

# Baptist and Reflector

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For foreign missions

## Gifts to Lottie Moon offering increase 11 percent

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptists gave nearly 11 percent more in 1988 than in 1987 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, according to projections based on a survey of selected state conventions.

The news offered a ray of hope to missions officials forced last year to trim budgets.

By March 9, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board had received about \$58 million in Lottie Moon gifts. Projections indicated that by the final tally May 31, the total could amount to \$77.5 million.

"I think this demonstrates that when Southern Baptists really are aware of the need in missions, they continue to respond," said FMB President R. Keith Parks. "When they really knew the budget difficulties we were facing, they responded generously."

Because of the expected increase, the board will be able to release about \$4.6 million immediately for urgent capital needs overseas. Money for these needs usually is freed up after Jan. 1. This year, however, board officials held the money until they were sure enough would be received to meet the year's overseas operating expenses.

At biannual trustee meeting

These capital needs include such basics as housing and transportation for missionaries and loan funds for overseas church construction, board officials said.

The annual Lottie Moon offering supports almost half of the \$167.7 million budget for the Southern Baptist foreign missions enterprise, which encompasses the work of about 3,850 missionaries in 114 nations. The offering is received by most Southern Baptist churches during the Christmas season, but the board keeps its books open for receipts from Baptist state conventions until the end of May.

If projections prove true, Lottie Moon giving could exceed by \$5 million the \$72.5 million that the board anticipated when it drew up its 1989 budget. Although the total would fall short of the \$84 million offering goal, the predicted increase of 10.96 percent would be the largest percentage gain since 1984.

This year's Lottie Moon receipts will not affect the board's 12 percent across-the-board budget cuts for 1989, Parks said. But if Southern Baptist churches this year give as freely to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, which also supplies nearly half of the board's total

receipts, 1990 could be financially brighter for foreign missions, he said.

"A strong offering means we can project the 1990 budget as one we shouldn't have to cut back on," Parks said. "We're hopeful the Cooperative Program will be strong enough that we can have a solid budget picture for next year."

The board bases its March projections for the Lottie Moon offering on a survey of selected state conventions that gave the largest totals the previous year.

"While it would be good to know why the offering is up, there are so many potential factors that it is hard to identify, isolate and quantify them," said Carl Johnson, the board's vice president for finance.

The \$69.9 million offering a year ago fell short of last year's budgeted goal by about \$5 million, resulting in fears of future widespread cutbacks. The situation sparked a special appeal from the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, which leads in promoting the offering, along with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Parks warned that Southern Baptists should not overestimate the importance of the Lottie Moon offering to

### Tennessee exceeds Lottie Moon goal

Tennessee Baptists have "come through" at a critical time in missions support, said Katherine Bryan, executive director of the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

She referred to news that Tennessee Baptists' giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$5,126,691.05 as of March 8. The state's goal for the 1988 offering was \$4,888,000.

The books are still open and churches are continuing to send contributions to the offering, Bryan said.

"This is good news to share with our missionaries who share the Good News," Bryan noted.

financial support of the total foreign missions enterprise. "A strong Lottie Moon offering is certainly a great encouragement," he said. "But we must have a strong Cooperative Program as well. Our program is as much dependent on that as it is on the Lottie Moon offering."

## SEBTS confirms Bush, accreditation reports

By Connie Davis, assistant editor  
WAKE FOREST, N. C. — The conservative course of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary continued during the March 13-15 trustee meeting here as trustees elected a vice president of academic affairs/dean of faculty, and responded to charges by its accreditation agencies.

After a three-hour closed session, L. Russ Bush was elected to the dual post by a 22-8 vote despite unanimous opposition by the faculty. Bush is

associate professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Students and faculty stood vigil during the closed session and filled the meeting room during some sessions. The standing room only crowd at one point numbered about 50.

In responding to the seminary's accreditation crisis, the trustees adopted two reports and modified a faculty proposal on the school's report.

Two accrediting agencies conducted investigations of the seminary after trustees changed faculty selection processes. Those October 1987 actions led President W. Randall Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft, six other administrators, and several faculty members to resign.

The two trustee reports, though amended by several members to withdraw errors about Lolley, continued to blame the former president's leadership and the faculty's "public opinion campaign" for the crisis.

Investigations by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, precipitated by the 1987 changes, found that the institution failed to meet several accreditation standards.

Development of the school's report to SACS will be directed by President Lewis Drummond instead of a third party negotiator, as requested by the

faculty.

Easing its faculty selection processes to meet demands of the accrediting associations, the trustees directed the president and vice president for academic affairs/dean of the faculty to include faculty in a consulting role.

Strong motion for commitment  
Drummond's report included plans  
(See page 5)

### An inside look

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**FINISHING TOUCHES** — Tennessee Baptists' new Baptist Center is nearing completion. On March 17, the offices of the Baptist and Reflector, Woman's Missionary Union, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, and Adult Homes were moved into the new facility as were the temporary offices of the Brotherhood, Telecommunications, Student, and Partnership Missions departments. The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes offices are scheduled to move into the Baptist Center next week.

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

## Easter — surety of life forever

Up on the mountain where the sun warms the soul and the air is crisp and pure, we are able to see more clearly, and we can see forever.

Oh, the renewal that is possible there gives us such grand hope that no difficulty is insurmountable. We become conquerors when we are on that mountain.

We look down on the wispy fog that curls from valley to valley, veiling the meadows and houses and towns. The mists become fathomable from that vantage point. We can see where they are — and rest in the knowledge that the brilliance and heat from the sun will overcome fog and mist.

Faith must be exercised if it is to work in our lives.

Then comes Easter and resurrection.

Like the clarity and exuberance of mountain-top experiences, the resurrection of our Lord Christ invades our hearts and captures the remnants of frivolous living.

The uncommon idea of resurrection is that for the Christian, it not only is possible — it is reality. The promise of Christ translated by faith becomes real. We know we will live — because the Lord Christ overcame, defeated, baffled, conquered, nullified death.

We understand that death cuts short existence. Whatever existed in some way — ends, is cut short, when death comes. But, as Christ's brothers and sisters, we are overcomers. Death does not cut short life. With resurrection, life continues — no, life accelerates, becomes fuller, richer, more abundant.

Reaching beyond the mists of the grave into death's most secret hiding place, Christ emerges as victor!

At Easter then, we celebrate new life in all earthly habitation. The earth itself shouts of renewal.

"So they (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary) departed quickly from the tomb (of

Christ) with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Hail!' And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.'" — Matthew 28:8-10.

There we have it — with authority, from God's Word. But Easter and the resurrection tell us to give heed to more than just resurrection. Why are we 'resurrected' from the old life? Why are we rescued from the dungeon of death? Why are we blessed with adornment of rebirth?

The resurrection of Christ gives opportunity not only for renewed life — but the abundance of grace that enables us to live with courage, kindness, humility, without needing to be first, holding no grudges, and putting the interests of others ahead of our own.

Christ the Conqueror does more than make our hearts sing from the mountain-top. He gives us surety of life forever! — WFA

## Take time to be holy — it's the only way to live

In explaining the covenant between God and the chosen people of Israel, Moses said in his message from God, "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession, out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth."

He said that God chose these people not because they were more numerous than any other group — but "it is because the Lord loves you, and is keeping the oath which He swore to your fathers . . ."

These words in Deuteronomy are not to be confused with America's role in today's world. Surely we can be used of God for ministry — but we cannot claim the same covenant.

In Leviticus we read that the people were to consecrate themselves and be holy, "for I am holy."

In an age closer to our own, 1 Peter 2 reminds us of holiness. "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people . . ."

Peter also, in the holy Scriptures, admonished us to " . . . put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander."

These true words are needed in today's world. It is appropriate that John Tower did not gain approval as Secretary of Defense. It is high time public officials, in and out of church, be exposed to closer scrutiny.

We have nothing against the former senator personally. However, we believe his failure to gain endorsement by the Senate serves notice to many national leaders — Americans want a high standard of excellence in leadership.

Some may find fault with the Senate for failing to approve Tower. Some say politics was involved — perhaps it was. But the one clear song that continued to be sung — was that leaders must not fall victim to alcohol abuse or womanizing.

It was a much-needed vote for holiness, even though many of the senators who voted against Tower may not be free from this guilt themselves.

Washington has been known to be populated by people who live one long party — with alcohol, marital infidelity, devious alignments. Media people who live there have written recently that the Senate is not an inebriated institution. They point out that the

hard drinkers of a few years ago have been replaced by many "health nuts" and teetotalers.

The episode is sad, but perhaps we can learn from it. Perhaps it is unfair to place more stringent tests on executive leaders than on judges, senators, and representatives.

It is time that we take a good look at holiness. We are told to consecrate ourselves and be holy — because God is holy. Is this not true for the people who vote as well as for those for whom they vote?

Now that the spotlight has turned toward virtue, we should keep it there. It is not wrong to insist on "good behavior" by those we elect. It is true in the church, and it is true in business, politics, and every phase of American life.

"A holy nation" will survive hard times, criticism by vicious foe, theological and political disputes. A holy nation will survive — and stand — because in so doing, we would be following God's direction.

Holiness means that we follow Christ, live like Him despite evil, take on Christ's attributes — even the distinction of holiness. — WFA

## Cooperative Program continues to stay ahead of 1988 pace

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' unified budget continues to stay ahead of last year's pace, but it lags more than 1.5 percentage points behind inflation.

The national Cooperative Program received \$11,428,715 in February, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the denomination's Executive Committee. That amount is a 1.74 percent increase over February 1988.

At the end of five months of the fiscal year, the Cooperative Program's year-to-date total is \$58,670,856, Bennett reported. That total is 3.18 percent more than receipts for the first five

months of 1987-88.

The most recent U.S. Department of Labor figures show the country's current inflation rate is about 4.7 percent.

"I am glad that the amount received in February was not less than February of last year," Bennett said. "I still hope that the churches will increase Cooperative Program giving."

If Southern Baptists are to reach the Cooperative Program's \$145.6 million goal for 1988-89, national receipts must average \$12,418,449 for the seven months remaining in the current fiscal year. Only four months have exceeded that amount in the budget's 62-year history.

The Cooperative Program supports Southern Baptist evangelistic, educational, missionary and church-starting ministries worldwide.

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Share His Word—GIVE  
Through the Cooperative Program

Charles Sullivan

## Executive Committee chairman's goal — being a catalyst for unity

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

As Charles Sullivan enters his 40th year in pastoral ministry, he is also winding up his second and final year as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

Heading the representative body which acts as the SBC ad interim has been busy and interesting, says Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Lenoir City.

The Missouri native has the distinction of being Tennessee's second Executive Committee chairman — and the only one to serve two terms.

"Ramsey Pollard served only one year," says Sullivan, of the late pastor from Memphis.

Sullivan was chosen as Executive

plan cannot be done in my lifetime."

Sullivan has served on the executive board of two Baptist state conventions, Missouri and Oklahoma. In Tennessee he has served on the TBC credentials committee and constitution and bylaws committee. He was president of the TBC Pastors Conference in 1983 and was elected first vice president of the convention in 1986.

He was defeated narrowly for the convention presidency in 1988, when Calvin Metcalf defeated him.

"That taught me a lesson in humility," says Sullivan, but he thinks Calvin Metcalf, Knoxville pastor who defeated him, is "a good president."

Near the fast track  
At Lenoir City, Sullivan says it is

that every person could say he has been able to express himself freely and fully."

**Religious liberty concerns**

Concerning accomplishments, Sullivan says he considers the recent decision to recommend a Religious Liberty Commission to Southern Baptist messengers in June perhaps the "greatest decision" of the Executive Committee during his tenure.

"I have tried to lead," he says, "so that there is complete fairness and integrity. A group of about 25 of our senior adults attending the February meeting and when the session was over, one of them asked, 'What side is the preacher on?'"

Explaining his views on the Religious Liberty Commission, Sullivan says he appreciates the "marvelous heritage of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and its continuing ministry."

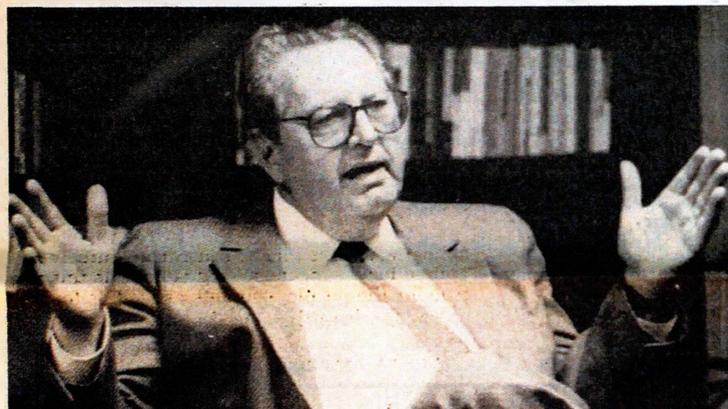
"But in assessing the overall needs of the SBC," he adds, "I firmly believe the proposed commission offers a choice to Southern Baptists whereby they may continue the relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee."

"And we will also have our own professional voice, expert in the First Amendment issues. One great need is to have a strong voice in this. My feeling is that we are not trying to 'bury' the Baptist Joint Committee, but we are trying to birth a new venture for the promotion and protection of religious freedom."

**Don't misinterpret**

Sullivan said that Southern Baptists should not misinterpret the new plan. "There is an imperative that there must be a relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee," he said. Sullivan said also, "My hope is that if the relationship is what it ought to be, there would be an increasing amount of dollars. We have to remember that the BJCPA has continuously said there would never be enough."

There have been moments of



**GOAL OF FAIRNESS** — Charles Sullivan explains that his goal as Executive Committee chairman has been to conduct meetings with complete fairness for all members.

Committee leader by one vote in June 1987. "One of the most affirming feelings I have had," he says, was when I was not opposed for the second year."

He says his family was Christian as he grew up in the Ozarks near Springfield, Mo. He was saved and called to preach at Temple Church there when he was only 16. He was called to be a pastor when he was 19.

"I would call myself a typical Southern Baptist pastor," Sullivan says. "I am a product of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., Baylor University, and Southwestern Seminary." He gained his B. D. and Th. D. at the seminary.

Sullivan said he has spent most of his ministry in "small, rural" churches.

He is beginning his eighth year at Lenoir City, and "several have been this size," he said. Fourteen years of his last 16 in the pastorate have been in Tennessee churches, including six at Southland Church, Memphis.

**Fairness is the goal**

Aware of the controversy swirling around the Southern Baptist Convention for the past decade, Sullivan, who is conservative, says he has tried to be fair and honest, and "to do my best with Christian integrity."

Turning to the Lenoir City church, Sullivan explains that "for the first time, I have taken hold of something I'm not responsible for — the work we

just close enough to a city to be on the "fast track." He said he believes small churches in the counties have a closer place in community life.

When he was elected chairman in 1987, Sullivan says, "I was surprised more than anyone. Darrell Robinson, who I respect sincerely, was one of the other candidates, and I knew he would have made a good chairman."

Robinson was chosen vice chairman, and nominated Sullivan for a second term last June. The Tennessean was unopposed for the second term.

Sullivan is candid about the kind of leader he has tried to be. "I told the committee that first time," he says, "that we should try to aim high in our attitudes and goals, to fight shy — beware of obstacles, and to draw nigh to God, and find our strength and wisdom in Him."

**Congeniality of spirit**

He added, "For these two years, I think we have achieved considerable congeniality of spirit. This doesn't mean that the Executive Committee votes unanimously on all decisions, but when the voting is over, we are one body, a family."

"I see this as a giant step. We must realize that we represent all Southern Baptists. And my main goal is to see that every view, every point should have equal and proper presentation."

"So, I have called even Adrian Rogers and Lloyd Elder out of order. I have tried to direct every meeting so



**PASTOR ALSO** — Though he has a high profile as Executive Committee chairman, Charles Sullivan spends most of his time as pastor of First Church, Lenoir City.

discouragement too, Sullivan said. "The most regrettable thing during my six years on the committee is the financial struggle we have faced. I wish our people would realize that the Cooperative Program has actually been going down in percentage given by churches for 20 years."

"Until we care more about a lost world than ourselves, we can never turn it around, no matter who is leading. It is heart-rending to sit there and hear the great requests made by all our agencies, seminaries and institutions — and none could be granted in entirety. It breaks my heart knowing we could not do it."

**Respect for Bennett**

Sullivan makes clear his respect and admiration for Executive Committee leaders. "We could never do the work without the dedication and commitment of Harold Bennett and the members of his staff," he says. "I have learned there is no one who understands Southern Baptists and all their needs and history — and who has a vision of where we ought to be going — like Harold Bennett."

Turning to his ministry at First Church, Lenoir City, Sullivan says that at least 100 people daily use the all purpose building — for exercise and other health benefits.

The church has stood on A Street for 94 years, and the worship center was built in 1913. There are plans underway to relocate, still within city limits three miles away, on 26 acres of new property. "And that's where the experts say the city is moving too," Sullivan says.

It is obvious that First Church is going where the people will be. The present property of about a block and half will be used until plans can be carried out without haste.

One building adjacent to the downtown location is used as a crisis pregnancy center.

The church hopes to retrofit existing buildings on the new site to accommodate 450 for Sunday School and 500 for worship by Oct. 1. Three hundred present members will form the nucleus for the satellite. There will be a period of months when services will be held at both locations.

Sullivan could be speaking about the Executive Committee and the Lenoir City church when he says, "I have tried to be a catalyst for bringing people together."



**CHECKING NOTES** — Sullivan, left, checks agenda items with committee secretary Sam Pace during a recent Executive Committee meeting in Nashville.

# Our Readers Write ... on gifts, resurrection, and more ...

## Resurrection day

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 are major New Testament passages that teach about the resurrection of God's saints. The timing of this resurrection event in relation to the great tribulation at the end of this age, has generated controversy among the saints.

Does Scripture tell us when resurrection will take place? Jesus taught resurrection would occur at the last day (John chapter 6). Resurrection occurs when the Lord descends from heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Resurrection occurs when the last trumpet sounds (1 Corinthians 15:52).

The Bible teaches, near the end of this age seven trumpets shall sound (Revelation chapters 8 and 9, and 11:15-19). In the series of trumpets, the seventh is the last.

On resurrection day, when the Lord descends from heaven, and the last trumpet sounds, there shall be a great gathering of God's saints. Matthew 24:30-31 and Mark 13:26-27 tell of this gathering of God's elect.

These events take place immediately after the tribulation (Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27).

Am I in error when I conclude from the above Scriptures that Christ's return to the earth, the great gathering and resurrection of God's saints, and the sounding of the last trumpet all occur at the same time, which is at the end of this age, immediately after the great tribulation?

Tom Benedetti  
Route 9, Box 273  
Sevierville 37862

## Joint retreat set for Lake Barkley

The "first time ever" joint retreat for ministers of youth, education, recreation, and music will be held May 8-10 at Lake Barkley State Park in Cadiz, Ky.

Normally, the state organizations for each group of ministers hold individual retreats, but the decision was made to have a joint retreat this year only, said Gerry Mayes of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Convention Ministries Division.

Eleanor Yarborough, director of church recreation for the TBC, noted the conference will meet the needs of those ministers who hold a combination of the four roles and for the churches with multiple staffs.

In addition, she added, it will enable ministers from all four areas to meet together which will help develop a sense of partnership in church ministry.

Reginald M. McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, is the primary speaker at the meeting, which is based on the theme "Growing Through Partnership in Ministry."

Retreat topics led by McDonough include becoming aware of your inner strength, learning to be an effective team member, dealing with conflict, and improving inter-personal communication skills.

Each of the four ministry areas also will have individual conferences.



LOWRIE



McDONOUGH

Topics for music ministers include enlistment, promotion, recruitment, and retention of choir; budgeting; music reading; and choir rehearsal techniques.

Youth ministers will look at trends in their ministry, new recreational ideas, sharing ministry success and failures, and discipleship methods.

Ministers of recreation will examine challenges they'll face in the 1990s, building fellowship, improving image, and responding to job pressures.

Topics for ministers of education are planning to maximize energy and time, how to be an encourager for the pastor, creativity in leading others, and suggestions for ministry.

A special conference also will be held for spouses.

D. L. Lowrie, executive director-elect of the TBC, will deliver the closing message on May 10.

Registration for the retreat is \$27.50 for ministers and \$15.00 for spouses, and should be sent to the TBC Convention Ministries Division, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

Lodging costs per night are \$43.15 single and \$52.33 double. Contact Marilyn Ladd at Lake Barkley (502) 924-1171 for room reservations and information.

For information about the retreat, contact the TBC Convention Ministries Division at (615) 373-2019.

**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.**

## What did Jesus say?

Since the early 1900's the idea of a pre-tribulation rapture has been advanced by men such as C. I. Scofield, M. R. DeHaan, and others.

Many people have accepted this belief to the extent, that any attempt to question it is often met with righteous indignation and contempt.

Would it not be wise to see what Jesus Himself says about this event? Turning to Matthew 24, where Jesus describes His second coming, we see what our Lord says about a pre-tribulation rapture.

He says nothing at all! Instead He warns us of wars and rumors of wars, of a great time of tribulation when the elect will be persecuted and killed, of men falling away and betraying one another . . .

He is speaking very clearly and directly here of events that will precede His

second coming.

Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1 says "in the last days difficult times will come" and in verse 12 "all who desire to live godly in Christ will be persecuted."

I cannot understand how those who hold to a pre-trib rapture belief in some way consider themselves uniquely qualified to escape persecution that has plagued other Christians for 2000 years.

My prayer is that all Christians would open their Bibles and let the Holy Spirit reveal what Jesus really taught about His second coming.

He is the only one we can believe, for the Bible says that God cannot lie. The opinions of men are often only that and cannot be completely trusted.

Floyd Eyles  
Rt. 1, Box 955  
Roan Mountain 37687

## Gifts for Philippines

I want to report responses to the article on the Philippines, which included the article from The Commission magazine, in the Feb. 8 issue. I can identify at least

## Drummond accepts call of East Lake

East Lake Church, Chattanooga, called Charles Drummond as pastor.

Drummond received his education at Floyd College, in Floyd County, Ga.; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; and Covington Theological Seminary, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

He served as pastor of Fairview Church, Rockmart, Ga., for five years, and New Harmony Church, Cedartown, Ga., for the past ten years.

Drummond is married to the former Lawana J. Wills of Cedartown, Ga. They have a daughter, Holly.

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

He never saw the photo of Goethe's home.

Years later, as so many of us do, I made a promise to visit a casual acquaintance, a good man — but without Christ. I was prepared to witness to him about the Savior. Other things interfered, and before I realized it, the man quit his job and left the city.

I cannot but think of the waste of procrastination. It can cause a person to lose everything from his soul (or that of someone else), to a handshake, a poignant event, some special music, sight of a bird in flight, a sun at horizon, a baby's hand reaching up for daddy's, a moment with God.

A group of Southern Baptist leaders were reminded about good works and procrastination a few weeks ago. Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines, speaking informally about Christian witnessing, wondered aloud about the worthwhileness of leaders — including Southern Baptist editors — in sharing their witness.

I have procrastinated, and you. It is a troubling habit, careless, and smacks of poor stewardship. We are left destitute and forlorn, by our own inaction.

Do it now. Cast off worry and doubt. Sow. Sow that you may reap. The birds sing early of a morn, the minutes are precious and fly faster than eye can see. Do it now! These are the minutes and hours that count.

She stood by the magnificent foundation at Lindenhof Castle in Bavaria. Built by King Ludwig II, the castle is what it was intended to be, a creation of spectacular beauty.

The grounds are immaculate, and the fountain is a compliment to the entire location.

So she stood by the fountain which, from its very center, shot a stream of water high, high into the air, rainbow bright.

I framed her perfectly with the camera, moving a few feet this way and that. I fidgeted a trifle too long, and the picture was gone — portrait of a lovely lady by a fountain of Old World charm. The fountain's tall spire had been diminished to a man's height.

Another day we visited Frankfurt and the home of Goethe, the great German writer. We were enthused, and I could not help thinking of a teacher friend whose love for Goethe I well knew.

So I captured with the camera a pleasant scene of Goethe's home. I fully intended to mail that photo to my friend, but weeks went by and I failed to respond to good intentions. Came the day when news arrived telling of the death of my old college professor.



ALLEN

\$1210 in gifts to this Rural Life Center project.

There may have been other gifts that would have come through the state offerings which I could not identify. However, we are grateful for this additional information to Tennessee readers.

David M. Coleman, associate  
Development Office  
Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Va. 23230

## Network sale fails; RTVC to continue ACTS

FORT WORTH (BP) — Friends of ACTS, Inc. is unable to meet the financial requirements for its proposed purchase of the ACTS television network, the San Antonio, Texas-based organization said March 14.

Center (Chip) Atkins Jr., president of Friends of ACTS, said the group was unable to raise the \$34 million to purchase American Christian Television System from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, which launched the cable network in June of 1984.

The announcement was made during a closed-door 37-minute called meeting of the RTVC executive committee and followed a meeting of Friends of ACTS and a five-member RTVC committee to direct final negotiations and ensure trustee involvement in each step of the process.

Following the announcement, the executive committee voted "to continue to operate ACTS at its present programming level . . . as a mission outreach ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention."

# SEBTS confirms Bush, accreditation . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
for a \$12-14 million fund-raising campaign, development of a world missions and evangelism center, and required spiritual growth courses for students. James DeLoach, a minister at Second Church, Houston, Texas, called faculty and administrators to "buy into" the president's plans. In later discussion he asked them to "have the integrity to absent themselves . . ." if they couldn't support the president's plans.

The recommendation was passed by the trustees with one dissenting vote.

The fund-raising campaign, referred to a trustee committee because of concerns that it must be approved by the SBC Executive Committee, was later approved.

Drummond encouraged trustees to "seize every opportunity possible to let others know that we must be backers of the Cooperative Program." He noted that the institution receives about \$4 million a year from the missions program.

## More on Bush

Opposition to entering an executive session to consider Bush was voiced by trustee Christine Gregory of Danville, Va. She said the contents of the executive session with Lolley had been published in the accreditation report. The body voted 17-12 for the closed meeting.

Bush stated in a discussion paper prepared for an earlier committee meeting he supported changes that

would ensure "a conservative majority on the faculty be achieved as soon as possible."

Members of the SEBTS chapter of American Association of University Professors, which includes all but one fulltime faculty member, had voted 23-1 against the nomination of Bush.

The chapter's report to Drummond stated Bush should be rejected on criteria that included "his total lack of administrative experience, evidence of bias in his writing, his expectation that this faculty would support inerrancy in some form, his affiliation with the fundamentalist leadership in the convention, and his lack of understanding of the history or traditions of Baptists in this area."

Bush stated in a press conference that he agrees with the Peace Committee report which said some seminary professors' beliefs do not follow those of the majority of Southern Baptists, including a historical, scientific, theological, and philosophical belief in the Bible. Drummond added that unless a professor denied belief in the school's Articles of Faith, he or she would not be dismissed.

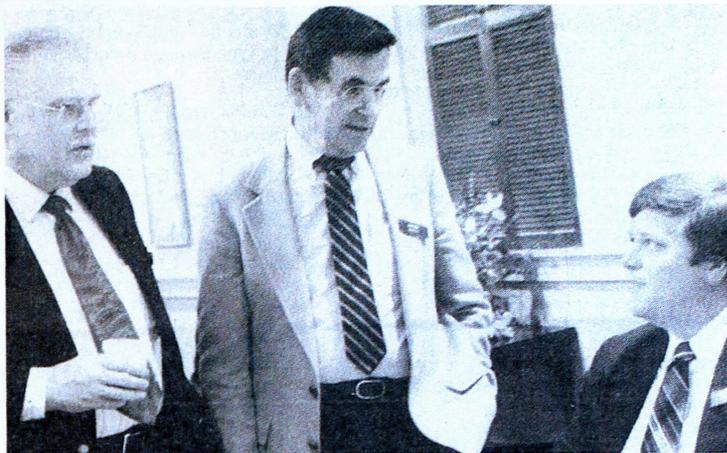
He identified the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the convention in 1963 as a good "guideline" for convention agencies that is not "imposed" on anybody.

"Inerrancy . . . is not in and of itself a criteria for teaching here. . . . If a persons says that they don't believe the Scripture or believes the Scripture

schools to make these changes where conservative views will get a fair hearing."

When asked about the faculty's opposition to many of the trustees' recent decisions, May said, "I don't believe in the AAUP (American Association of University Professors, of which all but one faculty member holds membership). I think it's a theological thing.

"If they (faculty members) don't believe in inerrancy they need to say that."



**TENNESSEE TRUSTEE** — Jack May, center, of Memphis, visits with fellow Southeastern Seminary directors Walter Lonis, left, of Colorado, and Kenneth Stevens of Michigan.

has error in it . . . they have stepped out of the bounds of where Southern Baptists have been."

Bush requested prayer from the trustees, saying he would come as a peacemaker.

## More on accreditation

Several hours of discussion and numerous amendments marked the special called session to deal with the reports written by the committee on instruction responding to ATS and SACS. Each report contains several hundred pages.

Mark Caldwell, a pastor from Maryland, submitted that the effect of the reports already had been made because ATS and SACS had received the report drafts. His motion to write ATS and SACS denying their charges but reporting that measures were being taken to meet accreditation standards was defeated.

Charles Midkiff of Kentucky moved that a report of the October 1987 closed session with Lolley be stricken because of the unspoken secrecy rule. It was defeated.

Amendments proposed by Lee Beaver of Missouri that deleted reports Lolley "controlled" the visit by the

Peace Committee subcommittee to SEBTS, that Lolley would appoint part-time professor to fill all faculty vacancies to evade the new process involving trustee approval, and that Lolley did not consider hiring a professor with an inerrant stance on the Bible were approved.

Beaver added that other changes he would recommend "deal with opinions and my opinions don't agree . . ."

The amended reports to the accrediting agencies both passed by votes of 19-7.

## Baptist Faith and Message statement

The trustees stalled action on a motion to consider adopting the Baptist Faith and Message statement as the seminary's articles of faith at its October meeting.

Jim Bryant, of Fort Smith, Ark., and chairman of the committee on instruction who made the motion, referred to the motion made at the 1988 SBC meeting calling SEBTS and Southern Seminary to adopt the statement.

Caldwell and Gregory argued that the convention cannot instruct the seminary on policy and that the accrediting agencies and the Peace Committee did not call for the action.

"ATS, SACS, and the SBC do not require it, but there are some that want it and I am one of them," stated Bob Crowley, trustee chairman from Maryland.

The motion was referred back to the committee on instruction.

## In other actions:

- The 1989-90 budget was passed, including a cutback in medical insurance benefits and other austerity programs to counter a drop in enrollment. The school's enrollment has dropped from about 1100 in 1987 to 800 currently.

- Drummond was named professor of the history and philosophy of evangelism.

- The trustees voted to notify the law firm of Arent, Fox, Kinter, Plotkin, and Kahn of Washington D.C. that it does not represent the SEBTS board of trustees. The vote defeated a motion by Delahoyd to hire the firm retroactive to Dec. 1. The trustees received notification of the firm's status after Crowley received free consultation from one of the firm's members on labor relations with the seminary chapter of AAUP.

- Postponed until their October meeting a decision on preparing a response to the SBC Peace Committee.

## Tennessee trustee expresses views

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Jack May, trustee and pastor of Broodmoor Church, Memphis, has served during the controversy at SEBTS which erupted October 1987.

Referring to the resignation of former President Lolley, May said, "He resigned because he couldn't fulfill his responsibilities under the new set up." He added that the administration has "a suggestive role" to the trustees.

"Our school is one of the last of the

## Lewis opposes new agency, seminary

By Joe Westbury

ATLANTA (BP) — Wrestling with shrinking funds for home missions, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis opposes creation of a new Southern Baptist Religious Liberty Commission and plans for a new Southern Baptist Alliance seminary.

Creation of the new agencies would drain resources away from home and foreign missions, Lewis told trustees during the board's spring meeting March 10 in Atlanta.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has recommended creation of the Religious Liberty Commission to represent the convention in Washington. The Alliance, an organization of convention moderates, has approved plans to begin a new seminary in Richmond, Va.

The denomination does not have adequate financial resources to fund another agency, Lewis charged, and said the new Washington-based Religious Liberty Commission would duplicate efforts being addressed by

the SBC Christian Life Commission and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"Please do not misunderstand me. I do not oppose the decision to fund an office of the Christian Life Commission in Washington to represent Southern Baptists regarding critical moral and social concerns. I simply fail to see the wisdom of having three offices representing Southern Baptists in our nation's capital," said Lewis.

The new commission, in order to become a reality, must be approved by majority votes by messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings. The new commission would eliminate the current Public Affairs Committee, through which SBC representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee are named. Lewis is a voting ex-officio member of the PAC.

Lewis noted that at the same meeting in which the creation of the new agency was approved, the SBC Executive Committee proposed a 2.05 percent decrease for the denomination's allocation budget, the Cooperative Program.

"During a year in which the Home Mission Board's Cooperative Program allocation is being cut by about \$1 million, it is not good stewardship to propose creation of a new agency," Lewis said. He reminded the board members that the Executive Committee estimated funding of the new agency would require a minimum of \$500,000 to \$750,000 a year — money that normally would be channeled to home and foreign missions endeavors.

SBC Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks "rightly pointed out to the Executive Committee that 50 percent of the new agency's Cooperative Program allocation will come from the Foreign Mission Board, and that 20 percent will come from the Home Mission Board," Lewis said.

"If the proposal is approved, missions will be crippled and hobbled at a time when we need to move forward unhindered in our efforts to achieve the goals of Bold Mission Thrust," he said. Bold Mission Thrust is the denomination's plan to present the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

# Church secretary for 25 years overcomes muscular dystrophy

By Joy Jordan, news assistant

In late 1963, Pat Walden became accustomed to overcoming handicaps.

The office equipment allotted her in the south wing of First Church, Portland, consisted of a "small manual Smith-Corona and a mimeograph machine that came over on the Mayflower." And besides a winsome smile, Walden herself had few of the usual qualifications for her new position. Claiming no prior secretarial ex-

perience, she had only recently taught herself to type through a correspondence course.

And Walden, though still ambulatory, had muscular dystrophy.

But in the ensuing quarter of a century, Walden has made herself "indispensable," according to Richard Patton, Portland's pastor of 25 years. "They can do without me," he laughed, "but they certainly can't do

without Pat."

Although she has maintained what Patton describes as "an extremely close relationship through the years" with him and his family and despite the pleasure she takes in "working with the church people—my favorite part," neither Walden's professional nor her personal life has been easy.

As a six-year-old, the Portland native learned she had muscular dystrophy, a hereditary, degenerative disease usually manifesting itself in childhood or adolescence. But she was more fortunate than other family members also afflicted with forms of the disease that still baffles modern science.

One of the myriad strains of muscular dystrophy, which initially affects the pelvic and thigh muscles, followed by shoulders and arms, precluded her brother's ever sitting up alone. He died at age 16. Walden's sister, who currently operates her own answering service in Portland, took only a few steps as an infant.

But Walden was able to walk until a broken leg in 1977 sentenced her to a 30-day hospital stay during which a metal rod replaced the fractured femur.

Because the disease prohibited proper healing, she has since been confined to a wheelchair. But the wheelchair has not confined her artistic talents, her rapport with children, or her abilities to minister as a Sunday School teacher and church leader.

The congregation responded to her physical constraints by lowering all the office counters and installing, whenever possible, automatic or semi-automatic machinery. Portland's members, Walden attested, have con-

sistently "been very understanding, ready to do anything they can to be of service—within financial limitations."

The most difficult aspect of her life, she said, is "not having enough faith to give God complete control . . . I get frustrated quite often with myself, like when I drop a whole passle of papers. It's so aggravating."

The 25-year veteran church secretary who has weathered more than her share of hardships reflected she cannot "understand how people who don't believe in God have any mental peace. I couldn't have come through this otherwise.

"But," she declared emphatically, straightening in her wheelchair, "God provides. He does take care of His own."



**WILLING WORKER** — Pat Walden, secretary at First Church, Portland, for 25 years, has refused to allow confinement to a wheelchair interfere with her daily tasks.

## Tennessee Baptists begin 13 missions

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Southern Baptists started 953 church-type missions nationwide in 1988, according to figures reported to the convention's Home Mission Board by state church extension leaders.

State directors of missions and church extension from across the nation gathered in Oklahoma City for the HMB's annual new church extension conference. In addition to reporting last year's statistics, state leaders announced a combined goal of 1600 mission starts for 1989.

Nationally, the ratio of churches to new starts in 1988 was 38-to-1, meaning Southern Baptists started one mission for every 38 constituted churches.

Figures previously reported from analysis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's 1988 Uniform Church Letter show a total of 42,217 churches and church-type missions in the denomination. Southern Baptists have set a goal of 50,000 churches and church-type missions by A.D. 2000.

Texas led the nation in number of mission starts for 1988, with 206. Texas Baptists started one mission for every 20 constituted churches.

Other states in the top ten numerical group, listed with number starts and ratio of churches to starts, are California, 100 (10-1); Florida, 62 (27-1); North Carolina, 47 (73-1); Georgia, 40

(75-1); Missouri, 39 (45-1); Kentucky, 37 (59-1); South Carolina, 28 (62-1); Louisiana, 26 (511); and New York, 26 (6-1).

The territory of Puerto Rico led the nation with the best ratio of churches to mission starts. Baptists there started one mission for every four constituted churches.

State conventions in the top ten ratio group, listed with ratio of churches to starts and number of starts, are Wyoming, 5-1 (13); New York, 6-1 (26); New England, 6-1 (16); Nevada, 6-1 (11); Minnesota-Wisconsin, 6-1 (13); Hawaii, 9-1 (5); Utah-Idaho, 9-1 (10); Alaska, 10-1 (5); California, 10-1 (100); and Colorado, 10-1 (18).

Other conventions, listed with the number of mission starts followed by the ratio of churches to starts where available, are Alabama, 18 (168-1); Arizona, 18 (14-1); Arkansas, 24 (53-1); Canada, 13; Dakotas, 5; District of Columbia, 2 (27-1); Illinois, 24 (38-1); Iowa, 1 (64-1); Kansas-Nebraska, 9 (27-1); Maryland-Delaware, 12 (22-1); Michigan, 12 (18-1); Mississippi, 7 (278-1); Montana, 6; New Mexico, 5 (53-1); Northwest, 11 (26-1); Ohio, 20 (25-1); Oklahoma, 15 (94-1); Pennsylvania-South Jersey, 9 (13-1); Tennessee, 13 (210-1); Virginia, 14 (105-1); West Virginia, 2 (51-1). Figures were not available from Indiana.

## Personal Perspective

By Tom J Madden

My grandfather used to tell, with some embarrassment, of striking a burned tree, thinking it was a person. It seems that some rowdy youth had endeavored to upset the worship service in his small church in the pioneer days of Oklahoma. He had dealt with them rather severely and they in turn threatened him. After the service, he was walking



**MADDEN**

home in the darkness when he thought he was confronted by one of the youth. He asked him twice who he was and then said, "If you don't tell me who you are, I am going to hit you." When there was no answer he hit what he thought was a man, only to find to his painful shock that it was a tree that was burned, blackened, ashen.

As I have reflected on his experience, I have concluded he acted as he did out of fear. Man has been experiencing fear since Adam and Eve broke God's commandment, and then hid themselves out of fear when they

heard God calling to them. We live under the specter of fear. We live with the reality that it is possible for a nuclear war to engulf us. The threat of cancer haunts most of us. There are many things we fear: failure, poverty, losing our job, loneliness, and becoming helpless.

The Bible has much to say upon the subject of fear. "Fear not," "Be not afraid," "Be of good courage," "Be of good cheer," and "Let not your heart be troubled." The psalmist said, "I sought the Lord and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

Some fears are imaginary and most never materialize. The ideal society as described in God's Word is one where there is no fear. Everyone shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and "none shall make them afraid." I like the "no mores" in the Revelation: "no more sea," "no more death," "no more pain," "no more curse," and "no more night." While not included as one of the "no mores," it seems logical to conclude that there will be "no more fear."

I like what the psalmist said, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee," I like still better what Isaiah said, "I will trust and be not afraid."

## 'Wagon' loved working with youth

The youngsters with whom he worked summer after summer at Tennessee Church Training camps knew him as "Wagon."

Robert "Wagon" McElhaney Jr. loved young people and "looked forward to seeing many professions of faith" during each of the more than 20 summers he faithfully served at Camps Linden and Carson, reflected his wife, Daphne.

In fact, most of McElhaney's 61-year life was spent actively involved in guiding and nurturing young lives. The churches to which he belonged, most recently Mountain Creek Church, Chattanooga, benefitted from his service as Sun-



**McELHANEY**

day School superintendent, Training Union (now Church Training) director, and an avid youth worker.

Though McElhaney died Feb. 27, the effects of his ministry to youth live on in those whose lives he touched:

David Cox, a member of Trenton Street Church in Harriman, reminisced, "Magic tricks, coveralls, and a quick smile were 'Wagon's' trademarks . . . I am a different — and hopefully better — person because he cared and spoke the truth to me."

For Eric Jackson of Parkview Church, Jackson, the name "Wagon" evoked fond memories of "the time he looked all over Camp Linden for me when I was sick; he thought that I had passed out somewhere. When I think of 'Wagon,' the word 'love' sticks in my mind."

Tracie Silliman of Turkey Creek Church, Savannah, described him as "a very dear person who influenced my life greatly. His hearty laughter and homespun humor always lifted my spirits and made me smile. I loved his original poems and especially his magic tricks . . . I will miss these things that made him so special to me as a young person, and I will always remember them as I grow as an adult."

During annual conference

# Tennessee Baptist deacons reminded of servant role



**CHURCH HOSTESSES** — Making sure no one went away hungry from the state deacon conference held at Madison Avenue Church in Maryville were the following church members, from left, Molly Taylor, Shirley Henderson, Icie Myers, Judy Norton, Jane Atkins, and Nancy Orr. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor  
**MARYVILLE** — In a year when the focus is on Southern Baptist laity, deacons were reminded of their role as "servant leaders" during the state deacon conference in Maryville.

Held at Madison Avenue Church March 10-11, the annual conference sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Training Department attracted about 375 deacons and their spouses from across the state.

In addition to messages and testimonies built on the theme "Deacons: Servant Models," participants were able to attend conferences dealing with subjects ranging from dealing with conflict to planning effective deacon meetings.

Johnnie Hall, TBC Church Training director, reminded deacons of their role in ministering to the members of their churches.

Noting there are more jokes about deacons than any other group in the church, Hall issued a plea for those jokes to stop.

"We will never help deacons understand their role as servant models until we stop making them the brunt of every joke," he said.

Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, told the deacons, "There is no way they can be models for others unless they are servants themselves."

"The deacon ministry is at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Christ," Elder said.

He reminded the deacons, "Jesus Himself is the grand example of what it means to be a servant."

It's not simply an honor to be a deacon: it's a special stewardship, Elder added.

Gary Hardin, a design editor in the BSSB's church administration department, asked two questions: "Is your ministry as a deacon believable?" and "Does it have credibility?"

Hardin offered three suggestions for putting credibility in the deacon ministry.

First, determine your worth by what God knows about you and not what people say about you, Hardin said.

It's a sad thing when we measure our worth by what people say about us, he noted.

Second, Hardin told the deacons to "delight in the fruit you bear and not

in human acclaim you receive."

Hardin noted "genuine credentials" in the ministry of a deacon come from the "fruit we've borne." He told the deacons they must ask themselves, "Have we helped change lives?"

Hardin's last tip for putting credibility in the deacon ministry was to "minister grace, not law."

A legalistic ministry brings death, Hardin cautioned, noting that it can kill joy, spiritual power, and fellowship.

He noted grace is "going the extra mile" or extra effort to make sacrifices for people. "In everything you do, please minister grace, not law," Hardin urged.



**CONFERENCE LEADERS** — Among the conference leaders at the state deacon conference in Maryville were, from left, Joanne Coyle, Jefferson City; Roy and Marguerite Babb, Hendersonville; Gary Hardin, Nashville; Paul Barkley, Memphis; Bruce Coyle, Jefferson City; and Herman King, Nashville. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen.

Conference participants noted the two-day meeting was beneficial and that they came to learn.

Ed Householder, a deacon from Knob Creek Church in Seymour, said he appreciated the knowledge he gained from the meeting. "You cannot grow until you learn you don't know it all," observed Householder, a deacon for about 20 years.

Chris Whitaker, a deacon from First Church, New Tazewell, agreed the conference was helpful. The meeting gave "insight on things we need to know," Whitaker said. He noted the smaller conferences were especially beneficial because of the interaction with each other.

Bob Morrison, chairman of the deacons at First Church, Livingston, said he gained "several good ideas" regarding the deacon family ministry plan.

In addition to learning new concepts the conference helps "remind you of things you already know to do" while getting the fresh perspectives of others, Morrison added.

Billie McCollum, whose husband, Jerry, is deacon chairman at Clearview Church in Franklin, noted she gained ideas of how to help him in his ministry.

The sessions were "enlightening," she said.

## Venezuelan trip impacted decision

# Mike Adams gives up tool box at TBC for pulpit in Linden

By Lonnie Wilkey

Mike Adams closed his trusty tool box for the last time at the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board Building in Brentwood on March 10.

Instead of fixing problems ranging from heating and air conditioning malfunctions to plumbing repairs, Adams will now concentrate on "fixing" lost souls and troubled hearts as pastor of First Church, Linden.

Adams joined the TBC family in 1974 as manager of Camp Linden.



**CHECKING THE SYSTEM** — Mike Adams makes sure all is well with the heating and cooling system at the TBC's Executive Board Building in Brentwood.

He moved to the Brentwood facility as properties maintenance manager in 1980.

Learning his "jack-of-all-trade" skills from his father, the 34-year-old Nashville native has played an important role in undergirding the ministries of the convention.

But despite his talents, Adams knew in his heart he was not within the Lord's will for his life.

And, he attested, that's a problem no tool can fix.

Adams related he received the call to preach about 15 years ago, but he never surrendered to that call until last summer.

"I tried every way I knew to suppress that calling," Adams said, noting his involvement with the denomination and his church activities.

"I tried to fill every office in the church and practically have except for WMU and music directors," laughed Adams, who had been a member of First Church, Dickson.

About a year ago, Adams recalled, the Lord "began to deal with me again" during a mission trip to Venezuela.

"That trip showed me if the Lord really had free reign in your life He could truly use you in all sorts of circumstances," Adams said, noting he was impressed by the Venezuelans' commitment and desire for the will of God in their lives.

After the mission trip, Adams

showed his slides to various churches including First Church, Linden, where he and his wife, Cheryl, were members when he managed the camp.

The church was without a pastor at the time. One thing led to another, Adams remembered, until the church issued a call for him to be their pastor. It was almost as if everybody knew it was meant to be, Adams added.

"God made all the arrangements and He didn't leave out one little detail," Adams said.

Adams began as pastor of the church in October and moved to Linden in December. Since December, he has commuted about 180 miles roundtrip daily to Brentwood.

He is excited about the ministry at Linden. "The members have a burning desire for people in the community especially the unchurched," Adams noted.

God is really blessing First Church, Linden, despite the "feeble preaching," he laughed.

The regrets he has about leaving the TBC are "selfish," he admitted because of the many friends he has acquired through the years.

But, he knows his family, which includes Jennifer, 13, and Jonathan, 9, is "now in the center of the Lord's will for our lives."

"I have a sweet assurance we are where we are supposed to be," he added.



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

## Transitional school provides academic help

You are nine years old and in the third grade. The teacher puts a simple math problem on the board. Everyone seems to understand it but you. You are not lacking in intelligence, but this is the third school you have been enrolled in within the last six months. You have lived in four different homes in that same length of time.

So what do you do? Create a diversion? Anything to keep from appearing that you are different and do not know what is going on academically.

For this child and many others who fit in this category, we have developed the transitional school. This school is a joint en-

deavor between Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and the Shelby County School System.

Lee Presley, a retired school principal, heads up the school at the West Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes campus in Bartlett. He works with each student with the goal to help them perform at their normal grade level. At the time they achieve this, they make the transition back to the public school.

Many of our children perform well with just a few weeks of help in this program. This is just one of the ways TBCH has chosen to express the love of God for these

children.

"A mind is a terrible thing to waste." So, TBCH is doing everything possible to assist our children academically so they will not be failures, but achievers in life.

In addition to the transitional school, we provide a tutoring program on each of our campuses. Much of this is done by volunteers.

We are grateful to Tennessee Baptists for providing the resources for these children to be helped spiritually, physically, socially and academically through your prayers and financial gifts.

## New TBCH programs meet special needs

"We received a 10-year-old boy on campus recently. He could not count past 13, and failed to recognize much of the alphabet."

That is the kind of challenge facing Lee Presley, coordinator of the transitional school on the Memphis TBCH campus.

"We worked with that 10-year-old on a one-to-one basis for five weeks. He began to excel in math and just loved it. His reading improved and we were able to enroll him in a public school," Presley said.

The transitional school was established in August, 1988, to meet the special educational needs of children in the care of TBCH.

"We receive many children who simply can't keep up in a regular classroom without help," Presley said. "The transitional school provides that help."

Because of the complicated circumstances often involved in the cases of these children, there are often delays in getting records from the school they attended prior to being placed in the custody of TBCH. They can't be enrolled in Memphis or Shelby County schools without those records. The transitional school offers an alternative classroom situation during that period.

Occasionally a TBCH student gets suspended from school. Those students are enrolled in the transitional school for the period of their suspension.

"This serves two purposes," said Presley. "One, the child doesn't fall behind in school. Two, the child doesn't get the idea that getting suspended is a great way to get out of going to school."

Presley, a retired schoolteacher and principal, served in Memphis area public schools for 30 years. He worked as a volunteer for



Teenage residents of TBCH are learning home management skills.

TBCH for 15 years during the summer months, serving as activities director and coordinator of sports programs for the Memphis campus.

"My love for TBCH is just natural," Presley said. "I have two children, both adopted from TBCH. This place is dear to my heart."

With the transitional school successfully in operation, TBCH is beginning another special program on the Franklin campus. WINGS (Winning Independence Necessitates Giving of Self) is a pilot program designed to help juniors and seniors in high school to begin to acquire the skills to "make it on their own."

Eight boys and girls and a set of houseparents will share a cottage. The houseparents will strictly be in a monitoring role — the teenagers will be responsible for running the household.

Their responsibilities will include managing a budget, meal planning, laundry and coordinating their individual needs for transportation to school and part-time jobs.

"These kids will have more freedom than the other teenagers on campus, but they will also have much more responsibility," said Carol Marion, the TBCH social worker assigned to the cottage.

On an individual basis, the teenagers will be taught how to manage life skills such as checking and savings accounts, the procedures involved in locating an apartment and signing up for utility services, voting and how to locate affordable medical help when it is needed.

"We have an application process for participation in WINGS," Marion said. "The kids have to show us that they are ready to handle this kind of responsibility."

"Our goal is to be sure that our kids are well-prepared to manage their lives once they leave TBCH. We want to make the transition from our care to the 'real world' as smooth as possible for them."

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A Ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

# Tennessee ... starting at Chic — west to Spot — and east to Gudger ...

## Leadership ...

Eldon M. Boone Jr. resigned as minister of education and music at Lockeland Church, Nashville, effective April 1. He accepted a call as minister of education and administration of South Gate Church, Nashville, effective April 2.

Clarkrange Church, Clarkrange, has called Jerry Randall as pastor.

Danny Reed has accepted the call to the pastorate of Etter Church, Byrdstown.

Wallace Parham recently announced his retirement as associate pastor in education/administration of First Church, Chattanooga, effective July 1.

Parham's retirement marks the conclusion for him of 42 years of full-time ministry and ten years on the staff of First Church, Chattanooga.

Lick Creek Church, Linden, called Harold Weatherford as pastor.

Mt. Harmony Church, Knoxville, honored Joy Burnette on her tenth anniversary as church secretary.

The celebration included a love offering, covered-dish luncheon, and an all-expenses-paid weekend in Pigeon Forge for her family and her.

Jerry Heflin is pastor of Mt. Harmony.

Jerry Milam accepted the call to the pastorate of First Church, Gibson, effective March 19.

On March 1, Dorothy McGlaughlin observed her 30th anniversary as a secretary of West Jackson Church, Jackson.

McGlaughlin has also contributed to her church by teaching Sunday School, Church Training, Bible Drills, and for the past ten years, serving as church pianist.

Steve Gaines is West Jackson's pastor.

Bob Jolly resigned the pastorate of First Church, Jellico, to become pastor

of Buena Vista Church, Owensboro, Ky.

Leslie Ellison resigned the pastorate of First Church, Pruden, to accept the call as pastor of Unity Church, Dry Ridge, Ky.

First Church, Pruden, called Raymond O'Neil as pastor.

Benny Jackson recently celebrated his 15th anniversary as a vocational evangelist.

The graduate of Howard College (now Samford University), Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary has held crusades in 23 states and 11 foreign countries.

Prior to becoming a full-time evangelist, Jackson was pastor of churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee for 14 years.

## Churches ...

The Seminary Choir of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will present a choral worship service March 26, 7:00 p.m., at Immanuel Church, Nashville.

## Cookeville hospital hosts pastoral care seminar

A pastoral care seminar will be hosted by Cookeville General Hospital March 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar is sponsored jointly by the Stone Association of Southern Baptists and the Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The theme of the seminar is "Ministry to the Mentally Ill." It is designed for the minister who wishes to improve his skills in ministering to the emotionally disturbed and mentally ill person.

The seminar convenes in the sixth floor conference room, and a complimentary lunch will be served by the hospital. There is no cost for attending, but call Michael Prowse, director of missions for Stone Association, (615) 526-4655, to make reservations for lunch.

Ken Cook, chaplain at the Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute, will lead the seminar.



**DEDICATION** — Good Hope Church, Adamsville, recently dedicated its new sanctuary. Pastor Billy Joe Stewart and deacon chairman Tad Tacker officiated at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The choir is comprised of 49 auditioned singers, most of whom are pursuing master's or doctoral degrees in church music.

New Hope Church, Hohenwald, held homecoming March 19 and began spring revival March 20.

Southside Church, Shelbyville, and the Family Counseling Center in Shelbyville are jointly sponsoring "Family Foundations," a 13-week study of building healthy family relationships.

The classes meet each Sunday morning at 9:45. The next session, March 26, will deal with divorce and remarriage.

Other topics include rebuilding after divorce, oneness in marriage, and families facing the year 2000.

## Tape available from youth meeting

The Evangelism Department has received numerous inquiries regarding video tapes of the Youth Evangelism Conference held March 3-4 at Vanderbilt.

Tapes of the Friday session (March 3) only are available from a local television station at a cost of \$25 plus \$2 shipping and handling per tape.

For additional information, contact the TBC Evangelism Department at 371-2058.

## WMU schedules "get-together" in Gatlinburg



FLOOD

MORRIS

The annual Baptist Women Get-together will be held April 7-9 at the Park Vista in Gatlinburg.

The theme of the meeting, sponsored by the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, is "For such a time as this ... your spiritual journey."

Tennessee Baptist women will hear from missionaries about remembering

the call, preparing for the call, living out the call, and responding anew to the call.

Missionaries on the program include Pat Stooksbury of Costa Rica, Sharon Kuzbary of South Carolina, Donna Mae Bobby of Chile, and Dottie Williamson of Virginia.

Conferences will also be held dealing with such subjects as getting along with difficult people, managing time and priorities, dealing with grief, and making your witness count.

Robin Flood of Jackson and Karen Love of Knoxville will provide special music. Katherine Bryan, Tennessee WMU executive director, will lead Bible study.

The registration fee is \$5. For additional information contact the WMU office in Brentwood (615) 371-2038.

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**DEDICATION PROGRAM** — Concord Church, oldest church in the Nashville Association, dedicated its multi-purpose building on March 12. Ralph Carroll is pastor of the 185-year-old church. The building houses the worship center, educational, and fellowship facilities. It is located near the old sanctuary still in use on occasion, at the corner of Nolensville and Concord roads. From left, front: Sara Wingler, Donnie Bergstrom, Elizabeth Blair, and Nathan Heleine. Former pastor Harlan Reynolds stands with Pastor Carroll.

# Meeting the risen Lord

By Charles Williams, pastor; Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville

Several years ago our little mission church in Toledo, Ohio, joined with sister churches for sunrise services on Easter Sunday morning. Our meeting place was in a park located on the shores of a still-frozen Lake Erie. In the late-night hours of Saturday, a light dusting of fresh snow had fallen, covering the dingy, dirty snow we had seen for weeks.



WILLIAMS

With the rising of the sun in a cloud-free sky, a young lady began to sing, "The sky shall unfold, preparing His entrance . . . The sweet light in His eyes shall enhance those awaiting, and we shall behold Him then face to face." As the brilliance of the morning sun was reflected on that white wonderland, our hearts rejoiced in celebration of His resurrection. Our hopes were lifted in anticipation of His coming again, when we, like Mary, shall meet our risen, returning Lord face to face.

Mary meets the risen Lord (John 20:14-18)

Among the last to leave the tomb on the day of Jesus's crucifixion, Mary

Magdalene was the first to arrive at that tomb on His day of resurrection. Proverbs 8:17 says, "I love them that love me; and them that seek me early shall find me." Mary loved her Lord and early on that resurrection morning came to find Him.

The Psalmist wrote, "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). Mary's weeping left tears that distorted her vision (vv. 11, 14). Her despair distorted her hearing so that when Jesus first spoke to her she thought Him to be the gardener (v. 5). But joy overcame her as she heard Him call her by name. Tears of despair turned to tears of joy and she saw clearly, face to face, her living Lord.

Mary's initial reaction, to hold to Jesus, led Him to reprimand her by saying, "cease clinging to Me" (v. 17). She was not to continue clinging to Him, but instead to go and tell the good news to the apostles.

This ought to be a lesson for us today. We are not to linger with knowledge that needs to be shared with others. Like the angels' message at the time of Jesus's ascension to stop gazing in the clouds and go into the crowds with the good news of His return, we are to proclaim a risen Lord!

Jesus confronts his disciples (20:19-29)

His disciples had scattered on that day of crucifixion, but now, apparently, had regathered and were hiding in a house because of their fear of the Jews. Suddenly on that resurrection Sunday evening, Jesus appeared in their midst (v. 19). His message to them was "Peace." This is the kind of peace that comes only when we are in a right relation to our Heavenly Father, through a right relationship of faith in Christ Jesus.

## BIBLE BOOK SERIES

March 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: John 20:1-29

Focal Passages: John 20:11, 14-21, 26b-29

After speaking "peace" to them, He gave them their marching orders, their commission. "As My Father hath sent Me" (v. 21) captures the essence of Jesus' earthly mission. "Even so send I you" (v. 21) sums up the church's commission. The parallel between the two is central to the church.

Next, Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit. We consider this to be a foreshadowing of Pentecost.

Thomas missed "church" that Sunday, so he doubted. One week later, Jesus came again into the disciples' presence and Thomas was there. Thomas had listened all week to the excited testimony of the other

disciples, but refused to believe on the basis of their testimony. "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger in the print of the nails . . . I will not believe" (v. 25).

As Jesus once again stood among them and spoke His peace to them, Thomas was given the opportunity to see and believe. He was given the time to look and touch "and be not faithless but believing" (v. 27).

Thomas answered Jesus with one of the greatest confessions in Scripture as he looked at Jesus and confessed, "My Lord and my God" (v. 28)!

Much has been said about doubting Thomas' needing to see Jesus himself and see His nail-scarred hands before he would believe. Note that verse 20 leaves us the idea that after the disciples had been shown His hands and His side, "the disciples therefore rejoiced" (NASB).

All of us must have a personal encounter with the risen Lord before we can believe. Note our Lord's words to Thomas after he had seen and believed: "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed" (v. 29).

All of us cannot see with physical eyes the nail prints in Jesus' hand, but all can believe that Jesus is risen! There is a special blessing for those who believe without seeing. To many, faith and sight are inseparable, but Jesus taught that faith is believing without seeing.

# Risen with Christ

By Joe Wiles, pastor; Silverpoint Church, Silverpoint

Most of the churches in the Western world have focused more on the cross than the resurrection. The Eastern churches have done the opposite.



WILES

Actually, there needs to be an emphasis on both the cross and the resurrection. History and the calendar were changed by these two events. These once-and-for-all happenings paved the way for our eternal life.

The record of the resurrection (Luke 24:1-7)

One of the stages of grief is unbelief. There is no reason to assume a lack of faith on the part of the women who came to the tomb. They had faithfully tended to Jesus' needs during life and were lovingly doing the last gracious act for Him. They fully expected to see the body of Jesus there in the tomb.

What they found was far different. The stone had been rolled away. The tomb was empty. It says much for their love that they stayed to see more.

Two witnesses, angels from the Lord, told them the good news. They quoted Jesus who had said He would rise again. The women had been so blinded by the cruel fact of Jesus' death that they could not see that He was alive. The doubt they felt helps to convince me of the account's validity.

The disciples were slow to understand. But imagine the joy that must have filled their lives as they finally understood and accepted the news that Jesus truly had risen from the dead!

The excitement that filled the early church seems to have faded through the years as we have accepted that Jesus was resurrected. We often find

special times like Easter just a high day in the church. Yet for the early church and those disciples who knew that Jesus was alive, it was not just a high day but the very reason for living.

The revelation of Christ (Colossians 1:15-20)

Paul had much to say about Jesus. Paul's reason for living and breathing centered around Him. Christ has shown us what God is like. All that is came because of and through Jesus.

Christ has the eternal attributes of God. He is God. His work is many-sided. He is the head of the church and is the One who controls and guides it. All of this has been done so that Jesus might have the total supremacy His Father desired Him to have.

## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

March 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: Luke 24:1-7; Colossians 1:15-29; 3:1-4

Focal Passage: Luke 24:1-7; Colossians 1:15-20; 3:1-4

All the fullness dwells with Christ. Therefore, He was able to provide reconciliation to all of creation, whether kings, powers, or rulers. Jesus was able to do this, for He paid the required price of reconciliation. He died on a cross and His blood shed there brought the world peace.

This peace is ours if we but take it. The price has been paid. This is part of the wonder of the salvation work of Jesus. His death on the cross certainly never needs to be lessened in our eyes. Jesus died that you and I might be reconciled to God. There was no other way for this to be accomplished.

But there is more (Colossians 3:1-4) God's provision for our salvation and reconciliation was the greatest act of love ever seen. However, God did more.

We not only have the gift of salvation, we are promised that we too will be resurrected. We too will be made to stand with Jesus. Since this is true, we need to have our minds on the things that Jesus has His mind on. Our interests are no longer focused on the world but on heaven.

When we accepted what Jesus did on the cross and believed that God raised Him from the grave, we died to our old selves. We are given the promise that we will appear with Jesus in glory. We will do this because Christ is our very life. He is the One who has saved us and He is the One who will cause us to

## Shelby County Association plans eighth annual Mission West '89

Tennessee Acteens and High School Baptist Young Men are encouraged to apply for the eighth annual Mission West '89, a mission trip sponsored by Shelby County Association. It is planned during June and July.

The young people will work with Indians in Arizona and then spend a week backpacking and white water rafting in the Grand Tetons in Wyoming.

Herschel Wells of Memphis, who directs the program, reported that past participants include a missionary in

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stand with Him. It all begins and ends with Him.

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To those who believe this, there is life, eternally and abundantly. We are promised that we too will be resurrected with our Lord. No wonder Paul said that we should set our minds on heavenly things! The day is coming when we too will be risen with Christ! What greater news could ever be told? Christ our Lord is risen indeed!

Peru, two who did church starter work in Canada, one who worked at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Assembly, and several who led Backyard Bible Clubs in Memphis.

The group is limited to 26 youngsters going into the 9th through the 12th grades. The cost is \$300.

For more information, contact James Kellum, Shelby County Baptist Association, 3415 Millbranch, Memphis, Tenn. 38116.

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# The glorious resurrection

By Phil Jett, pastor; Englewood Church, Jackson

As we close our study of 1 Corinthians, Paul emphasizes that the most unifying element in all of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even though the first part of this chapter is not in the focal passages, I think it is important for us to look at 1 Corinthians 15:14, which declares, "If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith is also vain."



JETT

I think Paul wanted to end his letter to these Christians where he started. You see, Paul wanted them to know that just as Christ was resurrected, they also would experience the resurrection. Therefore, he declared this message and this hope of resurrection for each believer in Christ.

In looking at the focal passages, we begin with Paul's emphasis on

firstfruits (15:20-23). He had already stated two conclusions: that Christ is alive and that Christians will be resurrected. He asserted that with Adam sin entered; therefore, death entered into the world as punishment for sin (v. 22). He declared that resurrection entered the world through Jesus Christ; therefore, a real and certain hope of resurrection entered for man. As Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection, all who follow Him and declare Him as the Christ experience the same hope of resurrection.

There may be some confusion as to how we can go home to be with the Lord at death and yet have a resurrection. For me, the conclusion to that dilemma is that the body sleeps, but the soul is at home with the Lord (Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8). At the resurrection, the body will be awakened and we will have what Paul called a resurrected or glorified body.

We move from an emphasis on firstfruits to an emphasis on certain hope (vv. 24-26). When the resurrection takes place, there will be two events that come to a conclusion. First, the

kingdom of God will be delivered to the Father by Jesus Christ (v. 24). There are those who believe this is the kingdom of the millennial reign. Others indicate that this is the time when Jesus will turn the divine government over to the Heavenly Father.

## LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

March 26 Lesson

Basic Passages: 1 Corinthians 15-16  
Focal Passages: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 54-58

Good students of the Word do not and probably never will agree on the details of this deliverance; however, the major truths should be clear: (1) Jesus Christ reigns in heaven today, and all authority is under His feet; (2) Satan and humankind are still able to exercise choice, but God is sovereignly in control; and (3) neither the resurrection of the saved nor the resurrection of the lost has yet taken place. With these thoughts in mind, the church should be united in great expectation of Jesus' return and should be declaring the hope of the risen Lord.

This brings me to the second event. In this reign, absolute defeat of all the enemies of Christ will take place and death will be no more (vv. 25-26).

We now turn to the last part of chapter 15, where the key words are

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victory and encouragement. Paul wanted his Corinthian friends to have confidence in their victory over death (vv. 54-57). He thought the only way they could do that was to understand the weakness of their mortal, corruptible earthly bodies and contrast that with the resurrected body, which is incorruptible and immortal.

I find this very important today with our emphasis on physical health and almost an obsession for wanting to live longer — that if in some way, we could find one more miracle drug, a better diet, or a new form of exercise, these bodies of ours could be immortal. I believe it is important to care for our earthly bodies, but we should never be deceived about the certainty of death and judgment. Because of that, we should anticipate the victory which is given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 57).

Paul then concluded with another word of encouragement (15:58), which should be uplifting for each of us in this Easter season. The encouragement comes from the fact that Jesus is alive and the firstfruits of a resurrection of which each believer will be a part.

Paul used three additional encouraging ideas for every believer who is still in an earthly body. We are to be steadfast — not turning aside from the faith of the resurrection. We are to be unmoving — not turned aside by every whim of doctrine and every temporal concern. We are to do the work of the Lord — that is, to proclaim Christ's kingdom until His return.

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**Black Southern Baptists are 'full partners,' McCall says**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Black Southern Baptists are now "full partners" in the denomination and should seek to start new churches in predominantly black communities, Emmanuel McCall told black church extension leaders. McCall, director of the black church extension division at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, pledged to lead Southern Baptists to have 5000 predominantly black congregations by A. D. 2000. Currently, there are 1073 black churches, he said.

McCall, who previously directed the HMB black church relations department, addressed the group during the agency's annual new church extension conference in Oklahoma City. Under a boardwide reorganization begun Jan. 1, the old unit was renamed black church extension division.

"In many respects, ours is now a different program," McCall said. "We have recognized the presence of black people within the Southern Baptist Convention. We are now full partners." McCall noted previous efforts had been directed to assisting other black denominations, but new efforts would be toward establishing black Southern Baptist churches.

"We are no longer ministering to someone outside our convention," he explained. "The emphasis now is on black Southern Baptists as a part of the whole and doing something to reach black Americans with the Gospel. What has emerged is really our plan. This was not something that was imposed upon us from above." McCall reported that black churches using Southern Baptist strategies have grown faster than those of any other denomination. "We can be the model for what the church can be," he said.

**Ears could 'tingle' if SBC ignores God, leader says**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — God isn't finished using Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union yet, and won't be as long as the organization listens for His leading, said Marjorie J. McCullough, national WMU president.

McCullough compared WMU's position to that of Samuel's when God called to him in the night to give him a warning. "God told Samuel, 'I'm about to do something in Israel that's about to make the ears of everyone tingle,'" she said. "If WMU is listening and ready to answer as was Samuel, 'God may say to us, 'I'm about to do something that will make the ears of everybody in the Southern Baptist Convention tingle,'" she said.

McCullough spoke to WMU leaders from across the country who gathered in early March at the WMU national headquarters for planning. She reminded them of the disobedience to God in Samuel's day. Eli, the priest, had raised sons

who were not faithful to God. God brought judgment on them but first gave the warning to Samuel.

McCullough stressed the importance of WMU remaining faithful to its missions purpose and listening to God's leading. "The lamp of the Lord has not gone out on WMU yet," she said.

**Southern gets grant for ministry study**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is one of ten religious organizations nationwide selected to initiate a large-scale plan for strengthening the quality of candidates for the ministry.

Lilly Endowment Inc., an Indianapolis-based private philanthropy with a long-standing interest in religion, has awarded the Louisville, Ky., seminary \$250,000 for the project. A panel of independent judges selected the ten proposals out of 47 submitted from around the nation. Recipients include four other theological schools and the offices of five American denominations.

The purpose of Southern's program is to "determine what Southern Baptists mean by 'quality minister' and how the seminary can nurture the call to ministry," said project director Daniel Aleshire, professor of psychology and Christian education at Southern Seminary.

The first phase of the study will include a survey of 1500 to 2000 Southern Baptist ministers and lay people in seven states to determine how they define "quality ministers." In the second phase, the seminary will gather information from ministers who are identified as "quality ministers" by people surveyed. The study's final phase will deal with student recruitment and an evaluation of several seminary programs. The SBC's Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and Education Commission will assist Southern Seminary in the study.

**Southern Seminary dean withdraws resignation**

LOUISVILLE — William B. Rogers Jr. has withdrawn his resignation as dean of the School of Christian Education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and will continue in that position.

Rogers, dean since 1983, had announced his intention to resign from that position effective July 31 in order to return to full-time teaching at the seminary. His decision to withdraw the resignation came after seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt was joined by the school's trustee executive committee and faculty in asking him to reconsider.

**Atkinson named to head missionary selection**

RICHMOND — Former missionary Lloyd Atkinson, 47, has been named director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's personnel selection department.

Starting March 16, Atkinson will direct the missionary appointment process. Personnel selection staff members counsel potential missionaries, share information, and help them examine their motivations and qualifications.

Atkinson replaces Louis R. Cobbs who became special assistant to the mission board's executive vice president in January.

# American Christianity faces whirlpool of doctrinal chaos

By Roy T. Edgemon

American Christianity is in a whirlpool doctrinally. Baptists jaywalk back and forth across streets which once defined denominational boundaries of doctrine.

For example, the New Age Movement takes Christian terms and twists them into new Oriental religious meanings, and many Christian ears cannot distinguish the difference.

The chaotic whirlpool encompasses all of America, but one fierce wind in it has impacted Southern Baptists directly.

America is experiencing a breakdown of commitment to denominations. Christians from other denominations are joining Baptist churches but not because they want to be Baptists. They like the warm worship services, small-group fellowship, strong Bible teaching

and preaching, and commitment to traditional Christian values.

Doctrinal issues such as security of the believer and believer's baptism by immersion are not of much interest to them. But they are not alone; many long-time Baptists feel the same way.

Two primary traditions — Reformed and Pentecostal — are impacting us most heavily, and both include views significantly different from ours.

Reformed churches are those which have developed from the "magisterial churches" — that is, those essentially state churches led by such reformers as Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin who worked with magistrates to bring the Reformation to their cities. They are the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed, Methodist, and many with "Evangelical" in their names.

The European tradition of Reformed

churches includes a union of church and state that Baptists have historically rejected. Most believe in infant baptism, boards of elders, and belief in the sacraments as dispensers of God's grace.

Baptist churches have dealt with the Pentecostal influence primarily on a crisis basis, but Pentecostal theology is growing in influence in a less divisive manner in many Southern Baptist churches. Unfortunately, some Baptist churches have ignored the Holy Spirit in their teaching and practice, a problem which should be corrected as a priority.

The implications are obvious. Either Baptists will be Baptists heart and soul, or sooner or later the churches which they join will compromise traditional Baptist positions.

Many observers feel good about the breakdown in denominational loyalties. Some of the issues which have divided evangelicals are not as significant as some which do not.

However, the chaos has generated a new interest in doctrine. The interest must be tapped carefully. The rank and file of Baptists today will reject those doctrinal views they perceive as narrow or academic.

A strong Biblical base must be built for any doctrine we hold. To remain hidebound to heritage without considering its Biblical base makes us a creedal people, whether we have an official creed or not. But to give up hard-fought truths for the convenience of the moment is even more foolish. Truth is not an esoteric philosophy of interest only to a few persons.

Just what is doctrine that makes it so important to study? Bible study and doctrine overlap, but doctrine is the systematic study of God's Word on a given subject. For example, a doctrinal study of Christ's death and resurrection seeks to answer the questions, Why did Jesus have to die? and What are the results? Atonement words (ransom, redemption, sacrifice, and others), the event of Christ's death and all Biblical teachings regarding the subject are studied, and the implications for truth and life are drawn carefully. The results make up the doctrinal content.

Doctrine is not determined by life. But studied apart from application to life, doctrine moves inexorably toward strife and contention, even heresy.

My advice: Take advantage of the new interest. Get your church involved in doctrine study. Each year the church training department of the Sunday School Board produces a doctrine book, usually on one doctrine, for use in the annual Baptist Doctrine Study emphasis. This year, the department asked me to write a broader book dealing with ten doctrines. The *Doctrines Baptists Believe* is the adult book for 1989; books for younger age groups also are available. For help and ideas, contact your state church training director.

Baptist Doctrine Study will be observed April 16-20 in many churches. — Edgemon is director of the church training department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

## National secretaries conference planned

NASHVILLE — The fourth national conference for church secretaries will be held April 26-29, 1989, at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Donny Gandy, consultant in the board's church administration department and director of the conference, said 45 special-interest sessions will be offered relating to professional skills, vocational specialties, and personal enrichment.

Approximately 700 secretaries are expected to attend the conference, which is built around the theme, "Catch the Wind."

In addition to special interest con-

ferences, participants will hear a music concert, have opportunity to look over the latest in office systems and technology and see new materials displayed in a Baptist Book Store.

Keynote speakers include Joe Stacker, director of the board's church administration department; J. Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; Marjorie Kelly, wife of Mississippi Baptist Convention executive director Earl Kelly; and Betty Dilday, wife of Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday.

For information, contact the Church Program Training Center, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.