

Baptist and Reflector

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Philippines missionary says all Baptists can be 'senders'

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Not every Christian is called to be a foreign missionary, but "they can be senders," said missionaries Gerald and Vicki Davis.

From Oklahoma City, the Davises recently completed their first term as missionaries in the Philippines, a country comprised of about 7000 islands and 80 language groups.

(Tennessee Baptists began a three-year partnership mission with the Philippines April 1.)

The Davises' call to missions began in 1980. She was a schoolteacher, and he was a junior college teacher in Oklahoma when he accompanied a group of Southern Baptists conducting crusade services in the Philippines.

During one of the crusades, the group was short of preachers, so Davis was sent to an island to preach. "That week, over 700 people were saved," he said. At the end of the crusade, he felt strongly God's call for him to be a church planter in the Philippines.

His commitment to missions was challenged by offers from several well-paying secular positions. But he turned them down because he felt God telling him: "You have your music; you'll always use that. I want you to plant churches."

With preparation for the mission

field in mind, the Davises attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received his master of divinity degree in 1984.

The thought of being a missionary's wife scared Mrs. Davis at first. "I had the misconception that all ministers' wives were quiet, refined, and dignified," she said. However, during her time at New Orleans Seminary and her term on the mission field, she learned that God can use many different personalities.

While her husband was in seminary, she became involved with the Student Wives Fellowship, where she formed strong friendships and helped develop yearly student wives' programs.

While at New Orleans Seminary, "God taught me never to lose my joy" of being a Christian, she said. "When you lose your joy, you lose your ministry because you want to do nothing.

"Sometimes we limit how we share the Gospel." She has found God often opens doors to share Christ through such avenues as hospitality, caring, and giving.

For example, a door was opened when she made friends with a Filipino bakery owner. During the busy holiday seasons, "at least three days a week I would have a hot meal on her table



CAMPBELL COUNTY PASTORS — At last week's Pastors' Conference, these pastors heard a discussion of the *Baptist and Reflector*, led by editor Wm. Fletcher Allen. From left, seated: Jim Wilcox, First Church, Caryville; Ralph Cordell, director of missions; Don Reynolds, Glade Springs; and Gene Lee, First Church, LaFollette interim; standing, Roger Stanley, Crouches Creek, president; Don Martin, East LaFollette; Tip Moore, First Church, Coolidge; Larry Reeves, First Church, Jacksboro; and Clarence Dorman, Newcomb.

when she walked in" after work. The woman responded to Mrs. Davis' hospitality, which opened a door to share Christ through caring.

"She wanted to have children, but couldn't: I'm an adopted child and was able to help her overcome her fears (of adopting a child)," Mrs. Davis said. "Because she walked through the open doors, I've seen many fruits of that relationship," she added.

A Filipino man who makes furniture had heard the Gospel many times from Christians who were in and out of his shop for 25 years. "I met him and decided just to be his friend," Davis said. After a couple of years, the man accepted Christ.

God used yet another circumstance in the Davises' lives to open a door for ministry when her grandmother visited them in the Philippines and decided to stay. "She was a tremendous witness," he said, "because the Filipinos respect elderly people so much."

"She proved you're never too young or too old to proclaim the name of Christ," Mrs. Davis added.

In a country of 7000 islands, the Davises feel "the intimidation of just a few workers and so many fields to be harvested."

Still other areas are very open to Christianity, but they also are open to other religions, Davis warned, and many islands are yet unreached by the Gospel of Christ.

Allen resigns SBC Radio-TV position

By Dan Martin

FORT WORTH (BP) — Jimmy R. Allen has resigned as president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and will join a new group seeking to purchase the ACTS network, if the effort is successful.

Allen, who has headed the agency since January 1980, tendered his resignation during the April 10-11 commission meeting in Fort Worth. The effective date is May 1, with a termination date of June 30. Trustees elected

Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney as interim chief executive officer.

Board Chairman Harold Brundige, an attorney from Martin, Tenn., named a five-member search committee to seek Allen's successor. Members are Brundige; incoming Chairman Mike Hamlett, pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg, S. C.; Jewel Morris, a shopping center owner from Fort Smith, Ark.; T. W. Terral, director of Baptist associational missions in Baton Rouge, La.; and Ernie Helton, an engineer from Columbus, Ohio.

Trustees also received three new bids for the purchase of the American Christian Television System, the network launched by the commission in 1984.

One of the bids was from a group calling itself Investors and Friends of Acts, which has offered Allen the position of president and chief executive officer if its bid is successful.

Brundige declined to identify the other groups, but did say none of the bids was accepted because none offered enough money for the network, which now is accessible to more than 9

million homes across the nation.

The commission has been involved in negotiations for the sale of ACTS — which has been a financial drain on the agency since it was launched — for more than a year with a group based in San Antonio, Texas.

The group, headed by advertising executive Center (Chip) Atkins, offered the commission \$34 million for the network and guaranteed five hours per day for RTVC programming on the network for 30 years.

After three extensions and unsuccessful fund-raising efforts, the offer expired March 14.

All three of the new offers "came in last week," Brundige said. "We only expect to negotiate with two (of the groups) because the other offered considerably less" money than the others.

The two more-serious offers were "not acceptable," Brundige said. "We have communicated that to them. Now, we will have to go and negotiate." The negotiating committee that dealt with the Atkins group still is intact, he added.

Members are Brundige; Terral; Morris; Leroy Stevens, general manager of an ACTS affiliate station and a retired professor from Phoenix, Ariz.; and Russell Lawson, a bank president from Oklahoma City. No committee meetings are scheduled, but the committee is "on call," he said.

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30 YEARS ON THE JOB — Betty Williams celebrated her 30th anniversary April 15 as a member of the *Baptist and Reflector* staff. Married to James Williams of Antioch, she joined the staff in 1959 when Richard Owen was editor. She has served with five editors. She is the paper's bookkeeper, manages the subscription lists, and assists in proofreading and other work. She is a native of Alcoa.

Editorials

Training children in the way they should go

We have all heard stories about the incredible days when our fathers and mothers struggled through childhood, sometimes wandering perilously close to disaster, braving the elements during the daily difficulties of getting to school.

Father would listen to the whining and complaining about standing in the rain to catch the school bus, or the embarrassment of riding in a carpool — and then it would happen.

He would tell about the long distance walk from home to the schoolhouse (after a couple of hours of farm chores.) Through the winds of March, rains of April, the ice and sleet of February, the dust of May and October — they tramped.

We would sit and listen. The lesson was not lost. His father and mother had had to walk even farther. And who knows, perhaps their parents didn't have a school within fifty miles.

In his heart, mother would remind him, he knew he was exaggerating — slightly. Our parents loved us — without pampering. Most importantly, they did not push — they led. That was the right kind of love for us, and for all children.

We did get to school via a long bus ride. Our parents truly had walked. And our children did some of both — and carpooled also. None of the generations wanted the next one to have life too easy or too hard.

Parents of today are tempted — because of circumstance and situations — to push children. It won't work, not in the long run.

True success comes when the leadership leads — and encourages the younger generation without intimidation or force. Let them speak for themselves. Let them have the excitement of childhood and the bravery needed for adolescence and youth.

Perhaps it is best defined with Biblical words, such as "Train up a child in the way he should go," and "do not withhold discipline

from a child."

Paul's words in Ephesians 6 are the best, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." And, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

When we were babes, our parents spoke for us. As we grew, they taught us "in the Lord" and let us speak for ourselves. — WFA

National Day of Prayer — back to the past

Thursday, May 4, has been set by a joint resolution of the Congress of the United States as the National Day of Prayer.

It is the 37th consecutive observance — but for the day to be effective in the life of the nation and the lives of people, there must be participation in addition to observance. Surely individuals and churches will want to pray!

It is fitting that Congress has enacted legislation proclaiming the first Thursday of May each year as the day of prayer. One group points out that America is back to the Revolutionary War cycle of a Prayer Day in the spring and a Thanksgiving Day each fall, appropriately uniting petition and praise.

J. Gordon Henry, a Southern Baptist from Murfreesboro, is Tennessee coordinator for the National Day of Prayer. Henry, who is involved in prayer ministries nationally and abroad, reminds us that Christians can take five minutes at noon on May 4 to:

- Acknowledge our dependence upon God.
- Give thanks for the many blessings our

country has received from God through the years.

- Recognize the need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values.

- Intercede for the healing of our nation and for the guidance of our government leaders.

Many times such days of special occasion are neglected. There is much to claim our attention elsewhere. Plans and programs, schedules and seminars, invade our lives.

Some of these may be good. Some may be necessary. But nothing can surpass the necessity, the value, the satisfaction, of genuine and deep prayer by Christians to an all-loving God.

We are taught by God's Holy Word that we "have not because we ask not." Having what God wills for us is vastly superior to having what we want. Let us pray — especially on May 4 — that as individuals we will have the mind of Christ and be committed to living the life God has planned for us. — WFA

National revivals set for 1990

'Here's Hope' revival materials mailed to associations

ATLANTA (BP) — Media kits to support the Southern Baptist Convention's 1990 simultaneous "Here's Hope" revivals have been distributed to Baptist associations to help with local planning.

In addition, five million New Testaments printed specifically for the revivals are ready for immediate distribution by calling the Here's Hope toll-free phone number. The Bibles are

Alexander new DOM in Shiloh Association

Edwin R. Alexander has been named director of missions for the Shiloh Association, based in Adamsville.

He was interim director of the association for approximately one year, coming from the pastorate of Grace Church, Springfield.

A native of Savannah, Alexander also has held pastorates at Mallory Heights Church, Memphis, and First Church, Rutherford.

During the 1950s Alexander served as director of missions for two associations: William Carey in Fayetteville and Carroll-Benton in Huntingdon.

Alexander is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and has attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and the University of Mississippi, Oxford.



ALEXANDER

part of a press run of 15 million, in which the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board believes may be the largest religious printing order in history.

The national revivals, set for March 18-April 29, 1990, have been in the planning stages for five years. They will comprise the denomination's second concentrated attempt to evangelize the nation during the 1980s.

The media kits, valued at \$70 each, were mailed in mid-April. The mass mailing is designed to educate pastors of the availability of materials so they can personalize their church's participation in their community.

Most of the information can be customized by overprinting the congregation's name and address, said Richard Harris, director of the SBC Home Mission Board's mass evangelism department.

Harris, who is chairman of the revivals' national steering committee, said the packets will allow churches to

Unaka Avenue calls pastor

Unaka Avenue Church, Johnson City, recently called John Yarbrough as pastor.

Yarbrough comes to Unaka Avenue from Bailey Hill Church, Eugene, Ore. Born in Decatur, Ala., Yarbrough earned a bachelor's degree in 1980 from Union University. He graduated in 1985 from Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in San Francisco, Calif., with a master of divinity degree.

He is married to Rebecca Crocker of Memphis.

preview the materials and to plan their local promotion budgets in advance of setting their 1990 church budgets.

While the Home Mission Board will coordinate a national advertising campaign for the revivals, local promotion will be the responsibility of each church, he said.

"These are the finest examples of newspaper and television spots Southern Baptists have ever produced," added Bobby Sunderland, director of the board's direct evangelism division.

The packets include a variety of sample items, such as color and black-and-white ads, bumper stickers, a

lapel pin, bulletin inserts and a video highlighting television spots that are available. A catalog and color poster also are included for each church in the association.

With the exception of the newspaper ads and television spots, all promotional materials are now available from the Here's Hope toll-free number, (800) 346-1990. The other two items will be released Oct. 1 to prevent premature use, Harris said.

In addition to the promotional materials, nearly 90 other revival items also are available by calling the toll-free number at the Home Mission Board.

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In Nolachucky Association

Churches band together to combat abortion

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
MORRISTOWN — For a long time, the only way pastors in the Nolachucky Association fought abortion was to preach against it from the pulpit, said James Williams, pastor of Bethel Church in Morristown.

"We finally decided it was time to put our pocketbooks where our mouths were," Williams said.

As a result, a committee was formed about two years ago from the association's Pastors' Conference to study the alternatives available to abortion and to give a report to the association's annual meeting in 1987.

Glenn Toomey, director of missions for the Nolachucky Association, remembered the response at that meeting was "very enthusiastic." He recalled members agreed it should be an associational venture, funded by the churches.

In May of 1988 the association opened its Pregnancy Crisis Center in the youth building of First Church, Morristown. In January the center was relocated to office space provided by Lee Roy Barclay, a physician and layman at First Church who is a member of the committee which oversees the crisis center.

Williams, chairman of that committee, said the move provided additional space and improved parking. He also added that the new location enables the center to serve the community without identification to any particular church.

According to Gerald Stow, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist

Children's Homes, the Morristown facility is the only such center in the state operated on an associational-wide basis.

The center, staffed by 36 volunteers from 15 churches, is open weekdays from 2-5 p.m.

Basing their ministry on the theme "We Care" the center provides the following services: free pregnancy screening test, referrals to maternity housing (which includes the TBCH's Alternative Home in Greeneville), referrals for adoption, referrals to other social service agencies, and assistance with maternity and baby clothes.

Advertising spread the word about the center. Williams said they have assisted 63 girls since it opened, with the majority of those coming in the three months since the center has been in its new facility. He noted the average age of the girls has been about 16.

The Morristown pastor added that about 75 percent of the girls come from broken homes, but stressed that those helped have not been limited to low income families.

Clay Frazier, pastor of Alpha Church, Morristown, and a member of the committee, acknowledged the number has been higher than expected, but noted, "We're probably only touching the hem of the garment."

Williams agreed, adding, "We suspected there was a great need, but that the number we have helped has been shocking to all of us."

Williams explained that when the girls come to the center for the test they are shown a film about abortion while they are waiting for the results.

"We talk to them about their plans — whether they want to keep their baby or put it up for adoption, Williams said.



WE CARE — The Pregnancy Crisis Center sponsored by the Nolachucky Association has ministered to about 63 young girls since its opening last May. From left are Imogene Love and Edna Greene, volunteers at the center and members of Bethel Church, Morristown; and members of the committee which oversees the center — Barbara Whitt, First Church, Morristown; James Williams, pastor, Bethel Church, chairman; and Clay Frazier, pastor, Alpha Church, Morristown.

He noted that of those assisted, about 50 percent tested positive. We really don't know how many we have kept from having abortions, but most of the girls indicated they want to keep their baby, he said.

Additional counseling and help is available upon request, Williams added.

Alma Greene of Bethel Church who coordinates the volunteers told of one young girl who tested positive and had an abortion.

She came back a few weeks later with a pregnant friend and begged the volunteers at the center to talk her into not having an abortion, Greene recalled.

Imogene Love, a member of Bethel Church and one of the volunteers, said they try to assure the girls there is help for them and that they don't have

to face the pregnancy alone.

"We try to calm their fears. They're all scared to death," she noted.

Frazier observed that the community has responded to the association's efforts. Referrals and financial help have come from outside sources, he noted.

Associational leaders are pleased with the ministry performed at the Pregnancy Crisis Center.

"I have often rejoiced the service is being used, but take no joy in that it has to be used," Frazier said.

Greene said she feels good about helping the girls in need, but notes, "you spend some sleepless nights over them."

Toomey predicted the center "probably will be the greatest ministry of our 160 years" of associational work.

Anti-gambling efforts move forward in House

Efforts to repeal pari-mutuel betting in Tennessee are progressing, said members of Tennessee's Against Gambling.

The bill which would eliminate horse racing and pari-mutuel betting in the state except in Memphis, was approved last week by the finance subcommittee of the ways and means committee.

It now moves to the calendar committee where a date will be set for House vote, said Frank Ingraham, Nashville attorney and a leader in the state to end gambling.

Ingraham urged Tennessee Baptists to contact Speaker of the House Ed Murray, a supporter of the bill, to "press for the setting of HB 102 on the House calendar."

Ingraham also said Tennessee Baptists should contact Speaker of the Senate John Wilder and request that companion Bill 524 begin moving through the Senate committees.

Carl Price, pastor of Lakewood Church, Nashville, said, "We're moving in the right direction, but we're not there yet."

He said Tennesseans need to "keep working and expressing support for those two bills all the way through the House and Senate."

Those bills to repeal gambling in the state won't become law until they have passed both the House and Senate and have been signed by Governor Ned Ray McWherter, Price reminded.

SBC budget even with last year's pace

NASHVILLE (BP) — Halfway through its fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's combined ministry budget remains even with last year's pace.

The SBC Cooperative Program received \$68,067,886 through March, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee. That amount is 0.01 percent — or \$4.982 — more than receipts for the first six months of the 1987-88 fiscal year.

March receipts were \$9,397,031, a 16.1 percent drop from March 1988, Bennett said.

"I am deeply concerned about our giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program," he said. "This is Southern Baptists' main channel of support of our mission ministries. Cooperative Program support is crucial to advance, both at home and abroad."

The current overall Cooperative Program goal is \$145.6 million. The "basic operating budget" — funds distributed to 18 convention organizations that conduct evangelistic, missionary, educational, and church-starting ministries worldwide — is \$137.61 million.

If the second half of the Cooperative Program budget year matches the first, receipts will fall almost \$9.5

million — or 6.5 percent — below the overall goal. Those same receipts would be almost \$1.5 million — or 1.07 percent — below the basic operating goal.

However, receipts for the second half of the fiscal year have been lower than first-half receipts for each of the past three years.

To reach the \$145.6 million overall goal, the Cooperative Program must average more than \$12.9 million in

monthly receipts for the balance of the year. To reach its \$137.61 million basic goal, it must average almost \$11.6 million per month. Only three months have topped \$12.9 million in Cooperative Program history; only eight months have topped \$11.6 million.

"I am asking the churches and all of us to pray about this," Bennett said. "As always, the only course to follow is to pray and place our total trust in God."

Supporters dislike alcohol-warning labels

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms has issued a temporary rule on warning labels for alcoholic beverages as required by legislation enacted by Congress in 1988.

But the temporary rule has drawn criticism from groups such as the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, which supported the new law.

The complaint arises from the way the bureau would allow alcoholic beverage companies to place the labels on the bottles.

Larry Braidfoot, the commission's general counsel, said the bureau's ruling would allow the companies to place the warning labels on the back or side of the bottles and to print those labels

in hard-to-read print.

That ruling is inconsistent with the intention of the law, he added.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., principal sponsor of the legislation in the last session of Congress, has said the bureau's ruling "would circumvent my intention in pursuing passage of this vital legislation."

"Southern Baptists and others concerned with the effects of beverage alcohol should insist that the law be implemented in a manner that adequately conveys the warning required by law," Braidfoot said.

Letters of concern can be addressed to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20226.

Our Readers Write

Wants Baptist news

I disagree with the recent letter by Billy Edmonds which suggested that news concerning the Southern Baptist Alliance should not be reported in our state paper. Baptists have a right to receive a full reporting of news events concerning every spectrum of Baptist life.

It would be a sad day for all of us if we had not reported that with which we completely agreed.

Furthermore, almost 2000 Tennessee Baptists belong to the Southern Baptist Alliance. They are loyal Tennessee Baptists. To my knowledge not a one of these raised a protest over the reporting of Criswell Bible College's considering buying property in Europe.

If it's Baptist news, report it and let us read about it. I commend your efforts for trying to do just that.

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

Supports salaries

I take exception to your March 29 editorial "A raise of \$1.6 million may be too much" regarding Orel Hershiser. I do not think the Baptist and Reflector is the place to question or criticize one of our brothers in Christ for the amount of money he makes, but should be a place to commend him for his stand.

He told Johnny Carson and his TV audience that he was singing the Doxology between the 8th and 9th innings of the final game of the World Series, and sang it for him on TV. Per his testimony he is a believer in and follower of Christ. His stand on the family is what we as Southern Baptists have preached for years and his dedication, hard work, and

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.

persistence is a role model for any young person.

I, too, share your concern and heartache for our pastors of churches with limited resources and I am disappointed in churches which are able to, but do not pay the pastor a good salary. For those pastors of churches which cannot pay a good salary, their assurance should be in God, who said He would supply their needs. He will! He may do it by getting some of our financially prosperous churches off our comfortable nesting places to meet those needs.

These pastors would probably be in awe of the salaries of some of you who are Tennessee Baptist and Southern Baptist leaders.

My local church in the past has had trouble meeting its budget. In years gone by I would pray, "Lord, help us with our finances." One day I realized what I should pray was "Lord, allow our committed Christian people to make a lot of

money and they will share it with the Church which will share it with the Cooperative Program."

One of my prayers is "Lord, may one of the young ball players in our church grow up to be an Orel Hershiser and contribute a tenth of this \$3+ million salary to our local church."

Maybe times are not out of joint, only our unwillingness to participate in today's times using God's guidelines instead of our own.

Joel G. Sturdivant
401 Clearview Drive
Smyrna 37167

The editorial did not question or criticize any individual, but compared our system of rewarding certain athletic accomplishments beyond their true worth. Certainly we commend Orel Hershiser for his Christian values and appreciate his skills. However, this does not refute that values are misplaced when such salaries are paid. The editorial was not critical of the persons involved, only noted that many pastors and other ministers often labor and struggle under financial hardship. For all the Hershisers who contribute a tenth of \$3 million to the church — we are thankful. — Editor

Get three together

With the emergence of the third division in the SBC, the Centrist group headed by Winfred Moore, what great opportunity this affords. In Ecclesiastes 4 we find the picture of a rope with three strands. This rope is stronger than one alone or even two parts.

Each of these groups (of what is now division) have good points in their beliefs. Why do we not find unity in the good things and work out our differences in love?

In Christian living we are told to encourage one another, to look for the good

and not the bad in others. Does this same principle not work in organizations?

Our leaders can help to bring this rope of three strands into being at the coming SBC Convention in Las Vegas. Let all of us be in prayer that this will happen.

Dorothy Blake
923 Beverly Dr.
Alcoa 37701

Christ's resurrection measures ministry

FORT WORTH (BP) — Jesus Christ's resurrection stands as the only true measurement of Christian ministry, Lloyd Elder told students and faculty during a chapel service March 28 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the measurement of Christian ministry and the proclamation of the lordship of Jesus Christ is its message," said Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "If we have any other context, power or message, we fall short of the Biblical environment."

Elder's message was part of Baptist Sunday School Emphasis Week at Southwestern.

Since its beginning almost 100 years ago, the board has grown from one employee to a staff of more than 2000 people, from one to 17 programs and from \$19,000 in annual revenues to \$166 million last year. But staffing, programs and budgets cannot be the primary measuring stick for the success of any Christian ministry, Elder said.

Churches also must grow in spiritual power, he added, "for these are times when we cannot face all that challenges us in human energy alone."

Beulah's Bob Armour retires after 26 years as DOM

He walked into Robert Armour's office — barely 19 years old and a bit tentative. Brother Armour, director of missions for Beulah Baptist Association in Northwest Tennessee, listened patiently as the young man shared his testimony and call to serve as a church music director and explained his interest in finding a part-time church music position while in college.

Taking a chance on the young man, Armour recommended him to the pastor of his home church. The church subsequently called him where he served two and a half years while finishing his undergraduate music training.

Years later a resume crossed the desk of a pastor in Beulah Association whose church was searching for

a minister of music. One of the references listed was Robert Armour. A quick call to Brother Bob, as many of his colleagues warmly refer to him, confirmed his interest in the resume and the name was passed along to the church personnel committee. The church subsequently called the minister of music and he has served there nearly six years.

This is an example of the quality of the ministry of Robert "Bob" Armour who has served for more than 25 years as director of missions of Beulah Association. The pastor mentioned above shared with me that when he saw Bob Armour's name listed as a reference on the vita of the prospective minister of music, "I knew we'd found our man."

He has served frequently in World Missions Conferences, revivals, and book studies. He has been first vice president, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and vice president and later president of the TBC directors of missions.

He has been an officer and leader in many associational and statewide organizations. He is a graduate of Union University and Southwestern Seminary.

Mrs. Armour is the former Gwen Mays from Jackson.

Such is the influence of Robert Armour who retired from active service in Beulah Association April 1. These stories and others like them could be duplicated in the testimonies of literally hundreds of pastors and staff members whose lives have been touched by the ministry of Bob Armour. Always



DOM HONORED — Ernest Mayo, left, pastor of Wynnburg Church, Wynnburg, and moderator of the Beulah Association, greeted Robert and Gwen Armour at a retirement reception for Armour. He retired April 1 after almost 26 years as director of missions for the association. In addition, he also was director of missions for Weakley County and Western District associations, serving a total of 32 years in associational ministry. Participating in the program were the Beulah Singers, comprised of choir members from churches in the association.

willing to listen, he has been a confidant and advisor for pastors as well as churches.

Not only has he been willing to sympathize with those who have sought his counsel, he has demonstrated the courage to face difficult problems with understanding, courage, and tact. His has not been an easy task — no minister worth his salt has an easy job — yet he has approached it with an enthusiasm for the task, commitment to the Lord, and love for others that cause others to do likewise.

I would be remiss if his wife Gwen were not mentioned. Mrs. Armour has been most supportive and a genuine asset to the ministry.

Beulah Association will indeed miss the ministry of Bob Armour and his successor will have some mighty big shoes to fill. However, I hope Bob will get to play some golf and enjoy a much earned rest. I am confident that he will still be active in at least two things — telling others about his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and encouraging others in ministry.

Beulah Baptist Association has been personified in our beloved director of missions, Bob Armour and the association will not be the same once his retirement begins. There is good reason for my feelings — that "young man" that Brother Armour helped was me. — Elwood Doss Jr., minister of music, First Church, Martin.

Armour honored by association

Robert L. Armour, director of missions for Beulah Association for 26 years, was honored by the association in a special retirement program.

Armour and his wife Gwen were guest of honor at the associational program at First Church, Martin.

Armour has served for 43 years as a minister. He was pastor of four churches prior to his tenure as an associational director of missions. He has served three associations, Weakley County, Western District, and Beulah.

Tennessee missionaries report

Openness to Gospel remains in Namibia despite fighting

OSHAKATI, Namibia (BP) — Fighting broke out in early April in a border area of Namibia where Southern Baptist missionaries report great openness to the Christian Gospel.

Eight congregations with a total attendance of about 500 people meet in an area where South African-led security forces and guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization clashed in bloody skirmishes. Two of the congregations are new and have not organized into churches.

"We have new church groups being started practically every month," said Carlos Owens, the sole Southern Baptist missionary assigned to develop churches in the northern section of Namibia. "The people are responding like everything. I told somebody the other day we're just trying to keep up with it."

Owens and his wife, Myrtice, are from Paris, Tenn., and Dunedin, Fla., respectively. They live in Tsumeb, a town about 200 miles south of the fighting. They work with about 30 congregations, many of them along the

northern border with Angola. Another Southern Baptist missionary couple, Adney and Vel Cross of Clarksville, Tenn., live farther north in Oshakati, where they said they were able to hear gunfire from the skirmishes.

In a recently concluded accord for Namibian independence from South Africa, the South West Africa People's Organization had agreed to withdraw its forces from the country and maintain them in bases in neighboring Angola at least 100 miles north of the border. Under the plan, Namibia will hold its own elections in November. The organization has been fighting for independence since 1966 and is said to enjoy strong support in the north.

But according to news reports, South African security forces have encountered the organization's guerrillas who are said to have been entering Namibia from Angola since April 1. The reports said some U.N. officials suggested the organization's troops mistakenly thought the final peace accord would allow them to set up bases in Namibia — a misunderstanding

resulting in some of the fiercest skirmishes yet reported in the area.

In a letter to Owens, one Baptist pastor told him fighting was raging all around him and was very close to many people in his congregation. But because of poor communications, Owens was unable to determine whether any church people were hurt or injured in the crossfire.

Vel Cross reported hearing gunfire at night and seeing hundreds of South African security force members around Oshakati. Rumors circulated that the insurgents planned to attack the white district of Oshakati, where South African security forces are based, a few miles away from the Cross home.

"We don't feel like it's unsafe (to be

here)," Mrs. Cross said. "At the point we feel we ever should leave, we will. We won't take a foolish risk."

Her husband, who is suffering from an unidentified ailment that causes severe chills and blisters in the eyes, teaches in a teacher-training college within walking distance of their home. The Crosses, first-term missionaries, attend a Baptist church in an outlying area and work with a group in town.

"People told us we were foolish to move out of the white security district, but in many ways I feel safer here," said Mrs. Cross. "When we lived there, we were under mortar attack twice." The Owambo people who populate the area have "been very protective of us," she added.

Allen resigns SBC Radio-TV . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The commission is "in accord . . . together," Brundige said. "Our accord is to sell ACTS if we get the price we want, and if not, to keep it and operate it."

He declined to say how much the commission wants for ACTS, noting the price "depends on how badly someone out there wants it. What I can say is that whenever we get the best offer we can get we are going to report to the board and they can take it (the offer) or keep it," (the network).

Allen, who appeared in the meeting only to resign and to make the new offer to the trustee executive committee, later told reporters his new group had offered \$10 million for the network and would guarantee four hours of programming per day for 12 years.

Allen declined to name the nine investors forming Investors and Friends of Acts, other than Ralph Tacker, a Dallas businessman and president of D/FW Uplink, through which the network beams its signal to the Spacenet II satellite.

Tacker, who spent a year with the commission as a volunteer in 1983, "helped put the deal together," Allen said. He added Atkins, who owns the trademark lease on the Spacenet II satellite currently being used by ACTS, is "not an equity player" in the new

group, although "he supports the effort."

Trustees spent most of the April 10-11 meeting in executive session. First, they met for nearly five hours discussing commission matters with its seven vice presidents.

"The trustees had all of the vice presidents come in one by one and sit down and tell us their problems, their views, their desires and what they need. We heard all of them," Brundige said.

In the morning session April 11, trustees accepted Allen's resignation and, for two more hours, called a meeting of the negotiating committee, with the other trustee committees invited to participate.

In his resignation, Allen noted the last nine and one-half years have been "exciting, challenging, frustrating, and deeply satisfying. We have experimented, developed, launched, demonstrated usefulness, and achieved the goal of building the ACTS network, the fastest-growing interfaith cable network in America."

He voiced "one deep regret" that he has "been unsuccessful in persuading the decision makers in Southern Baptist mission money that this telecommunications tool . . . should have some shifting of mission strategy money."

One Word More

There has been at least one thought in my mind each day since July 1984 about some friends of mine who probably would not be welcome in many Baptist churches.

What has happened to Pastor Johanna Ndabogombe at Rubura?

And Mbanzodore Jeremie, the pastor at Kijambura — who promised to pray for us?

Is Muganda Shamba Samuele still leading the church and school at Kibati?

Are they still baptizing converts at Nyange?

And Deacon Simeone, does he continue to be a prayer warrior at Myakarama?

I remember praying, on one of those dusty days on the trail from forgotten place to forgotten place in Burundi,

"Father, we see abundant life in all you do. Your promises will bear fruit in Burundi. Lord, help us to put our hands to the plow, and joyfully sacrifice self. In your power, our new friends prevail though impoverished. But we see their spirits soaring, and we long for the same lofty standing place."

I met them all in Burundi, little lost land in East Africa, July 1984. A couple of years later, the government tightened its dictatorial powers and banned the missionaries we had come to know and love.

We met the Ganns, Jacksons, Sorrells, Boones — choice people. When they left Burundi — they did not leave God's service. We joined them in prayer that someday — oh, someday — Burundi would welcome back messengers from the Christ.

The government changed, and the new leadership did welcome back Southern Baptist missionaries. Prayers answered, we carry in this issue of the paper news that Jeff and Mary Polglase and Dennis and Margaret

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
McCall are in Burundi.

The McCalls will work in the Kirundo area, farming country, where Fred and Sami Sorrells worked as agricultural missionaries. Fred's reputation has not escaped the new missionaries. I'm sure the Kirundo people will share many stories of the Texan's exploits.

And the Polglase family will be in the capital city, Bujumbura, where they will concentrate on church development — just as Dale and Nelda Gann did.

Well, we see (and know) that God is a God of answered prayer. The difficulties that Johanna and Jeremie and Simeone and all the others endured were not unnoticed. God noticed.

And friends that noticed, prayed. God noticed that too.

In His marvelous economy of time, He answered the cries for help from anguished Christians.

Southern Baptists are not the only ones with God's answers. But in this case, it was because of Southern Baptist missionaries that I had opportunity to meet some real prayer warriors — in Burundi.

That has been another of my daily thoughts. Add answered prayer to that, and add the names of all the saints that walk the rocky paths, skim gulps of water from puddles and pray for freshness of a bountiful supply.

I prayed,

"On this journey, Father, sometimes we feel as if we are back in the days of your early church. We see faces that cannot contain their joy of worship, zeal for work, pleasure in service. The commitment — let it be contagious!

"Lord, your Burundi Christians are truly the equivalent of Gideon's three hundred. They are marching under the banner of Christ.

"I have seen no doubt amid the despair today, Lord, and no sagging spirits. I have seen no hopeless hand-wringing amid the pain. Poverty of soul was not present here. But I saw faith in the eyes of your people — knowing your answer will come forth when it is due."



ALLEN

Paper introduces new feature

For several years in the 1960s and 1970s many Baptist state papers published a cartoon drawn by Doug Dillard, a Texas Baptist.

Dillard also has drawn editorial cartoons for the Baptist Standard of Texas for 21 years.

The press of business caused him to stop drawing the weekly PulpiTears cartoon that was so well received by state paper readers.

Dillard has "revived" PulpiTears, and the Baptist and Reflector is pleased to renew association with the artist. He will be doing other art for the papers in the future.

This first cartoon is an "announcement" of the renewal — and an invitation to Tennessee Baptists to send him your funny church experiences. — Editor.

PulpiTears
With Bra BLOTZ

CINDY EDWARDS, ATTRACTIVE REFLECTORIST AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TEXAS, QUICKED IN ON A CALLER ON 'HOLD'

THANK YOU FOR HELPING... HOW MAY I HOLD YOU?

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Southern Baptist 'centrists' announce candidacy plans

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — A group of Southern Baptist "centrists" said April 7 they plan to announce their candidate for SBC president in time for a whirlwind tour of key states before the denomination's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15.

Leaders of Baptist Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention were in Atlanta to form the organization's first state chapter. They held an informational meeting for about 100 ministers and laypeople and hosted a news conference afterward.

"There will be a candidate nominated in Las Vegas who will represent the viewpoint of trying to bring the convention together in har-

mony and peace, where everyone is included," said Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, and keynote speaker at the meeting.

"There are some names being considered. Nobody is yet ready to be announced. Whenever it's announced, he's going to have to be a busy fellow. But I promise you that can be done.

"My hope is that within the next 10 days an announcement will be made."

Moore, twice an unsuccessful candidate for SBC president, is chairman of Baptists Committed. The group bills itself as a place for people who are committed to remain in the denomination despite dissatisfaction with current elected leadership.

"We're not trying to elect any group

to control this convention, but to return it to the people," he said.

Moore will not be a candidate for SBC president this year, he said, but he urged the group to get out the vote for the "centrist" candidate.

"We're down to the place, as much as I dislike it, where the only thing that really counts is the number of people in the house when the vote is taken. And it's a sad commentary," he said.

Leadership of Baptists Committed has no plans to leave the convention for other denominations or to become independent, Moore said.

"I am committed to the Southern Baptist Convention. I plan to stay committed. I'm not going to allow anybody to run me out. I'm going to stay, and I'm going to support our cooperative effort."

Moore described himself as a "militant centrist" who believes the convention "is worth committing everything that you have to."

Several pastors questioned Moore about how Baptists Committed differed from other attempts to unseat current SBC leadership. "What's to keep the

Control urged for Mercer

ATLANTA (BP) — The Georgia Baptist Convention committee studying Mercer University's financial problems has called for tighter fiscal controls and for one-third of the university's trustees to be nominated by the convention.

The committee, which met in mid-March, concluded Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey had made "no planned, designed or contrived effort ... to hide the deficit of funds from the trustees, but deficits were recorded in the university plant fund in such a way as not to be readily discerned."

Mercer is a Georgia Baptist school with campuses in Macon and Atlanta and centers throughout the state.

'centrist' movement from being identified as the 'moderate' movement?" one pastor asked.

Moore said Baptists Committed is different than any "moderate" groups, including the Southern Baptist Alliance. "The difference is the tack we're taking, the route we're on," he said.

"We are committed to helping turn this convention back to its historic principles, and to do it in the election of a president first of all, and then to change the rules so that nobody in any camp anywhere ever again will be able to control the appointive process in this convention."

Marshall, Rodgers key speakers at values seminar

NASHVILLE — Noted author and inspirational leader, Peter Marshall, and local businessman Joe M. Rodgers, former Ambassador to France, will speak April 29 at a special seminar launching the Tennessee Coalition for Traditional Values (TCTV). The "Call To Commitment Seminar," will begin at 9 a.m. at the Hermitage Hotel, Nashville.

The TCTV is a not-for-profit Judeo-Christian organization whose objective is to return Tennessee and the United States to the Biblical and traditional values upon which our country was founded. Several Tennessee Baptist pastors are involved.

Marshall has gained national recognition as a preacher and teacher on Christian growth and maturity, and has co-authored two best-selling books about America's Christian heritage. He will speak during the morning sessions on "God's Plan for America," and "Call to Volunteerism: Personal and National Restoration."

Rodgers will address the meeting in his role as chairman of the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography.

Personal Perspective

By Tom J Madden

I have read of a church that was located next to a clothes cleaning establishment with a large sign "One Hour Cleaning."

From a distance it looked like the church was advertising "One Hour Cleaning." As I have thought about it I have decided that there is an element of truth in it.

What does one

miss when he neglects worshiping? With this thought in mind I turned to study again what Thomas missed on the first resurrection Sunday when Jesus came to fellowship with the disciples in the Upper Room only to find that "Thomas was not with them."

Thomas was not absent because he lacked courage for he had been willing to risk his life for Jesus. He loved

Jesus. When Jesus talked about going away it was Thomas who had stated, "Lord we know not whether thou goest, and how can we know the way?"

Thomas did not join the other disciples because he did not expect Christ to be there. He missed the presence of Christ. Thomas missed the fellowship of the other disciples that were there. I also believe that they missed Him and were weakened by His absence.

Thomas missed the blessing the presence of Christ bestowed upon the faithful ones gathered. He changed their sorrow to joy, their darkness to light, and doubt to assurance.

I am not surprised that the next Lord's Day found Thomas present when Jesus came. What an experience that was for Thomas when Jesus asked to behold His hands and to thrust his hand into His riven side.

I don't believe Thomas ever missed being in God's house on God's day again. I don't want to miss either.



MADDEN

'Mary E.' enjoys 52 years of church service

By Connie Davis, assistant editor

CROSSVILLE — Mary E., as she is known, is exuberant about most things — and 52 years as a church pianist hasn't repressed that. Instead, her church, Oak Hill, is her favorite topic of conversation.

And Mary E. Henry's other favorite topic of conversation — her family — can't veer far from the church. Her daughter, Gypsie Cook, is the church's music director and she will proudly point out a grandson if one visits her at Oak Hill Church.

Mary E. has taught Sunday School — to adults and teenagers — nearly as long as she has served as pianist at Oak Hill Church — 50 years.

Measure of her dedication, reported Pastor Bill McCrary, is revealed by her attendance at every service. Being forced to miss an Easter service because of hip-replacement surgery "just broke her heart," he said. Soon she was using a walker to get to her place at the piano.

Her service as a musician began at First Church, Crossville, where she attended as a child. She began playing for the opening assembly of Baptist Young People's Union.

"Even as a child I wanted to play the piano and I was really interested in playing hymns." She began taking lessons at the age of 11.

When a congregation started meeting in a school on Genesis Road, Mary E. and her grandparents, whom she lived with, began attending the afternoon services. She admitted, "I thought

my grandfather was going to church me to death."

But Mary E. began accompanying the services at the new congregation, which eventually became Oak Hill Church.



52 YEARS — Mary E. Henry has been playing the piano for 52 years, including the last 50 at Oak Hill Church in Crossville.

"I've always felt that this was what God called me to do ... that I could serve Him that way," she said.

Her confident attitude wavered though when after teaching a Sunday School class of young married adults, she was asked to teach teenagers.

But now she explains, "I do for them. I spoil them.

"The joy of my teaching is seeing them through the years. I prayed that I could teach them a way of life."

The sadness is that they often leave the small church.

She proudly boasted of former member, Dwyte Winningham, who became a Christian at the church and currently serves as executive associate for business affairs, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., Brentwood.

The charter member is looking forward to the church's 50th anniversary set for Oct. 29. She has minutes written by her grandmother which include a note asking members to bring oil for the church lamps.

Another fond memory of Oak Hill Church is the Mary E. Day held to honor her 50th year as pianist.

"The old hymns, the Baptist hymns, that's what I like. They still have a lot of meaning," she said as tears came to her eyes. "If you really have the song in your heart it's a good time for rededication."

Hymnal committee work progresses; former editors honored

By Charles Willis
NASHVILLE (BP) — The 78-member committee to produce a new Southern Baptist hymnal honored editors of previous "Baptist Hymnal" editions during a recent meeting in Nashville.

W. Hines Sims, editor of the 1956 edition, and William J. Reynolds, editor of the 1975 edition, were guests at a banquet and program to honor their contributions to Southern Baptists' hymn singing.

James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, called Sims "one of the smartest men in the music field I ever knew," while board President Lloyd Elder praised Reynolds for "giving his life in the training of ministers of the Gospel."

Gary Cook, the board's vice president for church program organizations, said both musicians have contributed to the lives of Southern Baptists who "use hymns to mark those very special moments in our own heritage."

Sims, who retired as director of the board's church music department in 1970, is the author of several books in

addition to having edited numerous hymnals and choral collections published by Broadman Press.

Reynolds, professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, since 1980, held various editorial positions in the board's church music department from 1955 until becoming head of the department in 1971. He is a composer and arranger of sacred choral music and has been music director of meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist World Alliance, and Baptist Youth World Conference. He is the author of several books on hymnody and singing.

In other business, the committee reviewed about 250 hymns, choruses, calls to worship, benedictions, and choral responses. They earlier completed a review of contents of the 1975 edition of the hymnal.

Wesley Forbis, director of the board's church music department and editor of the hymnal, said he expects 800 pieces of music will be approved for possible inclusion in the hymnal, of which about 575 will be used.

While the meeting was the final



HYMNAL COMMITTEE — William J. Reynolds, center, and W. Hines Sims, right, enjoy a visit with Wesley L. Forbis, editor of *The Baptist Hymnal* between sessions of the hymnal committee meeting in Nashville. Reynolds was editor of *Baptist Hymnal*, 1975 edition, and Sims edited *Baptist Hymnal*, 1956 edition. The new hymnal is scheduled for publication in 1991.

event for the full hymnal committee, some subcommittee work will continue throughout this year, and voting will be conducted by mail ballots. Forbis said new, unsolicited musical material continues to be received by the church

music department.

Committee members affirmed announcement of the hymnal name. The *Baptist Hymnal*, by Forbis, who said many Southern Baptists had suggested names to be used.

Church secretaries view role as ministry; not a job

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
NEWPORT — Church secretaries see their role as a ministry rather than "just a job," according to participants at the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual conference for church secretaries at Camp Carson Baptist Assembly.

The conference addressed the theme of "Achieving Excellence" and drew about 65 church secretaries from across the state.

Sarah Farmer, secretary at Grace Fellowship Church in Johnson City and a member of the TBC Executive Board, reminded the secretaries that "our goal is to achieve excellence."

"We're not serving as church secretaries to be thanked or because we receive large salaries," she said, calling on them to view their position as a ministry rather than a job.

Farmer, a member of Southwestern Church, Johnson City, recalled that as a child she wanted to be a teacher and that's what she trained for in college. She gave up teaching after her children were born and later felt led to apply for a secretarial position at the church she attended.

"For myself, being a church secretary is just as important a calling as the pastor's call or that of any other staff member," she said.

Donna Gandy, church secretary consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and one of the conference leaders, noted church secretaries are involved in every aspect of church life.

In an interview with the *Baptist and Reflector*, Gandy said services provided by secretaries enable pastors, church staff, and other church leaders to perform the roles they have accepted.

Gandy observed secretaries do much more than file and type. The church secretary often is in a key public relations position, she said.

Many times the secretary is the first person a prospect in the community contacts, Gandy noted.

That first impression is important because if that person happens to be unsaved, the secretary is then not only representing her church, but also "Southern Baptists, Christians, and the Lord Jesus Christ," she asserted.

In addition, Gandy said, secretaries

have one on one ministry opportunities if they deal with benevolency or answer the phone when a church member has a personal crisis.

"A secretary must have the ability to deal with someone who has just learned his or her spouse has cancer," Gandy said.

While Gandy acknowledged there is a greater awareness by church ministerial staff of the secretary's role, more strides need to be made, she said.

"I am looking to the day when churches will as prayerfully look for the right person for the secretarial position as they do for other staff positions."

"I am also praying and looking to the day when the church secretary will be looked at as a full member of the ministry team and will be recognized for the significant contributions she makes to the ongoing mission of the church."

Secretaries attending the conference, sponsored by the TBC Church Training department, affirmed they view their position as a ministry rather than just a job.

"I feel I am called by God to be a church secretary," said Pat Armstrong of Central Church, Chattanooga. "I don't think you can be an effective church secretary unless you do feel called," she added.

Janie Yates of Indian Springs Church, Kingsport, agreed. "I believe we perform a role as we assist the pastor and other staff members in carrying out the tasks they have been called to do."

Armstrong noted secular jobs may provide better salaries and benefits but there are intangibles to consider. "I could go and get a job making more money, but the satisfaction of knowing I'm in God's will is more important," she said.

During the three-day meeting the TBC Secretaries' Association elected officers: Vera Agerter, Calvary Church, Jackson, president; Evelyn Benson, North Etowah Church, Etowah, vice president; and Pat McGill, South Harriman Church, Harriman, secretary-treasurer.

East Tennessee Pastors' Conference focuses on ethics and moral behavior

The East Tennessee Pastors' Conference is scheduled April 27 at the Baptist Eye Institute in Knoxville.

The one-day meeting will be held in the institute's conference room on Kay Street, with registration at 9 a.m.

Guest speakers are Clyde Tilley, professor of religion at Union University, Jackson; and Foy Valentine, retired Executive Director of the Christian Life Commission, SBC.

James Robertson, president of the conference and pastor of Sharon Church, Knoxville, said the program will be centered on ethical principles and moral behavior.

Tilley will lead off the morning session with an address on the ethics of Jesus, "The Ministry of Reconciliation," beginning at 9:35. After a

dialogue when he speaks, his second message will deal with preaching on ethical issues, "The Message of Reconciliation."

Valentine will speak at 12:15, after a lunch break, on "The Prophethood of Believers."

Robertson said the meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 1:15.

Other program personalities include Dick Densen, Baptist Hospital's chief of chaplains; Aubrey Hay, pastor of First Church, Erwin; Robert Chandler, president of East Tennessee Health Systems; and Larry Austin, Clinical Pastoral Education director, Baptist Hospital.

Reservations for the conference should be made by calling the Department of Pastoral Care at (615) 632-5252.



ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE — Members of the TBC Arrangements Committee have been busy planning and coordinating the annual meeting at Knoxville this November. Sessions will be held at Central Church, Bearden.

Missionaries return to work in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP) — Two missionary couples who had planned to work in Zaire are instead learning the Kirundo language and preparing to reopen Southern Baptist work in the east African nation of Burundi.

The newly arrived missionaries are Jeff and Mary Polglase and Dennis and Margaret McCall. The Polglases are from Tucson, Ariz., and Dallas, respectively. The McCalls are from Vicksburg, Miss., and Louisville, Ky. The Polglases were living in Uvira, Zaire, when problems with their residence permits surfaced. They were reassigned to Burundi. The McCalls, who were studying language in France and bound for Zaire, instead transferred to join the Polglases in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital.

Southern Baptist missionaries left Burundi in 1986 because of government restrictions. Burundi Baptist leaders, however, continued to attend international workshops and conferences with other African Baptists and missionaries.

A change in government has allowed Southern Baptists to re-enter the country.

Burundi's majority Hutu and minority Tutsi peoples both speak Kirundi. Many Burundi also speak French. Last year underlying tension between the Tutsis and Hutus broke into open violence. Missionaries hope to work with both groups.

As an agricultural evangelist, McCall plans to continue the work of Fred and

Preaching conference set for May 8-9 in Knoxville

The State Preaching Conference will be held May 8-9 at West Hills Church in Knoxville. The theme for the conference is "Today's Pulpit ... Today's People."

Among conference leaders are: James Barry and Joe Stacker of the Baptist Sunday School Board Church Administration department; Charles Page, pastor of First Church, Nashville; and Harold Bryson of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The conference opens May 8 at 1:30 p.m. and adjourns the following day at 4:10 p.m.

Registration fee is \$5 which includes the books, Ideas for Effective Meetings by James Barry and James Hightower. Send fees to TBC Church Training Department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728.

Sami Sorrells in the Kirundo area. The Sorrellses, now assigned to Madagascar off the African coast, helped Baptists in eastern Burundi grow from three churches to about a dozen before they left three years ago, McCall said.

"When Fred moved over there, that was all new work," McCall said. "Things really seemed to be popping."

Polglase, administrator for mission work in the country, will help develop churches in Bujumbura. He also will work alongside Danes and Burundians in the Baptist union's pastors' school in Mataba.

They couldn't go to every place they were being requested to go to."

Most Baptist churches are located in the northern half of the country. Danish Baptists began the first permanent evangelical witness in Burundi in 1928 and have continued working there. The Union of Baptist Churches in Burundi now includes 17 churches, many of which support large mission congregations, McCall said.

One mission, with a membership of about 640 members, just constituted as a church, McCall added. Many others are just as large. Burundi call their mission churches "outschools."

Lawsuit against FMB dismissed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A judge has dismissed several claims in two lawsuits filed against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last year by a former missionary.

In orders entered April 3 following a March 20 hearing, Richmond (Va.) Circuit Court Judge Randall G. Johnson dismissed the claims of intentional infliction of emotional harm, conspiracy, and outrage filed against the mission board in suits by Diana Wade and her four children.

The dismissed claims accounted for some \$100 million of the \$141 million sought by Wade in the two suits. Judge Johnson retained other allegations of breach of contract and negligence in the suits for further hearings. He also dismissed claims for negligent infliction of emotional harm, but granted Wade and her children 21 days to amend these claims if they can. Subsequent hearing dates have not been set.

The two suits claim a representative of the mission board was told that Wade's former husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., had sexually abused the couple's oldest daughter but did not report it to her or to police. The suits say that the board's representative asked Wade

to get counseling, but the missionary refused, promising the abuse would not continue. Later, the suits allege, sexual abuse of two younger daughters and a son occurred.

The Wades were missionaries in Kenya and Botswana from 1976 until their return to the United States in 1984. The board requested Wade's resignation after her husband voluntarily submitted his resignation in August 1985. The resignations were effective Jan. 31, 1986. The couple now is divorced.

Tennessee native slated for WMU meeting

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Jeannie Jennings Stillman will direct and coordinate the music for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting June 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nev. Stillman, a native of Lebanon, is a Southern Baptist missionary assigned to work at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, where her husband, Peter, is art director.



FUTURE IS CERTAIN — Pastor Earl C. Davis closes the Sesquicentennial Pageant by assuring Amanda Aikens that First Church, Memphis, will always have a vision for the future. Cast as daughter of one of the church's founding families, Amanda played the central role in the drama. First Church celebrated its 150th anniversary April 8-9 with several special features. Duke McCall, retired president of Southern Seminary, was the Sunday speaker. Last week's **Baptist and Reflector** reported the event.

Stewart chosen as page

Charles Kyle Stewart, Nashville, will serve as an official page at the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas. He will join 15 High School Baptist Young Men pages and six Ac-teen pages in assisting convention personnel with operation of registration, the information center, the convention office, the press room, and the convention floor.

Stewart is a member of High School Baptist Young Men at Woodmont Church, Nashville.

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LEADERSHIP ...

Bob Armour, retired director of missions, Beulah Association, has been called as interim pastor of Mack's Grove Church, Dresden.

Mount Vernon Church, Sale Creek, licensed Greg Trantham to preach.

ORDINATIONS ...

Beech Springs Church, Gleason, ordained Bill Blaylock as a deacon recently. Bob Copeland is the pastor.

Ordained as deacons at Oriinda Church, Oriinda, were Danny Bernard, Dan Green, and Tommy Swann. The service was April 2 and the pastor is Stan Campbell.

West LaFollette Church, LaFollette, ordained Harold Copeland as a deacon. Copeland is church training director at the church and Richard L. Smith is pastor.

Randy Rinehart, a student at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, was ordained to the ministry March 12 by Forest Hill Church, East Germantown. Rinehart is assistant pastor and minister of youth at the church.

Wheelerton Church, Prospect, ordained Donnie Moore and Dan Smith as deacons March 12. James Ed Burrow is pastor.

CHURCHES ...

Former members of First Church, Big Sandy, are encouraged to contact the church in preparation for its 75th anniversary celebration Sept. 17. Martin Lunsford is the pastor. The church's address is Hwy. 69A, Big Sandy, Tenn. 38221.

The youth at First Church, Knoxville, are busy making plans for a mission trip to Washington, D.C. A. Douglas Watterson is the church's pastor.

A note burning service was held recently by First Church, Tullahoma, to signify the church's retired debt. James Porch is the pastor.

ASSOCIATIONS ...

The semi-annual meeting of Cumberland Association will be April 24 at Cross Creek Church, Indian Mound, beginning at 7 p.m. Director of missions is Harold Shoulders.

The new office building for Wilson County Association in Lebanon is completed and opened April 3 at 220 East Gay Street. The phone number remains the same. Director of missions is Robert Agee.

REVIVALS ...

Tom Madden, executive secretary, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will lead a tent revival April 30 to May 5 at Inskip Church, Knoxville. Services on Sunday will be at 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and during the week at 7:30 p.m. Donald Morris is pastor.

First Church, Greenfield, will hold a revival April 23-26 featuring Evangelist Richard Skidmore. The pastor is Dan G. Farmer.

April 23-28 Davis Memorial Church, Dresden, will have a revival led by Evangelist Roy Auvenshine. The pastor is Phil Mitchell.

Evangelist Wayne Perkins is the speaker for the April 30 to May 5 revival at Gearin's Chapel Church, Greenfield. John Adams is pastor.

A Turning Point Crusade will be held by First Church, Martin, May 14-17. Evangelist Clyde Chiles will speak. Roger Oldham is pastor.

Martha Church, Lebanon, whose pastor is Michael Powell, will meet in

revival April 23-26. John Evans will serve as evangelist.

From April 30 to May 5 Calvary Church, Lebanon, will gather for revival services led by Nathan Hale. The church's pastor is Kenneth Wilson.

George Hamilton IV, country music performer, opened the area-wide Reach Out Christian Campaign sponsored by Lincocya Hills Church, Nashville, April 16. The outdoor meetings on McGavock Pike are being held directly across from McGavock High School. Rich Piscopo, a Manhattan native, is the evangelist. His wife, Ruth, a concert singer from China and graduate of Julliard School of Music, New York, N. Y. is guest soloist. The meeting will conclude April 21.

An area crusade featuring John Sullivan, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, will be hosted by Sweetwater Association of Churches May 7-10 in the Madisonville High School football field. The music evangelist will be Laderel Harrelson of Lenoir City. Bennie Creel is director of missions.

Campbell County Association will sponsor a pre-crusade Youth Rally April 29, at 7 p.m. at First Church, LaFollette. Gary Davis, Christian musician and speaker, will be the guest speaker. The Campbell County Crusade is scheduled for May 17-20 at Campbell County Comprehensive High School Gym. Services will begin at 7 p.m. each night. Rick Ousley is the featured speaker. Ralph Cordell is director of missions.

First Church, Tullahoma, has scheduled a revival for April 23-28. The pastor is James Porch.

Pastor Rick O'Bryan of Roellen Church, Dyersburg, reports six people made professions of faith during a revival led by David Butler and W. B. Oakley.

An April 16-21 revival at First Church, Lenoir City, featured Jerry Passmore, pastor of a church in Pensacola, Fla., and R. L. and Beth Sigrest from Yazoo City, Miss. Charles Sullivan is the pastor.



NEW STAFF MEMBER — Employed as news assistant for the Baptist and Reflector is Connie Umstead of Nashville. She is a native of Steeleville, Ill., and earned a BA degree in communication at Murray State University, and MS degree in journalism at Ohio University. She will manage the TenneScene page, assist with church pages, and do other writing and photography assignments.

The Good Neighbors Crusade of First Church, Columbia, will be held April 23-26 and be led by Frank Pollard, a pastor from Jackson, Miss., and Bible teacher on the television show, "At Home With the Bible." Russell Newport, a recording artist, is also on the program. Tim Floyd serves as pastor of the church.

Crouches Creek Church, Jellico, will hold a revival beginning April 23. Ronnie Roberts will be the evangelist. Roger Stanley is pastor of the church.

Retired DOM Burchfield dies after long illness

Robert W. Burchfield, 79, who retired in 1974 as director of missions for the New River Association, died April 10 in Oneida after a long illness. An Oneida native, Burchfield became director of missions for New River Association in April, 1960. He was ordained to the ministry by the Bethlehem Church in Oneida and was a member of Oneida's New Haven Church when he died.

The New River Association dedicated its 1988 annual meeting to Burchfield in recognition of his years of service and dedication to the association. Burchfield is survived by his wife Hila and two children, Ronald Eugene and Doris Eileen Etheredge.

South Knoxville celebrates 100 years

KNOXVILLE — South Knoxville Church celebrated its 100th anniversary April 9 by focusing on the theme "A Heritage Cherished and a Future Committed." Chartered on Feb. 17, 1889 with 21

members, the church now has a membership of about 1000. The church first met in a one-room schoolhouse on Davenport Road in Knoxville, but moved to its present site on Sevier Avenue in 1894. The church has survived two fires. The present building was dedicated in 1977. Several former pastors participated in the day-long celebration. Nolan P. Howington, retired from the Church Training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, gave the morning message. During the afternoon service Richard A. Allison, pastor of Georgetown (Ky.) Church, and Stephen E. Earle, pastor of First Church, Ponca City, Okla., addressed the theme of the celebration. Gary Baker, South Knoxville's pastor, reminded the members and guests of the church's "cherished history" but challenged them to plan ahead for the future. One hundred years from today, future members will look back over 200 years and "reflect on what today's congregation of South Knoxville Church did as they stepped from century one into century two," Baker said.



RECOGNITION — Walter Taylor, left, director of missions for Knox County Association, presented a plaque recognizing the 150th anniversary of South Knoxville Church to Pastor Gary Baker.

Year of the Laity

Joe Mobley Jr. • First Church, Paris • Paris

A native of Washington, Joe Mobley Jr. grew up in Tennessee, remaining in the state to study urology at the University of Tennessee at Memphis medical school. He and his wife, Carolyn, are currently active members of First Church, Paris. Mobley is associational Royal Ambassador director and has a continuing interest in medical missions.

"I've always been a very interested Christian, though not always as active as I'd like to think I am now.

"As members of First Church, Memphis, my wife and I saw the church's orientation toward missions.

"We really felt like medical missions was a very appropriate avenue to express ourselves as Christians.

"I've never felt a call to full-time missions, but the three weeks I spent in Nigeria (as a volunteer medical missionary) were a highlight of my life. I certainly look forward to going back."

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

Paul's ministry in Macedonia

By H. K. Sorrell, retired; Brownsville

In our study we find Paul on the road again. Even though the Jerusalem council had gone on record refuting the legalistic heresy of requiring the Gentiles to be circumcised and to comply with the Mosaic law in order to be saved, the heresy was spreading. It was spreading across Galatia and Paul was concerned about the young churches in the area. He felt that they needed to be grounded and encouraged in the Word. Therefore, we have:



SORRELL

The beginning of the second journey (15:36-41)

It was Paul's suggestion that he and Barnabas return to the area of Galatia and see how the brethren were doing. Barnabas also had a suggestion; he wanted them to take John Mark. But Paul hadn't forgotten that John had gone A.W.O.L. (absent without leave) in the heat of battle. When he refused to take the young man, a sharp contention arose, and there was a breach of fellowship.

But all things have a way of working out for the good, for rather than having one missionary thrust, there would now be two. Barnabas would take his nephew and sail for Cyprus while Paul would take Silas, the prophet from the

Jerusalem Church, and revisit the Galatian churches in reverse order.

The enlisting of Timothy (16:1-5)
Having traveled by land through Syria and Celicia, Paul and Silas come to Derbe. This was the last of the four churches visited on the first journey. From here they pushed northwest to Lystra.

It was here in Lystra that Paul found another young man to replace Mark. His name was Timothy. Timothy's father was a Greek but his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, were completed Jews, or Christians.

Thus, Paul invited the promising young man to join his staff. Without wavering he did so and the party continued their journey, establishing the churches in the faith.

The Macedonian call (16:6-10)

Upon reaching the limits of his former tour, Paul apparently wanted to go to the Roman province of Asia, but the Holy Spirit closed the door. They turned northward to go into Bithynia but, again, the Holy Spirit closed the door. Therefore, passing by Mysia they came to Troas.

This was exactly where God wanted Paul and company, for a vision appeared to Paul in the night. In this vision there stood a man of Macedonia and begged him to come over into Macedonia and help us. God had closed the door of Asia in order to open the door of Europe.

At this time Luke introduces himself into the narrative by using the per-

sonal pronoun "we." The "we" consisted of Paul, Silas, Timothy, and the author-physician, Luke. Immediately, the party embarked from Troas and sailed in a straight course across the upper part of the Aegean Sea of Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

April 23 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 14:36-17:15
Focal Passages: Acts 14:36-17:15

The deliverance in Philippi (16:11-40)

The new work in Europe began in Philippi, and the first convert was a woman by the name of Lydia who was on a business trip from Thyatira. Later, Paul healed a demon-possessed slave girl who earned money for her owners by telling fortunes.

Because of her loss of income, her owners complained to the authorities who had them beaten. After the flogging, the jailer thrust them into the inner prison, but at midnight Paul and Silas had a prayer meeting. They prayed and sang praises unto God while the other prisoners listened.

In answer to their prayer, God sent an earthquake which jarred the doors open as well as their bands. It also jarred the jailer out of his sleep, and when he saw the prison doors open, he thought the prisoners had escaped. He pulled out his sword to thrust it into his heart, for he had rather face death than the powers of Rome.

Paul saw what he was about to do and cried with a loud voice, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here." He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

To this direct question came a direct answer, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

The uproar in Thessalonica (17:1-9)

Paul now journeys on to Thessalonica, the capitol of Macedonia. He went into the synagogue and reasoned with them out of the Scriptures for three consecutive sabbaths. The result was that some of the Jews but a large number of Gentiles received Christ including many prominent women.

The Jews who rejected the Gospel enlisted the aid of some hoodlums and assaulted the house of Jason in order to find those that had turned the world upside down. The missionaries left by night to go to Berea to escape the mob.

The acceptance in Berea (17:10-15)

The people in Berea had more class than those in the capitol city. They were willing to study the Scriptures with an open mind. This led to an open heart for many were saved.

When word of the revival leaked back to Thessalonica, the hostile Jews hurried down to Berea and stirred up the people as they had done in Thessalonica. Consequently, Paul's only recourse was to take the next boat to Athens and there wait for Silas and Timothy who were able to stay in Berea.

It is good to see that opposition cannot stop the Gospel; it only spreads it.

Rejoicing in Christ

By Roger B. Bailey, pastor; First Church, Grand Junction

Have you ever had one of those weeks when it just seemed impossible to rejoice? Consider the past few days at the Bailey home: Hunter, our Labrador Retriever, dug a tunnel under the fence and ran away; our son, Brian, came down with a screaming case of poison ivy while building his new clubhouse; our daughter, Shannon, announced that she had chosen to attend Ole Miss, the sworn enemy of my "Big Orange"



BAILEY

Volunteers and the arch-rival of my wife's Memphis State Tigers; and this morning my wife, Betty, commented that the gray around my temples, which I had not yet noticed, really looked sort of distinguished. (Maybe the dog had the right idea after all!) Anyway, it's been that kind of week.

Now granted, none of those things are life-threatening or earth-shaking. Just kind of daily. Kind of like life. But if we're not careful, those are the very things that can distort the way we look at life, poison our attempts to interact with others, and soil our best efforts as witnesses for Christ. Daily things!

So what's the point? Simply this. Far too many professing Christians seem to worship a God who is big enough to handle the major crises of life, but is too distant or disinterested to deal with daily things. So they limp along, daily dealing as best they can, and, when the bottom falls out, they wonder, "Where is God when I really need Him?"

In the closing chapter of his letter to the Philippians, Paul reminds his hearers that while happiness is a delicate emotion, dependent upon daily circumstances, abiding joy comes from living in the center of God's will. And in so doing, Paul unveils God's four-fold assurance for daily victory over worry.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

April 23 Lesson

Basic Passage: Philippians 4:4-19
Focal Passage: Philippians 4:4-19

In vs. 4-5 we have the reminder of God's presence: "The Lord is near." To see the Lord at work in all of life's situations is to rejoice in the One who is Lord over all daily circumstances. "Moderation" or "forbearing" in v. 5 is properly translated "sweet reasonableness" or "Christ-like consideration," an essential quality in those who would be steadfast, yet easy to get along with.

In vs. 6-9 Paul tells us how to have God's peace. Verse 6 isn't an encouragement to be careless. Rather he's saying, "Don't dwell on any problem to the extent that you waste valuable time in worry." On the positive side, give it to the Lord in prayer, mindful to be thankful for His sovereign, gracious care.

In v. 8 Paul recognizes the influence

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of one's thoughts on one's life. How much concern do you exercise in guarding your thought life? Incidentally, notice that Paul doesn't say that we're to put our minds in neutral. I know some Christians who think that's the "godly mindset."

Paul reminded the Roman Christians to "think so as to have sound judgment" (Romans 12:3). Whoever coined the phrase "garbage in-garbage out" in relation to computers also knew something about the human personality.

Paul says "feast and dwell on those things that are worthy of praise," and "practice them" (v. 9). Then the promise in v. 7 - "and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." God's "protective custody" extends to the very center of our being.

In vv. 10-13 we read Paul's testimony of God's power at work in his life. The secret of "contentment" in every situation and circumstance (vv. 11-12) is found in v. 13. "I am ready for anything through the strength of the One who lives in me." (Phillip's Translation). Paul isn't saying he can do anything and everything that comes to his mind, but rather "the God who energizes His will in my mind and

heart is also my Resource for accomplishing it."

Finally in vv. 14-19 we find the assurance of God's provision for our every need. Having thanked the Philippians for their generosity, Paul reminds them that their sacrifices on his behalf will reap for them spiritual dividends far more precious than that which they had invested in him. Paul had peace in his heart concerning his own personal needs, for God had promised to supply all of them (v. 19).

And don't skip too quickly over the little personal touch Paul adds in this verse - "but my God . . ." More than relationship, I sense a beautiful fellowship in that little word "my." There are a lot of Bettys in this world, but there's only one "my Betty." Something special exists there. And the fellowship Paul had with his "my God" spelled victory over every "daily" circumstance of his life.

What does that mean for you and for me? Not only is He in control when the job is lost or there's a sudden, unexpected death or a marriage is coming apart. He's also Lord over lost dogs, poison ivy, college rivalries, and gray hair. Daily stuff. Aren't you glad!

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Dealing with failure

By Pat Fife, pastor; English Creek Church, Newport

Not covered in this quarter's material is Israel's decisive victory over Jericho. It is that victory which sets the stage for chapter seven, and this week's discussion.

Israel was to destroy the city with all its inhabitants.

In addition they were to destroy all animals. Only vessels of brass and iron were to be saved, and they were to become a part of the treasury of the Lord.

Christian theologians have had great difficulty in understanding the total destruction of Jericho and other inhabitants in the land of Canaan. We will not be able to solve in this paragraph what has been unsolved for centuries. However, let me offer a couple of observations.



FIFE

Total destruction of one's enemies was the custom of the time — so it would not have been uncommon for Israel or any other nation to annihilate their enemies. Further, the Christian would do well to consider that complete spiritual destruction will be the final destiny of those who enter eternity without Christ as Savior.

With that as background we now move to chapter seven. Israel has defeated Jericho, and feel they will have little problem in their next encounter, the city of Ai. However, it is at that moment Israel comes face to face with FAILURE.

Few of us like to fail. Failure is often considered to be a sign of the unsuccessful. Failure often creates within us feelings of inferiority. May I remind you that some of the great athletic performers who have been so acclaimed for their success were also frequent failures. Babe Ruth hit 715 home runs — he also struck out 1330 times. Henry Aaron's figures are 755 and 1383. Mickey Mantle, however, held the record for strikeouts with 1710 until it

was recently broken by Reggie Jackson. All of these prominent baseball players failed more frequently than they succeeded, some in record fashion.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES April 23 Lesson

Basic Passage: Joshua 7:1-8:29
Focal Passages: Joshua 7:4-5, 7, 10-13

Failure is a part of life. Every person, company, or nation which succeeds needs only to review its past to discover its failures. Israel was no exception. The rout of Jericho was still being celebrated when the army confronted Ai.

So sure was Israel of victory that only 3000 men were sent to engage the enemy. Immediately 36 men were slain and Israel's army was forced to flee.

This sudden turn of events created panic. Joshua prayed to the Lord — sounding much like the old Israel fleeing from Egypt. My paraphrase reads: "Lord, have You brought us into this foreign land just to deliver us to our enemies. We would have been perfectly happy to remain on the other side of Jordan."

Completely unaware was Joshua that the failure of Israel was the result of sin. This failure affected Israel, Joshua, and God.

Israel lost its confidence. In Joshua 2:11 we are told the hearts of the Canaanites melted. Now, Joshua 7:5, we learn the heart of Israel melted.

Joshua saw defeat. It was not the loss of 36 men — or the apparent victory of Ai — which was so unsettling. To the contrary, God had promised

victory. Defeat, for Joshua, was the absence of the Lord. It was also the failure of His promise.

Even God was forced to change His plans to accomplish His will. He did not want Israel to fail. His will was for Israel to conquer and inhabit the land of Canaan.

However, He could not condone sin. Sin had to be punished. Israel had to learn some very harsh lessons.

In verses 10-11 God responds to Joshua's prayer. He told Joshua to arise. The failure was not Joshua's. Even though only one person had sinned, the entire nation was determined to be guilty. "Israel hath sinned," declared the Lord. Israel's people took the accursed thing, stole, dissembled, and hid it among their own things.

I am sure you have heard the old adage that any chain is only as strong as its weakest link. If all Israel was held accountable for the sin of Achan, is it not possible that modern churches may lose much of their spiritual power due to the unconfessed sins of one, a few, or even all the body?

Sin, to God, was and remains serious. Before Israel could be victorious, sin had to be eliminated. In this instance Achan was stoned — and all of his family and their possessions were burned!

Let us conclude by asking a very penetrating question. If God continued to require the removal of sinners as well as the sin what would be our response?

From a Christian perspective, we can rejoice that Christ died on the cross to remove our sins from us and for us. However, that does not lessen, indeed, it should strengthen our desire to serve Him. Our sins are a detriment to our churches and to our Lord.

It is my opinion that it is time to restore old-fashioned notions of confession and repentance to the basic elements of worship in Baptist churches. Only when we confess and repent from sin will God forgive sin and restore His presence and power to His people.

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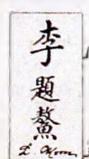
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Further dates in 1990 are available. Some 1990 dates coordinate with the Baptist World Congress meeting in Seoul, Korea.

Extensions to other Asia mission fields can be arranged.

(BP) BRIEFLY

Compiled from Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention

Youth baptisms up slightly for first gain since 1982

ATLANTA — For the first time in six years, Southern Baptists have posted a slight gain in baptisms among youth. A total of 80,506 young people ages 12-17 were baptized by the denomination in 1988, according to Southern Baptists' annual statistical report. That figure is up 606, or 0.8 percent, from the 79,900 posted the previous year.

Southern Baptists reported a record 137,667 youth baptisms in 1972, and the second highest number, 102,259, in 1982. "What is significant about this increase is that we have registered a gain in a year in which there was a decline in births for this age group," explained Dean Finley, national youth evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

That gain is the exception in a period of repeated decreases in population for the age group and alarming drops in baptisms, he added. From 1972 to 1987, the nation's youth population declined 13.2 percent, while baptisms for the age group plunged 41.9 percent.

Last year's increase remains a mystery because it cannot be explained by any particular program or evangelistic emphasis, Finley said: "It's basically an act of God that cannot be attributed to any particular program or methodology. We have found no common thread among any of the (Baptist) state conventions that explains the increase."

Haitians fighting despair, says Baptist missionary

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Soldiers were firing guns a mile away, but Southern Baptist missionary Virgil Suttles said he's convinced he's where God wants him to be. The violence on Haiti, a Caribbean island nation, does not bother Suttles as much as the lack of hope, he said in an April 6 telephone interview.

Haitians have seen their presidency change hands four times, sometimes with bloodshed, since November 1987. That is when Suttles and his wife, Patsy and children, Paul, 13, and Kelli, 8, arrived in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. They are from Elberton, Ga. Haitian Army officers tried unsuccessfully to overthrow their government again in early April. More than 30 soldiers and several civilians were reported killed during the fighting.

Schools and businesses were shut down as tension mounted and a state of emergency was declared. Nearly everybody "stayed put" in homes, except for soldiers who occasionally rode around and fired guns into the air, Suttles said. The latest unrest came as Haitian Baptists were starting to feel more positive about life, Suttles said. He has been working with Haitians "to try to build up

some hope in their minds." But violence "just fans the fire of fatalism — the ruling mindset of this country," he said.

"We don't feel like we're in any danger," Suttles, 41, said of the military violence. "As long as we stay home and abide by curfew laws, we do not feel afraid. I'm enjoying the work here. I prepared for several years to come and serve here. God has really worked to hone me and shape me by all the things that have transpired. He has made me appreciate who I am and what he has given us in the past and what I have now."

Honeycutt urges cooperation amid convention conflict

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — "The dream is still alive at Southern Seminary," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told the school's trustees calling on them to help guide the seminary through "unparalleled" denominational conflict. In his president's report during the April 3-5 meeting of the board of trustees on the Louisville, Ky., campus, Honeycutt emphasized his commitment to leading the seminary "to live creatively with conflict."

"Cooperation in the midst of conflict is preferable to resolution through disintegration," he said. "It is our challenge to intensify our faithfulness in applying the Gospel of Jesus Christ to conflict." The seminary community "is learning how to apply the Gospel to our present circumstances," he added.

While acknowledging that every individual or group may not agree with the seminary's response to the lingering denominational controversy, Honeycutt said he remains "convinced that the prevailing mood is one of maturing relationships and growing support among all the seminary's constituencies."

Honeycutt, who has been president of the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest seminary since 1982, also noted that the board of trustees "is becoming a model for positive relationships predicted on the Gospel rather than agreement on all issues which the seminary confronts." He credited the board's initiative in developing trustee retreats for building interpersonal relationships as a "crucial development" that has helped the seminary "to continue its positive ministry under adverse circumstances."

Circuit-riding preacher coming around again

ATLANTA — The circuit-riding preacher is coming around again. As Southern Baptists seek to start more churches in all areas of the United States, some missions leaders are promoting the circuit rider as a concept whose time has come again.

During the days of westward expansion, Southern Baptists and others employed circuit riders to supplying leadership for multiple churches with limited resources. One pastor served several small churches, making his rounds on horseback between the various locations.

"Field of churches" is the new name for a circuit-rider's region, said Tom Sykes, associate director of the new church development department at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Sykes has studied the concept as a way to help reach Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust evangelism/missions campaign goal of 50,000 churches and missions by A.D. 2000.

Christians have role in ministering to mentally ill

By Sarah Zimmerman

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — One in five families has a family member with a diagnosed mental illness, according to mental health workers.

Being diagnosed means that the person is seeing a mental health professional and receiving treatment. Considering undiagnosed cases, families with a mentally ill family member may be as high as one in three.

Church members are not immune to those statistics cited by Thom Balmer, counselor for the counseling-education center of Grady Baptist Association in Oklahoma.

How do churches handle such situations? In most cases they don't.

"Many times the mentally ill person and his family do not feel embraced by their local congregation," Balmer said. People's first reaction to a person

with mental illness is fear, said Bill Carpenter, director of pastoral care at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

"For most of us, there's a part of us we're not sure about either, and we're afraid that just might come out," Carpenter said.

Also, people are afraid they will say something that will make the mentally ill person out of control. But Carpenter said the chances of that happening are "so remote" that it is not a viable fear.

Once such fears are overcome, Christians can become a strong support system for people on the road back to mental health, he said.

One important aspect in ministering to the mentally ill is to "treat the person with kindness, but not difference," Carpenter said. That kind of attitude

Court refuses review of clergy malpractice

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a dispute that has been described as the nation's first clergy malpractice suit.

The high court's decision, which was announced in a one-line order April 3, leaves standing a unanimous ruling by the California Supreme Court that individuals who are not licensed as counselors or therapists cannot be held legally liable for failing to provide proper advice or for failing to refer their counselees to licensed therapists.

Walter and Maria Nally sued Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., because their son, Kenneth, committed suicide in 1979 after receiving counseling from members of the

church's staff. The Nallys charged the staff members with malpractice for failing to urge their son to seek psychiatric help or to inform them he was contemplating a second suicide attempt.

The couple contended the church did not properly train its counselors and that the counselors who talked with their son discouraged him from seeking further medical help.

The decision by the California Supreme Court overturned two appeals court rulings that the case should go to trial because a reasonable juror could find that the counselors acted negligently and in a way that encouraged Nally to take his life.

tells other family members. "This person does not embarrass me."

Visitors should be honest and comfortable, Carpenter said.

"They often will welcome a visit, but may not know how to respond," he explained. "If they pick up that you're uncomfortable, they'll find a way to get rid of you quickly."

"They often have a keen ability to pick up on sincerity, and there's not a lot of trading of social niceties. To say, 'You look nice today' is not appropriate unless you mean it."

Even if a person is visited regularly, it may be quite some time before he comes to church, he noted: "If coming will make him uncomfortable or nervous, he will not come until he will be comfortable. Don't give up on these kinds of things. They come very, very slowly."

A key point in ministering to the mentally ill is to understand that "this person cannot will this problem away. Many times the problem is caused by a chemical imbalance and cannot be willed away any more than diabetes can be willed away," Carpenter said.

In addition, "illness of one member of the family should be the signal to rally to the defense of other members of the family," according to "Ministering To Families Of The Mentally Ill," a brochure from the National Association for Mental Health. The stress such an illness causes for the entire family makes the church's support crucial.

"Church members need to say: 'We struggle with you. We don't blame you. We still love you,'" Balmer said.

In dealing with families, Balmer

said, Christians should "recognize the loss of dreams and added financial burden. If a 23-year-old is diagnosed with schizophrenia, I pay attention to the family and loved ones' rearrangement of future goals and achievements and climbing medical expenses."

Information is one of the key elements in such ministries. When families permit it, Balmer informs church leaders of what to expect from the mentally ill person and how to respond to his behavior. "This disarms the fear and awkwardness that may occur," he said.

Another factor in ministering to the mentally ill and their families is attitude. Mental illness needs to be accepted as a sickness and not a disgrace, the association's brochure said.

"When the clergyman approaches the sick person with understanding and acceptance rather than with condemnation, this fact alone may help immeasurably in restoring a valid sense of self-esteem which is so necessary for health," it said.

One problem that makes churches ineffective in ministering to the mentally ill is that families often do not acknowledge the problem. "Usually family members try to keep it a secret," Balmer said.

It becomes a cycle. Families stop going to church as they attempt to cover up the illness. They begin to feel "abandoned" by their churches, Balmer said, but the church does not know how to minister to the family because it is not aware of the real problem.