices were attended by this new cleaning person were pleased, so much so that they discussed how best they could express appreciation and pleasure to the cleaner. Needless to say, they found an appropriate way to say thanks and did so immediately.

This incident illustrates how one person performing a job usually considered a low-level task can affect the work, productivity, and attitude of other people. Each job is important. Doing whatever comes to hand and doing it well is significant; not only for the personal sense of achievement by the worker but also for the effect it has on others.

One often hears complaints about services, products, and attitudes in the workplace in our society. Perhaps each of us can learn from the office-cleaning worker. We need to follow the example of those who benefitted from the job well done by expressing appreciation. There is more than one way to apply the teaching in the text, "Whatever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might." We can work hard and we can express appreciation for the hard work of others.

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# TenneScene

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

## Leadership ...

East Lake Church, Chattanooga, has appointed Ray Mayfield as pastor emeritus.

Mayfield served as pastor of First Church, Woodmore, for six years. Having been interim pastor of many Chattanooga churches, he speaks of his calling as one of "filling the gap."

A graduate of the University of North Alabama, Florence, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, he taught in the Hamilton County school system for 27 years, retiring in 1987.

Ted Anderson, pastor of New Friendship Church, Cleveland, has resigned to accept a pastorate in Canton, Ga.

The pastor of Georgetown Church, Georgetown, Gerald Atkins, resigned to accept the pastorate of Fairview Church, Sweetwater.

Ben Proffitt has accepted the call of Mountain View Church, Johnson City, as minister of discipleship/outreach. He and his wife, Malinda, have two daughters and two sons.

New Salem Church, Kenton, called David Parlow as pastor, effective Feb. 19.

Parks City Church, Fayetteville, called Paul Aycock as minister of music and youth. He comes to Tennessee from Guntersville, Ala.

## Foxfire selects C-N as site for network

JEFFERSON CITY - Carson-Newman College has been chosen as the site of a Foxfire Teacher Network in the Appalachian region of Tennessee.

Foxfire is a student-centered approach to teaching developed in 1966 by Eliot Wigginton of Rabun Gap, Ga.

The Appalachian Region Commission in Washington, D. C., provided grants to establish networks in West Virginia and Tennessee based on the success of a similar program in the Appalachian area of eastern Kentucky.

Carson-Newman, one of six sites for the program, will offer a graduate course that imparts the skills and at-

Mike Todd celebrated his fifth anniversary as pastor of Raleigh Church, Memphis, March 5.

David Abernathy, pastor of Mack's Grove Church, Dresden, resigned to accept the pastorate of Blairland Church, Loudon.

First Church, Nashville, named a new preschool assistant, effective March 1. Sandra Gentry, a native Tennessean, graduated from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro.

Gentry and her husband, Tim, have two children, Marissa and Molly.

Wrex R. Hauth Jr. and Richard Kenyon serve as president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the alumni association of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. Hauth is chaplain at Veteran's Hospital in Memphis. Kenyon, of Union City, is chaplain of Lake County Regional Correction Center.

Emerson Wiles, pastor of First Church, Fayetteville, was one of 25 participants in a recent alumni workshop at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Wiles is the seminary's alumni president for Tennessee.

## Ordinations ...

Stevens Street Church, Cookeville, will ordain Ricky Gentry and John Palmer as deacons April 2.

titudes required to implement Foxfire's hands-on approach to teaching.

The course will be offered to any practicing teacher who wishes to learn more about the Foxfire method and earn graduate credit. After completing the course, teachers may choose to become part of the network and receive resources, materials, and continuing guidance and support in implementing the network's philosophy in their classroom teaching.

Sharon Teets, associate professor of education at Carson-Newman, will coordinate the program which offers intensive workshops, training, and support for kindergarten through 12th grade teachers.

Teets called the Foxfire method a "departure from traditional teaching" and said it is a way "to empower teachers and support them in implementing effective teaching methods."



**MINDANAO BAPTISTS** — University Baptist Church, Davao City, Philippines, recently baptized five in the Davao Gulf. Pastor Rolando Malabar, center in white shirt, is pastor of the Mindanao/Visayas Baptist Convention church. The photo was taken by Rick Mitchell of Chattanooga, Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines.

Beech Springs Church, Gleason, ordained Bill Blaylock to the diaconate March 12. Bob Copeland is pastor.

## Associations ...

Big Emory Association recently received a giant "thank you" card from the inmates of the Morgan County Regional Prison near Wartburg in response to the church's giving them over 850 Christmas bags.

Promotion, coordination, and preparation of the bags were conducted by the association's Woman's Missionary Union.

## Churches ...

Fairview Church, Luttrell, recently broke ground for a new sanctuary.

## Missions ...

Seven volunteers from Tennessee

## Belmont seeks applicants for Madden scholarship

Applications for the Belmont College Thomas J. Madden Presidential Scholarship for Ministerial Students are due March 21, according to David Smith, dean of admissions.

The scholarship is a four-year full-tuition award to be given each year to a Baptist student who plans a career in the pastoral ministry.

Tennessee pastors and laymen are invited to nominate outstanding students for the scholarship award, Smith said.

Requirements include a commendable high school GPA and reference from a school administrator, involvement in a Baptist church and reference from the pastor, demonstrated ability to effectively proclaim the Gospel message, and evidence of Christian discipleship and maturity.

The award is named in honor of Tom Madden, secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention since 1979. Madden will retire April 30.

Anyone wishing to apply for the scholarship or to nominate a student for the award should contact the Belmont College Department of Admissions, 1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, Tenn. 37212-3757 or call (615) 385-6785.

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# God delivers Peter from prison

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

In his book *Why Revival Tarries*, Leonard Ravenhill writes, "The only power that God yields to is that of prayer. We will write about prayer-power, but not fight while in prayer. A title undeniably true of the church today would be 'We Wrestle Not!'"

How very true it is that in many churches today there is a lack of urgent prayer; but that cannot be said about the church we read about in our lesson this week.



WILLIAMS

Peter's detention (Acts 12:3-6) when Herod Agrippa had James, son of Zebedee, brother of John, arrested and beheaded (12:2), there was joy among the Jews (v.3). The fact that the Jews were pleased at this persecution of the apostles acted as a catalyst for further moves against the church in general and Peter in particular.

Peter was arrested at the time of the festival of unleavened bread and put in irons and guarded by 16 soldiers (v. 4). It was Herod's intent to bring him for

trial "after Easter" (literally after Passover), and then put him to death.

The church knew what had happened to James and they could see that unless God intervened Peter would soon follow that same path to death. Because of the urgency of the hour, Scripture tells us that "prayer was made without ceasing unto God" (v. 5) in Peter's behalf. God's purpose for Peter and the church was accomplished through earnest, urgent prayer.

### Peter's deliverance

Corrie Ten Boom has said, "If you look at the world you'll be distressed. If you look inside you'll be depressed. If you look at Jesus you'll be at rest." The church was distressed because of what they had seen happen to James and what they saw happening to Peter. Peter was in an impossible situation, from the world's point of view, imprisoned for the third time, surrounded by four guards, doomed to die.

That which is impossible for man is possible through God. Our God is never too late; He's always on time. Through the sudden appearance of God's messenger, an "angel of the Lord," Peter was miraculously delivered from his chains and let out of the prison.

All the time this was happening

Peter thought he was dreaming. It was not until he was on the outside and the angel gone that he understood it was not a vision. In spite of all Herod's precautions to assure that Peter would be killed, once more the prison was empty. Peter had been delivered.

### BIBLE BOOK SERIES March 19 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 12:1-25  
Focal Passages: Acts 12:1-7, 12-17, 24

What a beautiful picture we see of humankind in bondage to sin, as Peter was in bondage. As Peter was delivered from bondage by God's messenger, the lost person is delivered from bondage in sin by God's Son.

This account of God's supernatural intervention bears strong witness to the deliverance of God's grace to the power of earnest, urgent, believing prayer.

### The disciples' doubt (12:12-17)

We have before us in these verses a remarkable story of disciples praying without truly expecting an immediate answer. Perhaps they were still on their knees when Peter knocked for admission.

Gladness filled Rhoda's heart as she

recognized Peter's voice (v. 14). Her joy was so great that she forgot to open the door. The gathered assembly did not respond to her good news as she expected. Instead of believing that Peter had been delivered they looked at Rhoda and said "thou art mad" (v. 15).

Not one of the assembly believed her good news. While there was great earnestness and urgency in that prayer meeting, when the prayer was answered, unbelief manifested itself. From the disciples' reaction, it would certainly appear that the prayers of the assembly were lacking in faith. Their reaction wasn't too different from what ours sometimes is when we see an answer to prayer.

Have you ever had an experience like that? You prayed and prayed and when God's grace manifested itself in an answer to that prayer, you could hardly believe it to be true. You even tried for a short while to explain away "the answer." How often we dishonor God with our unbelief, our lack of faith? We ought to rejoice in the fact that God often gives us more than we expect and always more than we deserve.

As "the word of God grew and multiplied" (v. 24) the Holy Spirit directed Luke away from his emphasis on Peter to an emphasis on Paul and Barnabas and a continuation of the Gentile mission (v. 25).

# Warning against false teaching

By Joe Wiles, pastor; Silverpoint Church, Silverpoint

Heresy is classified as the result of one moving from the accepted beliefs of a certain religion. Theological differences have been branded as heresy and people who do not agree labeled heretics. Some are not and it is a convenient way to put down those who disagree.

There are, however, times when heresies do arise and they are to be combated. If unchecked, they can tear out the very roots of our beliefs and cause great harm to the kingdom.

### Walking with Christ (Colossians 2:6-7)

The church at Colossae was confronted with a heresy that seems to have had the capability of destroying all the good they had accomplished. A personal walk with Jesus was the basis for their actions and belief. They had been rooted in Jesus, established in the faith. They had been well taught.

Unfortunately, there seem to have been some who found this insufficient for true salvation. These wanted more and brought in heresy from their pagan backgrounds. Paul admonished them to remember what they had learned and to keep the faith.

### Sufficient with Christ (Colossians 2:8-15)

This passage is not against learning. Rather, it is a concerned attempt to have the church think through what it believed. Philosophy might make the Gospel seem too easy. It might not make sense in the eyes of the world. Human traditions always seem more important to those who cling to them rather than to Jesus.

When any seek the wisdom of the world they must leave the wisdom of God. In Jesus we have it all, so there

is no need for any other philosophy or set of beliefs. Such are truly heresy.

Jesus did live on this earth in bodily form. He was not a ghost. He was real as He walked and talked. He was real as He died and rose again the third day. We are complete in Jesus. There is no need for more. He is in charge of all there is. We do not need magical rites or secret code words to be found worthy.

### UNIFORM LESSON SERIES March 19 Lesson

Basic Passage: Colossians 2:6-23  
Focal Passage: Colossians 2:6-19

Pride undoubtedly played a part in the minds of some who wanted to know more of the "deep things." When they found Christianity so simple, they sought to invent difficulties. These inventions were false.

Paul stated in verses 11-13 the Gospel as we receive it and know it. Our lives have been marked just as if we had been physically circumcised. This putting off the old body and putting on the new gives us the right to be part of the redeemed. Since we have been buried with Jesus in the act of baptism, we are then able to be resurrected with Him as well. We have been made alive since we have all our sins forgiven. These sins and trespasses have been blotted out, nailed to the cross of Jesus.

Jesus also triumphed over all other powers that might have been involved in our sinful lives. This reminds me of Romans 8:38 where it says that powers cannot separate us from the love of God in Jesus. Since this is true, then all the knowledge of the world cannot compete with what Jesus has done. Nothing else is needed.

Jesus did this openly. It was not some secret operation that the world could not have seen. Jesus required no

secret meetings to provide full salvation for any who would trust in Him. Despite what anyone may say, salvation only comes from Jesus and what He has done.

### Resisting with Christ (Colossians 2:16-19)

Jesus is all that is needed for the full Christian life. We are not to be caught up in secondary things such as special days or certain ceremonies. When we get involved in special visions or secret knowledge, we leave Christ behind and we become proud of what we "know." We then believe we are better and leave the source of spiritual nourishment which makes us alive in Christ. All of Christ's body must be directed by the Head and fed by God. Then we can grow as God provides us the means to grow.

### Lessons in life

There is no gnostic religion seeking to take over in most of our churches today. However, there are those who

find Jesus insufficient. These would add works or special methods to the saving work of Jesus Christ. Any idea or doctrine which denies the all-sufficiency of the salvation work of Jesus is a heresy and must be combated with concerned love. Heresy-hunting can destroy a church, but just as surely, heresy that is left unchecked will destroy it.

## Unaka Church calls Griffith as pastor

Unaka Church, Elizabethton, called Tony Griffith as pastor.

The Nashville native graduated from Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio. He formerly served as associate pastor and minister of youth at Guaranda Drive Church, Johnson City. Griffith was ordained recently by Piney Flats Church, Piney Flats.

He and his wife, Cathy, have three children, Adam, Tonya, and Aaron.

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# Testing the use of spiritual gifts

By Phil Jett, pastor; Englewood Church, Jackson

The 14th chapter of 1 Corinthians needs to be seen as the conclusion of Paul's writings concerning spiritual gifts, which began in chapter 12. He had urged the Christians to celebrate the diversity of the gifts in the church and to see them as a common source of unity. In chapter 13, he had clarified the need for understanding that the gift of love was above all other gifts and must be incorporated in all gifts.



JETT

As we look at chapter 14 and think of unknown tongues, we must recognize that this is truly one of the most controversial subjects among Christians. It was also controversial in Corinth.

It is unfortunate that we have not been willing to apply the principles Paul spelled out in this chapter so that tension and confusion can be reduced and a true spirit of unity around spiritual gifts can emerge. In writing this lesson, it is my goal to pursue that goal.

We begin by looking at a word which

Paul used in this passage — edification. This word is from architecture, and means to build up or to make strong. He used it in verses three, four, five, 12, 19, and 26. I, therefore, take the position that his emphasis in this chapter was not on tongues, but on that which edifies or builds up; and in this case specifically, builds up the body of Christ — the church.

The Corinthians were much like some Christians today who are more concerned with personal edification than they are the edification of the church. They want to build themselves up, but do not care whether or not they build up the body of Christ. This is a continuing challenge because Satan does not mind believers building themselves up, or puffing themselves up, as long as they don't strengthen the work of the church in the process.

The issue in Corinth was the use of tongues for personal edification at the expense of the edification of the church. I think we have been slightly blinded by this problem. We need to recognize that this could apply to the use of anything within the church that might, in and of itself, seem to strengthen an individual or group, but would tear down the unifying purpose of the church.

With this in mind, Paul told of four tests for anything that was going to be used in the church. In this case, the tests applied to the use of tongues.

The first test is does it follow charity (love)? Is the purpose based on love (v. 1)? Paul began with a comparison of the use of prophecy based on love rather than speaking in unknown tongues.

### LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

#### March 19 Lesson

Basic Passages: 1 Corinthians 14  
Focal Passages: 1 Corinthians 14:1-4, 12, 18-19, 23-25

There is some disagreement as to whether prophecy is equivalent to our present preaching. There are those who say that prophecy ceased when the Gospel was written, because all preaching is based on written revelation, whereas prophecy did not have the written revelation of the Gospel as its base.

I take the position that prophecy can be equated to the proclamation of the Gospel or preaching. The first test, therefore, is do we use our gifts with love?

The second test is does it strengthen or exhort and comfort the church? If our use of a gift does not provide spiritual strength for others and bring a word of comfort, then it is not a valid use of a gift (v. 3).

The third test of edification is does it help Christians grow (vv. 18-19)? Here, Paul acknowledged the gift of tongues and then made what is probably the sharpest attack on this gift anywhere in the Scripture. He said that speaking five words that can be understood is better than 10,000 words that cannot be understood.

Paul's basic idea would seem clear: what we say should be understandable so that it can help other believers grow. This applies to tongues here, but it could apply to any approach to proclaiming the Gospel. It could apply to using academic lectures in speaking to children, who need to hear the simple truths of the Gospel.

We are so caught up in Paul's condemnation of tongues — and that is clearly what this is — that perhaps we do not apply this to our own avenues of sharing the Gospel. We should always be sure to present the Gospel in love which brings understanding.

The fourth and final test of spiritual gifts is does it have a positive effect on our evangelistic efforts (vv. 23-25)? Again, Paul wasted no words in condemning the use of tongues because they have a tendency to drive away an unbeliever (v. 23), and an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus is lost.

I want to remind those of you who are teaching this lesson not to get caught up in Paul's rejection of tongues as an avenue in evangelism, but to come to grips with certain questions.

Does my teaching of this Sunday School lesson result in evangelism? Does my Christian life-style result in evangelism? Does my attitude toward my church and its mission result in evangelism?

I think the application of this chapter has a far broader base than just the condemning of tongues and the support and clear proclamation of the Gospel. The application here is that the basic themes of the church should be love, encouraging people, instructing people, and reaching out to the unchurched and unsaved so that they come to know Jesus and respond to Him in faith.

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**State conventions increase funds for Baptist schools**

NASHVILLE — The 18 Baptist state conventions which sponsor 63 Southern Baptist schools and colleges increased their total giving to the schools by \$1.4 million in 1987-88, an increase of 2.3 percent over the previous year.

The universities, colleges, Bible schools, and academies received \$63.9 million in support from state conventions in 1987-88. The amount includes about \$58.4 million in operating funds, \$4.5 million in capital needs funds, and \$945,700 in additional endowment.

In addition to funds provided by the 18 state conventions to schools they sponsor, another \$27.2 million was provided by the Southern Baptist Convention to fund six seminaries and American Baptist College. ABC is funded jointly by Southern Baptists and National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

The \$91.1 million combined contribution from state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention to the 70 Southern Baptist schools represents a decline of \$612,900 from 1986-87. The decline was caused by a major decrease in capital needs funds provided to the six seminaries by the Southern Baptist Convention. Capital needs funding to the seminaries fell 96 percent from \$3 million in 1986-87, to \$120,500 in 1987-88, while operating funds increased \$979,000 or 3.7 percent.

**Deaf Baptists plan 272 new churches, interpreted services**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Deaf Southern Baptists plan to start 272 new churches and interpreted services by the turn of the century. Bob Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf, detailed plans for the fellowship's growth during the annual language church extension conference in Oklahoma City. Moore, a deaf home missionary serving in Charlotte, N.C., has been instrumental in starting a new deaf church in that city.

Theme for the four-day Home Mission Board meeting, which spotlighted deaf ministry, was "Silent Americans." Much of the program featured presentations by deaf people, which were given in sign language and interpreted for the predominantly hearing audience.

The growth strategy calls for new deaf churches as well as the addition of interpreted services in existing hearing congregations in each state except Illinois, which is still under study. Moore reported the conference has targeted ten deaf congregations to sponsor ten new deaf works (churches or interpreted services) per year until A.D. 2000.

Southern Baptists deaf currently worship in 59 deaf churches and church-type missions each Sunday, Moore reported. An additional 771 hearing congregations interpret their services for the deaf. Texas leads the nation with 100 interpreted services and 17 churches and church-type missions.

**Genevox Music Group album nominated for Dove Award**

NASHVILLE — "In His Presence: The Risen King," a Christian musical album produced by the Genevox Music Group of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been nominated as musical album of the year in the Gospel Music Association's 20th Annual Dove Awards to be announced April 13. Fes Robertson, director of Genevox, said the album is one of five nominated in the musical album of the year category.

The songs were written by Dick and Melodie Tunney, GMA songwriters of the year for 1987. They include "In His Presence," "Come Before Him," "Calvary's Love," "Stand Up and Bless the Lord," "Bless the Lord, My Soul," "Create in Me," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," "Come, Worship the King," "Seekers of Your Heart," and "In Majesty He Will Come."

According to the Gospel Music Association, the Dove Awards are given to recognize "excellence or significant accomplishments in the quality and means of spreading the 'true word' through gospel music."

**Fellowship of Baptist Men drops dues system**

MEMPHIS — The National Fellowship of Baptist Men will drop dues as a requirement for membership.

The executive committee of fellowship, an organization of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, took the action during its semi-annual meeting in Memphis.

The fellowship, a ministry of the commission's adult division, never was intended to gather funds, but is aimed at facilitating the involvement of laymen in missions through their vocational skills and avocational interests, said James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president.

The Brotherhood Commission assumed responsibility for salary and benefits of the director and a secretary in October 1988. It also agreed to provide a travel budget for the director. However, the organization's operating budget for items such as printing, mailing, additional travel, and meeting expenses must be raised by the fellowship.

**Communications fellowship holds organizational meeting**

CLINTON, Miss. — An organization designed to give Southern Baptist communications students, hobbyists, and professionals opportunities to use their skills for volunteer missions has been formed by the National Fellowship of Baptist Men.

The National Fellowship of Baptist Communicators, one of 14 fellowships sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, in Memphis, will respond to missionary requests for assistance with communications challenges.

According to Mike Richardson, volunteer coordinator for the fellowship, NFBC includes a wide range of communications skills.

## Parents urged to model morality for teenagers

NASHVILLE (BP) — Parents who want to influence their teenagers' attitudes about dating and sexuality have a responsibility to model lifestyles equal to their expectations, according to experts participating in "Dating Today," a two-hour teleconference for parents and workers with youth.

Each of the four half-hour segments of the national teleconference transmit-

ed live on the Baptist Telecommunication Network featured questions from viewers seeking advice on concerns about relationships. The teleconference was sponsored by the family ministry and church administration departments of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Subjects covered in the question-and-answer times included AIDS, limits for

physical contact while dating, abortion, proper age for dating, involvement of parents in dating life of teens, responsibility of churches in sex education, and communication between parents and youth.

Experts who responded to the 38 questions answered on the air included Wayne Grant, a pediatrician and layman from Trinity Church, San Antonio, Texas, who specializes in adolescent medicine; Lane Powell, associate professor of family life at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; and Richard Ross, youth ministry coordinator in the board's church administration department and part-time youth minister at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory. Jimmy Hester, editor of Living with Teenagers magazine in the family ministry department, hosted the program.

A total of 193 questions were called in from 92 viewing sites in 21 states. Trinity Church in Cayce, S.C., had 200 people watching the teleconference, one of the largest groups reported.

A common theme for the evening was honest, open communication between parents and teenagers. Ross encouraged parents to talk about how their sexual values were formed, particularly in light of moral expectations parents hold for teens.

As an example, Ross said, "I guarantee a teenager will listen to you as a parent, if at the end of a situation comedy on television, the parent turns to the teen and says, 'I'd like to tell you why I decided that I would never sexually cheat on your mother (or father).'"

While teens might be embarrassed to engage in a conversation about sexual expectations, personal insights from a parent about how he or she arrived at a decision is likely to make a lasting impression, Ross said.

Concerning dating and proper conduct, the panelists agreed that maturity and a solid set of values are vitally important. For instance, they warned one questioner about the danger of a seventh-grade girl dating a high school senior.

Parents also were urged to encourage teenagers to make decisions about limits of physical contact before they begin dating, so decisions will not be made during a time when emotions are high. "Teenagers should not think of kissing as reaction, but a form of communication of feelings with the opposite sex," Ross said.

Churches have responsibility to provide a setting for discussion between parents and youth, and to minister to youth who have made wrong decisions, the panelists agreed.

Particularly in the area of teen pregnancy, churches must provide caring and friendship to a girl who has become pregnant out of wedlock. Too often, they warned, the girl and her family are shut off from contact with church members. The result often is that the girl and her family drop out of the church because of a lack of support.

A videotape of the teleconference may be ordered by calling the Sunday School Board's toll-free telephone number, (800) 458-BSSB.

**For WMU's top post**

## Search committee seeks new director

BIRMINGHAM — Marjorie J. McCullough, national president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, has appointed Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., to chair the search committee seeking a successor to Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director.

Weatherford has announced she is retiring and will marry a Cincinnati, pastor Aug. 19. She has held WMU's top post for 15 years.

The other search committee members are Roena Day, Arizona WMU president; Donna Brewer, Illinois WMU president; Ellen Teague, District of Columbia WMU president; and Dorothy Pryor, Georgia WMU executive director. McCullough will be an ex officio member of the committee.

Gregory was Virginia WMU president and a member of the national WMU executive board from 1971 to 1975. She was national WMU president from 1975 to 1981. She was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Con-

vention in 1981-82.

The WMU bylaws allow the search committee to be made up of current WMU board members, former board members, and a state WMU executive director. The national WMU executive board is comprised of WMU presidents from states eligible for representation on SBC boards. A nationally elected president and recording secretary, and the national WMU executive director also serve on the board.

"I hope the entire WMU membership will join with the national staff and the executive board in prayer for the search committee as it seeks the right woman for this important job," McCullough said.

"We are hopeful that the committee will have a recommendation to present to the executive board when it meets in June in Las Vegas, Nev."

Suggestions and resumes may be sent to Christine Gregory at the national WMU headquarters: P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010. — BP