

Baptist and Reflector

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Vines asks Executive Committee to defer new commission action

By Dan Martin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Jerry Vines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has asked the SBC Executive Committee to "defer its recommendation to establish a Religious Liberty Commission" at the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., told Baptist Press he requested the action in order to keep the focus of the annual meeting "on presenting Christ in Las Vegas."

The creation of the new Religious Liberty Commission, to represent Southern Baptist First Amendment and religious liberty concerns in Washington, was recommended by the Executive Committee at its February 1989 meeting. In order for the new commission to be created, it must be approved by majority vote by messengers to two subsequent annual meetings.

During the February meeting, Executive Committee members, by a 42-27 secret ballot vote, approved a recommendation from a seven-member study committee appointed to propose "an alternative to accomplish the program and funding" of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on

Public Affairs, composed of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada, including the SBC.

The action specifies the SBC would continue its relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee through the new commission.

The BJC has been involved in controversy in the SBC for several years. The seven-member study committee which recommended creation of the new commission is the third study committee to look into the relationship between the BJC and the SBC in recent years. In addition, the BJC has survived several attempts to withdraw funding.

A part of the Executive Committee recommendation includes dissolving the 18-member Public Affairs Committee, the standing committee through which the SBC relates to the BJCPA. Under recent actions, the role of the PAC has been expanded, but actions of the group also have resulted in controversy over its role and direction.

The action to create a new commission, in addition to drawing a divided vote on the Executive Committee, set off protests. The leaders of both Southern Baptist mission boards — R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, and Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board — have made statements opposing the creation of the new commission, noting fears the new agency would siphon money from missions.

In his statement, Vines said: "As president of the Southern Baptist Convention, I am requesting the Executive Committee to defer its recommenda-



CREEK BAPTISM — Bob Carrell, new Christian and member of English Creek Church, East Tennessee Association, asked to be baptized in a nearby creek. Pastor Pat Fife baptized Carrell April 23.

tion to establish a Religious Liberty Commission. The primary thrust of my presidency has been an emphasis on personal witnessing. This is the focus of my own ministry and also the heart of our work as Southern Baptists.

"I have been most pleased with the affirmative response this emphasis has received from all sections of Southern Baptist life.

"The upcoming convention session in Las Vegas is intended to be a major effort to share the Gospel with the people of Las Vegas. As I understand it, this was the motivating factor in the selection of Las Vegas for the 1989 convention site. All of the preliminary planning has revolved around making our witness as positive and united as possible."

Vines said the matter has "been of great concern to me in recent weeks," and added that after much prayer, he decided to write Charles Sullivan, chairman of the Executive Committee and pastor of First Church, Lenoir City.

The letter, he said, included the request to defer discussion of the RLC, and added: "Whatever the merits of the recommendation to begin the Religious Liberty Commission, the focus in Las Vegas must be on missions and evangelism.

"Our Home Mission Board has carefully developed a strategy to get the Gospel to every person in Las Vegas. Therefore, rather than devoting our thoughts, prayers and energies to this matter, I am suggesting that we devote them fully to the task of presenting Christ in Las Vegas."

In an interview, Vines declined to discuss the controversial nature of the proposal, noting only that he wants to defer the action in order to make the annual meeting "as positive and united as possible. I would like to see all Southern Baptists join hands in Las Vegas in a positive, united witnessing effort."

Under leadership of the Home Mission Board, the Nevada statewide

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CP giving slows; improves over '88

Cooperative Program giving continues to gain over previous months from 1988, but April's report revealed Tennessee Baptist Convention CP budget receipts 3.69 percent under the 1988-89 budget goal.

April CP budget receipts totaled \$1,723,327.08, or \$335,575.32 under the receipts for April 1988.

The gain for the year, however, is \$717,579.87, pushing the 1988-89 total up to \$12,173,507.97 — compared to \$11,455,928.10 for the same period last year.

The percentage increase thus far in the 1988-89 budget over last year is 6.26 percent.

The budget for the first six months calls for \$12,640,500, and receipts thus far amount to \$466,992.03 below that figure.

The Cooperative Program budget, approved by Tennessee Baptists at last year's annual meeting, is \$25,281,000. The second half of the budget year began May 1.

Traditionally giving for months with a fifth Sunday on the last day of the month — as in April, reflects a low total. That figure would be reflected the following month.

Supreme Court hears anti-abortion case

WASHINGTON (BP) — A highly publicized anti-abortion case was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court April 26, but no ruling is expected before late June.

Although experts expect the court to be narrowly divided over Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, the justices' questioning revealed little about how much of a Missouri anti-abortion law they might be willing to uphold or if they intend to overturn the court's 1973 landmark abortion decision, Roe v. Wade.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, considered the probable swing vote in the case, asked a few questions during the one-hour proceeding.

She did press former U.S. Solicitor General Charles Fried as to whether a fundamental right to decide whether or not to have a child exists.

Fried — a Harvard Law School professor who on behalf of the Bush administration asked the high court to overturn Roe v. Wade — said he was hesitant to formulate the right in such abstract terms or sweeping generalities as contained in Roe.

O'Connor then asked, "Do you think that the state has the right to, if in a future century we had a serious overpopulation problem, require women to have abortions after so many children?"

Replying that he did not, Fried said: "I think the important thing to realize is that when Roe was decided, it swept off the table regulations in the majority of American jurisdictions ... and declared a principle, which said that it was unfair and unreasonable to regulate abortion in ways that most western countries still do regulate abortion.

"We are not here today suggesting that the court would, therefore, allow extreme and extravagant and blood-thirsty regulations and that it would lack the power to strike those down if they were presented to it. ... What is

necessary is for the court to return to legislatures an opportunity in some substantial way to express their preference, which the court says they may express, for normal childbirth over abortion, and Roe v. Wade stands as a significant barrier to that."

The administration was not asking the justices to "unravel the fabric of unenumerated and privacy rights which this court has woven" in previous privacy cases but rather "to

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Editorials

Baptist associations: laborers together with God

We have a strong but simple theme for Associational Emphasis Week later this month. As we recognize the vitality and importance of the 68 Baptist associations in the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the theme is:

"The Baptist Association: Churches Laboring Together with God."

Margaret Dempsey of the Home Mission Board's Associational Missions Division, tells us that we should pay particular attention to several aspects of the theme during emphasis week, May 22-28.

First, the churches comprising an association are free, independent, self-governing, autonomous churches that decide to associate themselves to do certain things together.

Second, the idea of laboring affirms that the Christian life involves not only the mind and heart, it involves the entire person. Christian faith, lived on a day-to-day basis, involves labors.

Third, together reminds us that the Christian is more than just one individual. No Christian and no church live unto themselves.

Finally, with God reminds us of our partnership with God. Christians do not labor on their own power. They rely on the power of someone greater than themselves. Christians, in all their endeavors, are working with God.

The theme — "The Baptist Association: Churches Laboring Together with God" speaks clearly that the association is made up of individual churches in partnership with each other and with God. The goal of these churches in association is simple — to minister in the name of Christ Jesus.

Reminding us of the validity of God's Word for every situation and circumstance, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, that we should commit ourselves to this concept — laboring together for Christ.

One primary reason Baptist churches banded together to form associations is for the

simple provision of fellowship. Churches, before associations, seemed to be suffering and surviving alone, because they were separated.

In his book on Baptist Polity, James L. Sullivan says, "They (the churches) must have known, also that the longer they went their separate ways as remote, separated congregations without ongoing communications that the differences among themselves would grow larger and more exaggerated, making future cooperation more difficult if not impossible.

Eventually, there would be differences so great that the churches would never be able to survive.

Another reason for forming associations evolved from the feeling of responsibility. Churches begin to feel a growing responsibility for sharing their faith and intensifying their efforts in a worldwide way, fostering missions and ministry, Sullivan wrote.

The churches could not accomplish the mighty work they envisioned, according to New Testament teaching, if they continued to act individually.

The vehicle was the grouping of churches in what we call associations. The structure came to embody all the best features of New Testament evangelism and missions. The association could encourage and serve the churches, promote fellowship, develop a oneness of purpose inculcating God's Word and Baptist doctrine.

The earliest Baptist association was in England in the 1650s. The first in America came in 1707 in Philadelphia. The first Baptist association formed in the South was the Charleston Association, South Carolina, in 1751.

We have come a long way since then. The 68 Baptist associations within the Tennessee Baptist Convention are different — yet they are alike. Scattered across mountains, valleys, plateaus, farmland, cities, bounded by rivers

TOGETHERNESS

It's the way of life for our
68 associations of churches in

TENNESSEE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Alpha Association | 35 Knox Association |
| 2 Beech River Association | 36 Lawrence Association |
| 3 Beulah Association | 37 Loudon Association |
| 4 Big Emory Association | 38 Madison-Chester Asso. |
| 5 Big Hatchie Association | 39 Maury Association |
| 6 Bledsoe Association | 40 McMinn-Meigs Association |
| 7 Bradley Association | 41 Midland Association |
| 8 Campbell Association | 42 Mulberry Cap Association |
| 9 Carroll-Benton Association | 43 Nashville Association |
| 10 Central Association | 44 New Duck River Association |
| 11 Chilhowee Association | 45 New River Association |
| 12 Clinton Association | 46 New Salem Association |
| 13 Concord Association | 47 Nolachucky Association |
| 14 Copper Basin Association | 48 Northern Association |
| 15 Crockett Association | 49 Polk County Association |
| 16 Cumberland Association | 50 Riverside Association |
| 17 Cumberland Plateau Association | 51 Robertson Association |
| 18 Cumberland Gap Association | 52 Salem Association |
| 19 Duck River Association | 53 Sequatchie Valley Association |
| 20 Dyer Association | 54 Sevier Association |
| 21 East Tennessee Association | 55 Shelby Association |
| 22 Fayette Association | 56 Shiloh Association |
| 23 Gibson Association | 57 Stewart Association |
| 24 Giles Association | 58 Stone Association |
| 25 Grainger Association | 59 Sullivan Association |
| 26 Hamilton Association | 60 Sweetwater Association |
| 27 Hardeman Association | 61 Tennessee Valley Association |
| 28 Haywood Association | 62 Tnnet Association |
| 29 Hiwassee Association | 63 Union Association |
| 30 Holston Association | 64 Watauga Association |
| 31 Holston Valley Association | 65 Weakley Association |
| 32 Indian Creek Association | 66 Western District Association |
| 33 Jefferson Association | 67 William Carey Association |
| 34 Judson Association | 68 Wilson Association |

Get to know your association of churches
Togetherness could become a way of life for you, too
"We are laborers together with God" (1 Cor 3:9)

and county markers — they form the strong linkage necessary for a sterling Christian ministry in the Volunteer State.

We salute the associations, churches and people, and those who lead them. God is blessing the work of these "laborers together with God."

Make sure May 22-28 is a week of participation in associational ministry. — WFA

Missionaries in Gaza go beyond 'call of duty'

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — Missionaries Carl and Penny Allen say their Southern Baptist co-workers in Gaza have gone above the call of duty to fulfill Christ's call of love.

The Allens, medical missionaries to Gaza appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, are furloughing in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Every one of the missionaries in Gaza has gone above the call of duty," says Mrs. Allen, a medical technologist. "They're living at the edge of that challenge of Jesus' call of love."

Southern Baptists in Gaza work through the Baptist School of Allied Health Sciences, Gaza Church and the Center of Culture and Light, a lending library. Their work is done against a backdrop of rock-throwing, bombings, and deaths stemming from the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

"The situation is so difficult and so stressful that without the hand of the Lord, it would not be possible for missionaries to live there," Mrs. Allen says.

The Allens brought back a small rock, about one inch by one-half inch, with "Gaza 5-19-88" written in black ink on it. It was propelled toward their car by a Palestinian youth's slingshot.

It is one of dozens of rocks thrown at the Allens' car and house. Rock-throwing is common in Gaza, they say. Yet neither the Allens nor any other Southern Baptist missionaries have been injured by rocks.

During labor strikes and military-enforced curfews, missionaries often remain in their homes for days at a time, they say. During the last 18 months before furlough, the Allens estimate, they stayed indoors for the equivalent of three months.

Frustration such events create finds no outlet, Allen, a nurse, says: "There's no complaint department in Gaza. There's no one you can go scream and shake your fist at. The enemy is faceless."

"Our missionaries struggle and they hurt and they cry and they sometimes wonder what they're doing there," Mrs. Allen says. "We struggled every day."

Cards and letters from Christians in the United States kept them going, she says: "I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the prayers of Southern Baptists make it possible for missionaries to be there."

"We often have a misconception that missionaries are spiritual giants. But

it's not the missionaries that are special; it's God that's special."

Living under these conditions "drives you to the Lord," she says. "You must depend on Him every day for everything."

"There was an abiding assurance daily that I was where God wanted me to be. The work God has done in Penny Allen is incredible, life-changing."

Despite the difficult situation, missionaries must work in Gaza, she

notes: "Without Christians there, Gaza would be in utter darkness. But as long as there are Christians there, there is a glimmer of hope."

Career missionaries and volunteers are the key to keeping the Gaza ministry going, the Allens say. Currently, needs exist for a general evangelist, a teacher of missionary children, and clinical, medical-surgical and obstetric nurse educators.

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SBC President Vines announces committee appointments

By Dan Martin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines has announced his appointments to four key committees to serve during the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas, (Nev.) Convention Center.

The SBC Constitution requires the convention president to appoint the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in conference with" the two vice presidents and the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice president. The president appoints the Tellers Committee "in consultation with" the SBC registration secretary.

"My assignment to appoint members ... has been a challenging one," Vines told Baptist Press, the denominational news service which, under the bylaws, is required to release the appointments at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting.

"I have approached my assignment energetically, prayerfully and carefully. My appointments have been made on the basis of recommendations received from state executive secretaries, pastors, directors of missions, church staff members, and members of local churches," he said.

"These appointments reflect my commitment to appoint the best Southern Baptists I could find. They are Bible-believing people who love the Lord, believe the Bible, and are committed to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Vines said he consulted with the two vice presidents "in meetings and by means of telephone. We have gone over these appointments together. I am pleased that Darrell Robinson, first vice president, and Rudy Hernandez, second vice president, issue these appointments jointly with me."

Vines said the 113 people he appointed "include people from all walks of life. They are from the ranks of homemakers, pastors' wives, retired people, college professors, business people and professional people. They are people from a wide variety of positions in denominational life ... pastors, associate pastors, church administrators, church Woman's Missionary Union presidents, church Sunday School directors, state executive secretaries, presidents and vice presidents of state conventions.

members of state executive committees, presidents of state pastors' conferences, state WMU directors, directors of missions, moderators of associations, seminary presidents and professors, former missionaries, former Southern Baptist Convention presidents, and former Peace Committee members."

He also noted they come from "good Southern Baptist churches. The average of all Cooperative Program (unified budget) percentages from their churches is 11 percent. They come from churches ranging in size from under 50 members to more than 18,000 members."

"The overwhelming majority of these appointees have never served on any committee in the Southern Baptist Convention," Vines said, but added that "where exceptions occur, there are valid reasons.

"For example, I felt it would be wise to appoint last year's chairmen of the resolutions, tellers, and credentials committees to serve on the same committees this year for purposes of transition and to serve as a resource person."

He commented Lee Porter, registration secretary, "made several excellent suggestions relative to the tellers and credentials committee. In implementing these suggestions, several people were placed on these committees who have served in the past."

Vines concluded: "I believe these observations give clear evidence that I have fulfilled my commitment to appoint the best Southern Baptists I could find. I am confident these Bible-believing Southern Baptists will carry out their assignments with the desire that God's will be done in our SBC and without any personal hostility."

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The committee, which has 66 members — two from each of the 33 state or regional conventions qualified for representation in the SBC — will be chaired by Sam Medina, a Hispanic attorney from Lubbock, Texas. Medina is a member of Alliance church.

SBC Bylaw 21 says the Committee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." However, the committee's key responsibility is nominating members of the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the 24 national entities affiliated with the SBC.

From each state, Vines appointed a layperson and a person with clergy or denominationally-related employment.

In the listing, the clergy will be listed first.

ALABAMA — Herman Parker, Parkview Church, Eufaula; Miriam James, First Church, Auburn.

ALASKA — Walter E. Davidson, Faith Church, Anchorage; Lorraine Gravens, First Church, Kenai.

ARIZONA — Jerry Bowling, Hillside Church, Phoenix; Kathy Hadaway, First Southern Church, Glendale.

ARKANSAS — Delton Beall, First Church, Forest City; Harve McClellan, Immanuel Church, Rogers.

CALIFORNIA — Don Taylor, Central Church, Alameda; Peggy Powell, First Southern Church, West Hills.

COLORADO — Jose Luis Cano, Redeemer Church, Pueblo; Carole Cooper, Four-Way Church, Fort Lupton.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — Hubert

Keefer, Hillcrest Church, Hillcrest Heights, Md.; Carl F.H. Henry, Capitol Metro Church, Arlington, Va.

FLORIDA — Jerry Weaver, First Church, Panama City Beach; Carol Anderson, First Church, Indian Rock, Largo.

GEORGIA — Pete Sharber, Anderson Drive Church, Jesup; Tom Scissom, First Church, Morganton, Blairsville.

ILLINOIS — Ron Ferguson, First Church, Goreville; Terry Martens, Glenfield Church, Wheaton.

INDIANA — James Twiggins, Calvary Church, Evansville; Kim Wagoner, Central Church, Richmond.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA — Harold Henderson, First Southern Church, Belle Plaine, Kans.; Don Mace, Country Acres Church, Cheney, Kans.

KENTUCKY — Geoffrey Lacefield, Rutledge Road Church, Louisville; Seth Farley, First Church, Bowling Green.

LOUISIANA — Phillip Smith, Cedar Crest Church, West Monroe; Carolyn McVay, City Price Church, Port Sulphur.

MARYLAND-DELAWARE — Chris Brammer, Hampstead Church, Hampstead, Md.; Patricia Cademartori, Tabernacle Church, Joppa, Md.

MICHIGAN — Roger Taylor, Nilef Avenue Church, St. Joseph; Bill Goldman, Begole Road Church, Perrinton.

MISSISSIPPI — Gus Merritt, Clark Venable Memorial Church, Decatur; J.D. Cutrer, First Church, Pascagoula.

MISSOURI — Bill Bowyer, Rock Hill Church, St. Louis; Bob Parker, Immanuel Church, Hannibal.

NEVADA — Robert Norvell, College Park Church, Las Vegas; Henry Platt, First Southern Church, Hawthorne.

NEW ENGLAND — Jack Schneider, Pleasant Valley Church, Columbia, Conn.; Brian

Cantrell, Friendship Church, Winsted, Conn. NEW MEXICO — Bill Kilgore, Hoffmann Town Church, Albuquerque; Marion Par-taine, First Church, Gallup.

NEW YORK — Noel Wilcott, Assurance Church, Williamsville, N.Y.; Ed Knight, Colts Neck Church, Lincraft, N.J.

NORTH CAROLINA — Stephen Hensley, First Church, Icard; Walt Pegram, Goodwill Church, Kernersville.

NORTHWEST — Charles Didato, College Heights Church, Grants Pass, Ore.; Donald Sorensen, Hall Boulevard Church, Portland, Ore.

OHIO — Jim Rich, East Toledo Church, Toledo; Gary Fortune, First Church, Rossford.

OKLAHOMA — Hoyt Aduddell, Olivet Church, Tulsa; Bill Clark, Immanuel Church, Duncan.

PENNSYLVANIA-SOUTH JERSEY — Oscar Stroede, Cranberry Church, Mars, Pa.; Carolyn Hendrix, Pittsburgh Church, Pittsburgh.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Everette Talbert, First Church, Warrentonville; LuAnne Powell, First Church, Greer.

TENNESSEE — Charles R. Wright, Maple Street Church, Cleveland; Brenda Gass, Southside Church, Shelbyville.

TEXAS — Terry Fox, Gardendale Church, Corpus Christi; Chairman Sam Medina, Alliance Church, Lubbock.

UTAH-IDAHO — Randy Myers, First Church, Green River, Utah; Herb Hargrave, First Church, East Carbon, Utah.

VIRGINIA — David Johnson, Rileyville Church, Rileyville; Bland Williamson, Liberty Church, Hampton.

WEST VIRGINIA — Clarence Jones, North Charleston Church, Nitro; Paul Drake, Grace Church, Vienna.

Resolutions, tellers, credentials committees include Tennesseans

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Three key committees — resolutions, tellers, and credentials — have been appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines. The committees will serve during the annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas, (Nev.) Convention Center.

On the appointments, detailed information about the occupations of laypersons or exact titles of clergy or denominationally-related appointees were not made available to Baptist Press, the denominational news service, which is required to make the appointments available at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is made up of ten members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee. According to SBC Bylaw 21, the committee has the "duty ... to prepare and submit to the convention resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption and to report on all matters submitted to it by the convention, with or without recommendation or amendments."

The bylaw requests proposed resolutions be sent to the committee 30 days in advance of the annual meeting.

Vines named Mark Coppenger, executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, Indianapolis, to be chairman of the resolutions committee. He also named Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church in Nashville, and the chairman in 1988, to serve on the committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Under Bylaw 8, the Credentials Committee works with the registration

secretary, to "review and rule upon any question which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers." The bylaw says any committee ruling "may be appealed to the convention during business session. Any contention arising on the floor concerning seating of messengers shall be referred to the committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the convention."

Charles Carter, pastor, Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., will be chairman.

Tennessee appointees include:

Bob Burch, pastor, Calvary Church, Knoxville; Tod Zeigler, First Church, Alcoa; Anita Forester, Central Church, layperson, Oak Ridge; and Jewell McFarland, layperson, First Church, Whitwell.

TELLERS COMMITTEE

The Tellers Committee, working under the supervision of the SBC's registration secretary, tabulates any vote taken during the annual meeting.

Vines named Bob Sorrell, administrator of Bellevue Church, Memphis, as the chairman.

Also named were a former SBC president, a seminary president, a seminary professor, a state executive director and a state convention president. They are:

Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Church, Oklahoma City, and SBC president 1962-64; William O. Crews, president of Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Roy Fish, evangelism professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; D. L. Lowrie, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Joel Gregory, pastor, Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Texas.



LAST CHECK RECEIVED — Tom J. Madden received a check from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation for the last time April 28 from Earl H. Wilson, right, TBF president. Wilson gave the check for \$129,585.98, interest for the first six months of 1988-89 accumulated through trusts designated for the Cooperative Program, TBC.

Our Readers Write

Churches appreciated

The article that was in the Baptist and Reflector recently about Christians having a role ministering to the mentally ill is so appropriate.

I have a mentally ill daughter, so I can write to you and thank you. Most handicaps just want your love and to be treated like normal people.

They can learn more than any one thinks they can. My daughter and I belong to Westwood Church on Charlotte Pike, Nashville.

We don't have a class for her, but Two Rivers Church has a wonderful class and wonderful teachers. I thank Lou Heath for starting the class. Everybody accepts Vicky at Westwood Church and are very loving to her.

People at Two Rivers accept her also. The class started with six and has around 32 members now. I thank God for Vicky; she is a lot of pleasure to me. I wish a lot of people would just take time to know our special people.

Lucille Hutcherson
6680 Charlotte Pike
Nashville 37209

Students help

Spring Break is eagerly anticipated among college students. Many go to Florida, while some visit parents. And, then there are those, who choose another option — a SPOTS missions trip. SPOTS is a BSU sponsored missions activity, funded by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

For the past two years I have accompanied two SPOTS groups on their spring missions trip. Last year I went with CrossSing, musical tour group of the Belmont College BSU. After a brief weekend stop in Louisville, where the group sang at local churches, we drove to New York City, the focal point of our missions outreach.

In New York we worked at a homeless shelter, helped at a daycare center for underprivileged children, and the group sang concerts in various settings. But whether the performance was before a

group of homeless, who came inside only to get out of the cold or before a mixed socio-economic class at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, the group performed with the same zest and enthusiasm.

This year God allowed me to accompany another Belmont SPOTS team. This time there was no musical equipment to load and unload. God called these students to a different mission field — the Knoxville, Smoky Mountain area. But God's goals were the same — to touch lives. And so we did, although perhaps no lives were touched more in either trip than were our own.

The second trip began with the students' participation in worship services in Knoxville area churches. The remainder of the week was spent in hard physical and emotional labor at a center for the underprivileged and at a church camp. The task assigned included cleaning bathroom walls, helping construct a building, serving food to the underprivileged, and helping with distribution and re-stocking of clothing donated.

With each group there was a consensus opinion at the end. "This has been one of the greatest spiritual experiences of my life," they said. With both groups, addresses were exchanged between students and children. Fully recognizing that a long distance letter writing influence cannot logically counter-balance the many negative influences the children will face, these students still believe in a God of miracles. They are still willing to do all they can to be a positive role model for these, whom our Lord also deeply loves.

Helen Hargrove
2601 Hillsboro Rd.
Nashville 37212

Keep the main thing

The Third Annual Convocation of the Southern Baptist Alliance met recently in Greenville, S. C. An article reporting on the meeting was written by Erin Kelly March 3. The report of the meeting stated that Will D. Campbell, an "elder statesman of the denomination's moderate wing," gave the opening ad-

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennesse 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.

dress. It was reported he said that the door to door evangelism effort preceding the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas in June "makes him sick."

Campbell reportedly charged that conservatives were responsible for the evangelism tactics. He said, "If we want to have an authentic Christian witness, we should go to the brothels and say to these victims (prostitutes), please ma'am, teach us about grace." Wherever he got such an idea, it was not from Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well in John chapter four.

I wonder why Campbell is opposed to this evangelistic effort sponsored by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention upon the invitation of the Nevada Baptist Convention. More than 1100 lay people have already signed up to knock on doors the week before the Las Vegas Convention. Evangelistic workers will distribute about 10,000 New Testaments and 10,000 gospel tracts throughout Las Vegas, a city of some 25 major hotel casinos and some 36 smaller ones.

If we can't go door to door without getting criticized in the opening address before the Third Annual Convocation of the ALLIANCE, then I can understand Winfred Moore's reluctance, if not refusal, to be identified with any other "moderate" groups, including the Southern Baptist Alliance. Moore who now claims to be a "militant centrist," says "the difference is the tack we're taking, the route we're on."

It is sad and obvious to most of us that we are on "a different route" than the Southern Baptist Alliance. They, too, have their place. But let us remember to keep the main thing the main thing.

Pastor Jim Stroud
4917 Western Avenue
Knoxville 37921

Appreciates Tennesseans

March was a real blessed month of ministry. The Phil Jett's and the Gary Taylors came and ministered with us. Jett is pastor of Englewood Church in Jackson, and Gary is president of his own construction company in Jackson.

We held an evangelistic campaign in the interior city of Governor Valadaroes about five hours north of Belo Horizonte. The church holds about 600 people and it was crowded every night. It was a beautiful drive through the mountains.

On the final night there were at least 150 people sitting on the floor in front. The aisles were crowded, and the balcony was jammed. An announcement had to be made not to allow anyone else in the building. It was at least 105 degrees inside. We also held two open air meetings at the morning market.

Brother Jett preached the first message to about 100 people. Then the officials suggested I get my sound truck and preach on top of it for the second message. We did that and Gary preached

the second time to about 200 people.

In all there were at least 150 professions of faith. One young man walking home from work heard the beautiful praise music and came inside. He heard the message and received Christ. He said, "This is what I have been searching for all my life." The pastor called yesterday and said the follow-up was going tremendous.

He said they were visiting people who made decisions at the revival and are winning parents, other family members and relatives, and neighbors, to the Lord as a result. He ordered 700 more Bible studies to be sent up there due to the overwhelming response in the aftermath of the meeting. That is unbelievable!

Gary Taylor was a tremendous help to us, giving advice regarding construction of a church which owns property practically on the side of a mountain. He took one look at it and immediately knew how to build the building they need. He was able to meet with their committee about their plans and they were very excited about the help he has given and will be giving regarding these basic plans. He also looked at our state camp, which has some desperate needs, and helped greatly in the planning process of that ministry.

We do appreciate people who work so hard to support us here and throughout our world as well as there in Tennessee. My wife Sherry Deakins is from Johnson City. Her father, J. E. Deakins, is a deacon at First Church of Sulphur Springs.

Wade Akins
Rua Ponte Nova, 385
31.110 Belo Horizonte
Minas Gerais, Brazil

Don't tamper with ruling

I am a Southern Baptist and I'm not in favor of the Supreme Court tampering with Roe vs. Wade. I think the Right to Life and other pressure groups are trying to mind other people's business. Southern Baptist have so many problems of their own I think they'd do well to "MYOB" before going for the mote in the sisters' eyes.

C. H. Nicks
3117 McGavock Pike
Nashville 37214

Measure ministry by evaluating motives

MILL VALLEY, CALIF. (BP) — Ministers can measure their ministry by evaluating their motives and manner, Joel Gregory told an audience at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here.

"The people you serve are not so interested in the stuff you lay on them, but the life you share with them," said Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth.

Speaking during a worship service which concluded the seminary's annual Hester Lectureship on Preaching, Gregory used the example of the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

Paul disdained error, greed, manipulation, and praise in measuring ministerial motives, he said.

"This generation of preachers must become something like theological Rambos to overcome the motives of greed," Gregory noted.

"We should not handle the Word of God craftily," he said, adding that people can tell when ministers are using their positions for manipulation.

When the motive of ministry is to be praised by humankind, it fails, Gregory added.

Gregory's lectures focused on "seeking, structuring, and saying the Word."

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

The New Testament uses athletic language in describing the Christian life and work. In light of this we can think of the Christian faith as a team sport. Each Christian is a member of the team. Consistently in the New Testament, the words referring to Christian occur in the plural. For instance, the word "saint" is consistently plural. We are never a "saint" in isolation, but we are a "saint" in that team context. So we can borrow this analogy for our thinking.

Because of this team concept I want these visits with you to be "Team Talk." As we explore this athletic analogy certain things are obvious.

First, we face the same opposition. We like to think of Tennessee as having three grand divisions. This may be true, but Christians in East, Middle, and West Tennessee face the same strong Adversary.

Second, we have the same goal. It is a commitment to this common goal that makes us a team. Our goal is to

carry out the Great Commission of our Lord which is making disciples of all the nations that binds us together. Baptists in each part of the state share the same goal.

Third, we are under the same rules. God has given all of us one Book from which we learn the rules of the game. The Bible is the rule for faith and practice for all of us who are part of this team.

Fourth, we are under the same coach, the Lord Jesus.

In the days that are ahead through these regular lines, I want us to think about the team. Sometimes we will focus on some victories of the team. We may give space to some deficiencies of the team. We may put the spotlight on some of the players on the team. We will always keep before us this idea of team. I am looking forward to working with this team that God has put together across Tennessee.

For me personally, the last four months have been like spring training for the baseball team, but this week marks the beginning of the real season. I am trusting God to give us a winning season, but I am ready to "play ball."



LOWRIE

Tennesseans nominated for trustee posts

NASHVILLE (BP) — The report of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations has been released by the chairman, Joe Reynolds, an attorney from Houston.

The committee nominates trustees to serve on the 24 entities related to the SBC, including the Executive Committee, boards, commissions, seminaries, standing committees, and affiliated organizations.

Under convention bylaws, the report must be released through Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas (Nev.), Convention Center.

In order for the nominees to serve on the entities of the convention, they must be elected by messengers to the annual meeting.

The committee, which includes a layperson and a person who is clergy or denominationally related from the 33 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on the various entities of the convention, met in Nashville March 16-17 in order to make the nominations.

Under the SBC's system of staggered representation, trustees can serve two terms before becoming ineligible. The majority of the boards trustees serve four year terms. On the six convention-related seminaries, trustees serve five-

year terms.

The Committee on Nominations each year considers about 25 percent of the 1000 trustees serving SBC entities. This year, the committee considered 238 new nominations and nominations to second terms.

In releasing the report, Reynolds described the committee session as "a wonderful meeting; very harmonious. If the spirit of this meeting could catch on in Las Vegas (at the annual meeting) it would be one of the most wonderful things that could happen to us (the SBC)."

According to Reynolds, this year's committee meeting did not feature the same rancor over the work of the committee as did the 1988 committee.

Then, several committee members complained the committee was more interested in denominational politics than in Jesus Christ.

Reynolds also named a seven-member subcommittee to meet in Las Vegas prior to the convention to fill any gaps in the report.

Persons from Tennessee nominated to serve on the Executive Board, Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and Foreign Mission Board are listed in this issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

Executive Committee (77 total members): 21 nominations considered for all vacancies; 14 new members;

seven renominations.

Tennessee nominees, with terms to expire in 1993, replacing persons ineligible for re-election include:

Doug Westmoreland, pastor of Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, replacing Frank Ingraham, Franklin attorney; James Hillyer Cooley, clothing store owner and member of East Lake Church, Chattanooga, replacing William F. Collins Jr., Memphis layman.

Foreign Mission Board (90 members): 24 nominations considered; 14 new members; ten renominations.

Tennessee nominees with terms expiring 1993, replacing members ineligible for re-election, include:

Bobbie (Mrs. L. C.) Jackson, homemaker and member of First Church, Millington, replacing Lloyd H. Hansen, Memphis.

Nominated to a second term: Morris H. Mills, Memphis.

Home Mission Board (90 members): 24 nominations considered; 13 new members; eleven renominations:

Tennessee nominees with terms to expire in 1993, replacing members ineligible for re-election, include:

Tom J. Madden, retired executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and member of Mount Pleasant Church, Rockvale, replacing Hershel R. Chevallier, Knoxville pastor.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term to end in 1991 is Edward R. (Tommy) Futrell, pastor of Southside Church, Johnson City, replacing Jack D. Moore, Eads, who moved.

Nominated to a second term: Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson.

Sunday School Board (90 members): 29 nominations considered; 19 new members; ten renominations.

Tennessee nominees with terms to expire in 1993, replacing members ineligible for re-election, include:

Vines asks Executive Committee . . .

(Continued from page 1) evangelism emphasis includes simultaneous revivals, scripture distribution, and sponsorship of 25 church-tye missions. In Las Vegas, some 2000 will participate in revivals, a door-to-door canvass of the city and scripture distribution.

Vines said he had no recommendations for how the Executive Committee should defer the action, and is "leaving that up to Charles (Sullivan). I just believe we should defer it."

Sullivan told Baptist Press he will "honor our president's request in the sense that I will present it to the Executive Committee. I believe it is coming from him in good spirit and the desire to make the emphasis of the convention missions and evangelism. I also believe he is trying to emphasize peace rather than the divisive issues that are before us."

Sullivan, however, said he would not predict what the response of the 76-member committee will be. "It may well be that they will vote to defer it," he said, but noted "hours and hours of study have gone into the formation of the commission."

"There is such a polarity of feelings about the Baptist Joint Committee, the Public Affairs Committee, and the Religious Liberty Commission that . . .



FINAL DAY — Last Friday marked Tom Madden's final day in the office prior to his April 30 retirement as executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He gets some final words on the progress on the new Baptist Center from Gary Lavaron, project superintendent for Beers Construction Builders.

Leon L. Bolton, a dentist and member of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, replacing Harold L. Jennings, Memphis; Judy (Mrs. Larry) Beeler, homemaker and member of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, replacing Cynthia Phillips, Nashville, who moved.

Local members, with terms to expire in 1993, nominated to replace members ineligible for re-election, include:

Dennis P. Lunsford, pastor of Antioch Church, Humboldt, replacing John David Laida, retired Clarksville pastor; Burgess F. Guinn, state government employee and member of First Church, Pulaski, replacing William Lynn Moench, Nashville; Roy E. Miller, businessman and member of First Church, Lexington, replacing Robert H. Bible, Morristown; and Raymond Davis, pastor of Ewtonville Church, Dunlap, replacing Pat L. Landrum, Brighton.

Nominated for second terms: Floyd E. Williams, Memphis, and (local member) William G. Wilson, pastor of Brentwood Church.

divisiveness could come," Sullivan said.

Sullivan noted perhaps a value in deferring the action in Las Vegas, would be that "we may have time to dispel the erroneous idea that the funding of the commission would be done at the expense of missions. There never was any intent for any mission money to be used for the establishment of the new commission."

James Roach, an Albuquerque, N.M., attorney and chairman of the study committee which proposed the new commission said: "I think the turmoil caused by the Public Affairs Committee and the Baptist Joint Committee in recent years has been more harmful than any good they did."

"It seemed to me the time was here to put the issue squarely before the convention for a decision. I do not know if putting the vote off a year will help or not, but if Jerry Vines thinks it will, then I am willing to do it."

James M. Dunn, executive director of the BJCPA, said: "I applaud Jerry Vines for his astute insight and his keen commitment to keeping the focus on missions and evangelism. It is increasingly obvious to Baptists of all persuasions that a redundant Religious Liberty Commission in Washington is a bad idea."

Supreme Court hears anti-abortion . . .

(Continued from page 1) pull this one thread," Fried said.

But Frank Susman, who represented the St. Louis abortion clinic that challenged the Missouri statute, countered: "I think (Fried's) submission is somewhat disingenuous when he suggests to this court that he does not seek to unravel the whole cloth of procreational rights, but merely to pull a thread. It has always been my personal experience that when I pull a thread, my sleeve falls off. There is no stopping."

"It is not a thread he is after. It is the full range of procreational rights and choices that constitute the fundamental right that has been recognized by this court."

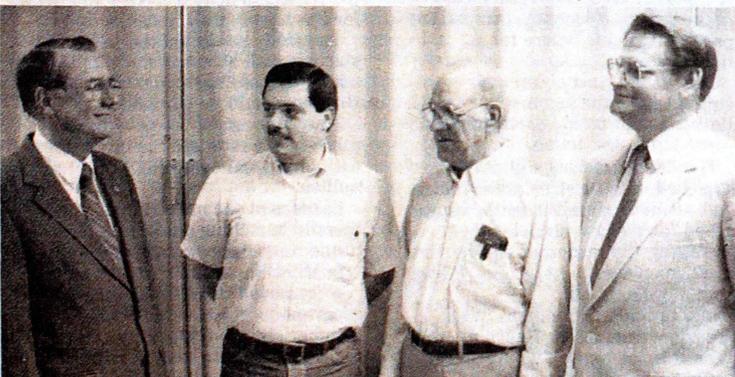
A "bright line" no longer exists between the fundamental right established in Griswold v. Connecticut — a 1965 ruling that married couples have a right to privacy that entitles them to purchase contraceptives — and the

fundamental right to abortion established in Roe, Susman said.

Justice Antonin Scalia challenged that if the court can draw a line between the first, second, and third trimesters in abortion cases then it also should be able to draw a line between abortion and birth control.

Susman said many present forms of contraception — including IUDs and low-dose birth control pills — act as abortifacients and would be illegal under a state law, such as the Missouri statute, that defines fertilization as the beginning point of human life.

Acknowledging disagreement exists over when human life begins, Scalia asked Susman whether that disagreement leads to the conclusion that there "must be a fundamental right on the part of the woman to destroy this thing that we don't know what it is" or rather that it is a matter upon which people should vote after having made "up their minds the best they can?"



JEFFERSON COUNTY MEETING — Jefferson County Association Pastors' Conference met April 24 with Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, as guest. Herbert Jones, pastor of Deep Creek Church, left, is president of the group. Others, from left, are: John Fultz, Good Hope Church, vice president; Henry Davidson, Nances Grove Church, secretary; and Jerry DeZearn, director of missions.

In Maryville

Phelps combines music ministry with coaching career

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
MARYVILLE — Ronnie Phelps of Maryville is not unlike hundreds of other bivocational ministers who successfully combine two professions.

But the minister of music at Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville, must be extra cautious of his "second" profession, especially on cool, damp, fall Friday nights.

Phelps, defensive coordinator for the Alcoa High School football team, has to make sure that barking out instructions doesn't harm his throat.

After all, a music minister with laryngitis could have problems. But so far, Phelps has had no trouble combining the two. He has done extremely well at both.

During his ten years at Alcoa High, the team has averaged seven wins a season, won a state championship, and, just last season, narrowly missed another state title. Brentwood Academy beat Alcoa in the Class AA championship game.

As for his musical ability, Phelps was invited by Jerry King, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department, to sing during the state evangelism conference held last February at Belmont Heights

Church in Nashville.

Though coaching and teaching are important ingredients in Phelps' life, his face really beams when he discusses music and his church.

Phelps began attending Dotson Memorial when he was five years old. Four years later he accepted Christ as his personal Savior.

At the age of 15 Phelps realized "the Lord had something special for me in the music area and at Dotson Memorial."

That feeling became reality six years later when he became choir director at the church. As the church grew, the position evolved into a minister of music position. The church, which now has an average attendance of 400 in Sunday School, has adult, youth, and children's choirs, Phelps said.

At an early age Phelps also realized he wanted to teach and coach. His education at Tennessee Technical University, Cookeville, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, prepared him to do both. In addition to coaching duties at the high school, Phelps teaches mathematics at Alcoa Middle School.

Though football and music have little

in common, coaching and teaching have enabled Phelps' ministry to expand beyond music.

Phelps has been able to minister to hundreds of youth through example and Christian living. At a time when teenagers are bombarded by negative influences, that is important, Phelps asserted.

"I'm up front with my players. They know I'm a Christian," Phelps said, adding that he has been fortunate during his coaching career to have worked with head coaches and other assistants who are Christians.

Players know that profanity on the field is not condoned, Phelps said, observing that good old-fashioned running has kept profanity at a minimum over the years.

The players at Alcoa High School have few rules, Phelps observed. "They have standards of living to go by."

He emphasized the importance of Christian teachers and coaches. "Other than parents, no one influences kids today more than their teachers and coaches," Phelps said.

The 40-year-old Maryville native is content with the way his ministry has been combined with his love for sports



ON FRIDAY NIGHTS — Ronnie Phelps calls out defensive signals and teaching.

Though he hopes it will never come down to a choice between the two professions, it would not take Phelps long to decide.

"I guess if I had to make a choice, I would give up coaching before I would my music ministry," he said.

As for being a head football coach some day, he would welcome that "only if it was in the area." I don't want to leave my church, he emphasized.

Baptists suffer losses in latest Lebanon strife

By Art Toalston

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Two people closely related to Lebanon's Baptist community died and windows at Beirut Baptist School were shattered during heavy artillery fire in Beirut in recent weeks.

An employee of Beirut Baptist School in predominantly Muslim West Beirut lost her sister soon after fighting erupted in mid-March, reported Jim Ragland, a 33-year Southern Baptist missionary to Lebanon who now lives in Cyprus. The employee's sister was killed by an artillery shell fragment.

In early April, a man who had worshipped regularly at Mousaitbeh Baptist Church in West Beirut was killed when an artillery shell ripped into his home in predominantly Christian East Beirut.

On April 16, an artillery shell hit the playground between Beirut Baptist School and Mousaitbeh Church. No one was injured, but windows throughout the compound were shattered. Ragland

estimated the repair bill will reach \$10,000.

"It's about the fifth or sixth time this has happened," he said. The last time windows were blown out was in 1984.

The fighting has kept the school closed for about a month, Ragland said. The school that Ragland founded now has 988 students and about 50 teachers.

A few days earlier, a canning factory partly owned by a member of Ras Beirut Baptist Church in East Beirut was destroyed. An artillery shell struck a large fuel tank at the site and set off a fire that burned out of control for several days and finally triggered an explosion heard up to 15 miles away.

A bomb shelter below the basement of the Baptist Center in East Beirut has housed more than 100 people for several weeks, Ragland added. Among those taking refuge are families of employees of Baptist media, publications, and correspondence ministries

based at the center, as well as neighbors in the vicinity.

The two deaths are among more than 225 reported to date during the latest outbreak of violence between so-called Christian and Muslim forces. Lebanon's civil war dates back to 1975 and has claimed more than 125,000 lives.

"Baptists and their friends are hurting," said Ragland, who along with other Southern Baptist missionaries was forced to leave Beirut when the U.S. government ended passport privileges for Americans in Lebanon in early 1987.

Ragland and his wife, Leola, were active in the Mousaitbeh congregation, and Ragland counted the dead man who attended that church and his wife as "very wonderful friends."

Wake Forest approves concept of divinity school; seeks endowment

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP) — Trustees of Wake Forest University here approved the concept of a divinity school, but instructed administrators to make certain adequate financial support is available before taking additional steps.

Resources must be secured equivalent to the income from a \$15 million endowment, according to the April 14 trustee action.

The divinity school will not be launched until trustees are confident that academic quality can be established for the new school without compromising the resource requirements of other university programs, Wake Forest officials said.

In a prepared statement, WFU President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. said: "The mission of the divinity school would be to train ministers.

"While the orientation and heritage of the divinity school would be Baptist, it would be open to students and faculty members of all faiths."

The possibility of a divinity school at

The last Baptist killed in the fighting was a young man struck by a shell fragment in 1984, Ragland said. In 1982, a Baptist husband and wife and a couple of other family members were killed in indiscriminate shooting in a rural village.

Ragland has been able to speak with Baptist friends in West and East Beirut by telephone and has visited with a number of Lebanese who have come to Cyprus on business, for visits or to flee the fighting, he said.

"You never forget what it was like to live in times like they are seeing now in Beirut," said Ragland, who weathered not only artillery fights but also a tension-filled period in West Beirut when American men were being kidnapped. Nine of them still are held hostage.

High court reviews Swaggart tax case

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a dispute over whether the state of California violated television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart's free exercise of religion by taxing materials his organization sold there during an eight-year period. Attorneys for the Louisiana-based Jimmy Swaggart Ministries claim the state sales tax is contrary to a 1943 Supreme Court decision that held Pennsylvania could not require an itinerant minister to pay a license tax in order to distribute religious tracts.

From 1974 through 1981, Swaggart's organization held 23 religious crusades in California at which it sold religious and non-religious merchandise. In addition, the organization sold almost \$2 million worth of mail-order merchandise to Californians during those years. California's Board of Equalization

assessed the organization owed \$183,000 in state sales tax. Swaggart Ministries paid the taxes under protest and applied for a refund, which the board rejected. The organization then filed suit.

A California appeals court rejected the argument that the state's sales tax scheme contradicted the high court's 1943 decision. The appeals court said that decision was "limited to the constitutionality of a particular type of tax, a flat license tax which was unrelated to receipts, income, or the administrative costs of a regulatory scheme, and which acted as a prior restraint on the exercise of a constitutional right. The Supreme Court did not equate a financial burden in and of itself with an unconstitutional burden on the exercise of religion."

The California Supreme Court refused to review the case.

Wake Forest University has been under consideration, school officials said. A feasibility study was made and the results indicated a need and desire for the school, they added.

The study projected the possibility of starting with about 35 students and adding classes each year until 135 students would be enrolled.

Start-up costs of the new divinity school were estimated to be \$600,000, with an annual operating budget of \$1 million.

Leaders at the university said no specific launching date could be set until the financial resources are in place.

In other business, trustees:

- Removed restrictions based on geographic residence and church membership from trustee-election procedures. This amendment to trustee bylaws will be considered formally during trustees' Oct. 5 meeting.

- Reaffirmed their commitment to the university's Baptist heritage. The reaffirmation was pledged during the discussion of trustee-election policies.

Loudon County

Small association has large heart for missions

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Loudon County Association's 40 churches claim a little less than 10,000 resident members — but those churches are strongly involved in missions.

The churches really believe in and cooperate with Partnership Missions programs, under the leadership of Raymond Atwood, director of missions.

During the three-year partnership with Venezuela, 87 volunteers from Loudon County Association participated. In all, the association has had 114 volunteers to eight foreign countries.

Those who volunteered for work during the Venezuela partnership were involved in evangelism crusades, medical teams, and construction. And churches who had no volunteers banded together and contributed total expenses for Atwood's participation.

"Partnership missions has been good for our association," says Atwood. "We are not that big, but the entire association is enthusiastic and more aware of prayer needs. We are also more appreciative of Southern Baptist missionaries."

Foreign missions is not a new idea for Atwood. Before he came to Ten-

nessee in his present position, he was a pastor in Arkansas. In 1976, Atwood and two others assisted Orville Jenkins, Southern Baptist missionary assigned to the Kenya Baptist Mission, in the first crusade which was conducted in 22 churches within 20 miles of the Kyela District farm organized by Doug and Evelyn Knapp.

The Knapps are the famed Baptist couple who have astounded many with their success in teaching modern farming methods established on the farm in Tanzania — and their work in evangelization.

That 1976 crusade saw 750 professions in two weeks of revivals conducted mostly under trees. Atwood returned to the Kyela District three other years, and took pastors with him. In 1984, Atwood and four others from Loudon Association participated in crusades in which there were 4119 professions of faith in Christ.

Loudon Association has financially assisted team members since 1984 — contributing \$200 toward individual expenses. Six teams will go to the Philippines this year — and the stipend now is \$250.

Volunteers from Loudon have built

two churches in Venezuela and one in Burkina Faso. Other volunteers have worked in Mali (3), Burkina Faso (13), Zimbabwe (2), Antigua Islands (2), Bolivia (1), and in Brazil there is one volunteer for a year's service this year.

The Knapps, sometimes called the modern version of David Livingston, now have retired from the Kyela District Mission of Tanzania, having served since 1964. They primarily were agricultural missionaries — with evangelistic hearts.

The farm they operated, demonstrating modern agricultural methods, was located near the Livingston mountains in southwest Tanzania — barely 12 miles from the farm missionary David Livingston made his first camp in inland Africa.

Knapp left the Florida Extension Service where he was a county agent, to enter Southern Baptist mission work. He served as missionary church

planter and agriculturist. He helped raise the standard of living from tribal poverty to that comparable with the modern world.

During the years the Knapps were at Kyela, where they lived in the midst of the people, they baptized 58,144 converts. That astounding growth may never have happened before at any mission station manned by only a husband and wife team.

The Knapps disciplined their converts. Raymond Atwood was one of many pastors and other Baptists involved in evangelism and missions as they worked with the Knapps in Africa.

The 22 churches in the Kyela District in 1976 have now grown to almost a hundred, with more than 40,000 members.

Raymond Atwood and members of the churches in Loudon Association believe in partnership missions. The record speaks for itself.

Historical Commission adopts plans, budget

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Historical Commission adopted a long-range plan and revised its next budget during its annual meeting April 24 in Nashville.

The 1989-95 long-range plan reflects "an effort to give direction to the agency" and was developed in keeping with the commission's convention assigned program statement, said Executive Director Lynn E. May Jr.

The plan divides priorities into three categories: library and archives, publications and communications, and administration.

Publications and communications guidelines include producing Volume 5 of the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists; preparing 25 historical vignettes for the Southern Baptist sesquicentennial celebration in 1995 and distributing guidelines for celebrating the event; publishing "The Southern Baptist Story" pamphlet series; and enlarging the promotion of Baptist Heritage Month.

"This is a flexible plan," May said. "It is designed to be updated continually, always keeping five years ahead.

"The Lord has been good, and Southern Baptists have been good to make available the resources we have. . . . Whether or not we are able to accomplish many of these goals depends on the availability of funds."

Commissioners highlighted those funds during discussion of the agency's revised 1989-90 budget, to begin Oct. 1.

That budget will be \$578,600 — a drop of \$48,946, or 7.8 percent, from the current budget. It will be a drop of \$70,600, or almost 10.9 percent, from the original 1989-90 budget, approved a year ago.

The budget had to be revised because the convention's Executive Committee reduced the 1989-90 Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget goal by 2.05 percent from its current goal, said finance subcommittee Chairman David McDaniel, a businessman from Brentwood.

The commission's 1989-90 Cooperative Program allocation is to be \$492,585. That compares to the current budget's \$502,900 and the original 1989-90 budget's \$566,285.

The change in Cooperative Program

allocations provided the main difference between the two 1989-90 budgets. The other difference between the current budget and next year's final budget involves this year's income from pamphlet sales and program reserves, both related to publication and distribution of the new "Foundations of Baptist Heritage" pamphlet series this year.

Commissioners expressed frustration with the necessity of reducing the budget. Fred Rolater, a university professor from Murfreesboro, Tenn., blamed the Executive Committee, which has recommended that payment of the note on the four-year-old Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville be an off-the-top "priority item" for the 1989-90 Cooperative Program.

Noting commission employees will not get a pay raise, Rolater said payment of the building will come "out of the hides of the personnel of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Commissioners did not down-scale their proposal for the agency's 1990-91 budget, however. They approved a \$633,420 target, which will seek \$554,420 from the Cooperative Program — a 12.5 percent hike.

In other business, the commission:

- Re-elected Ronald F. Deering, librarian at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., as chairman.

C-N speakers set

JEFFERSON CITY — Congressman John J. Duncan Jr., Knoxville, will deliver the commencement at Carson-Newman College May 12. Approximately 225 seniors from 14 states will receive their diplomas in Burke-Tarr Stadium.

Honorary doctorates will be presented to Moncrief Jordan, pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, and Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga. Other commencement activities include a senior-alumni brunch at 10:30 a.m. in Stokely Memorial Cafeteria, a U.S. Army ROTC commissioning ceremony at 1 p.m. in Thomas Recital Hall, and a senior-faculty reception from 2-4 p.m. in Sarah Swann Hall.

One Word More

He was amazed at himself.

He really did not know what had happened. How did he get there? Surely there must be a logical explanation. Somebody help me, please, he must have thought.

Yes, it was a strange situation. My friend found himself in the center of a basketball court, with ten players looking at him in confusion. Right there in front of him was a referee — and he could see the other referee striding toward him.

My friend, ramrod straight at six feet, six inches, was looking down at the first referee, who was getting more angry by the minute.

While all five thousand spectators knew exactly what had happened, the painful realization of it slowly but surely became apparent to my friend.

As one who knew basketball game rules, he had watched the game intently for the first fifteen minutes. The action was fierce, the atmosphere was heated, the players stormed back and forth. It was a close game.

There was a collision at midcourt — and, in the eyes of my friend, the official made the wrong decision. The call went against the home team. Before he knew it, before anyone could attempt to stop him, my friend had scrambled from his seat, surged toward the court, vaulted the benches which formed the last barrier, and planted himself squarely in front of the official.

He proceeded to quote chapter and verse of the appropriate rule, and informed the referee of his colossal blunder.

There was applause, some "boos," and much laughter when the spectators saw that the referee was

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

capable of handling the situation. My friend melted down to about one foot high as the referee informed him to remove himself from the floor — and not to budge an inch from his seat for the rest of the game.

What a transformation! From a towering enforcer of rules to a meek little lamb — he changed. A few nights later, at the next game, he came with his wife — and a short rope tied around his waist. "He deserves this," she said.

He had acted on impulse. He saw something happening which he thought was wrong — and he took quick action.

I'm not going to say he made a mistake, nor will I say that he took action without thinking. That much is evident. But he was so sure he was right that he disregarded the rules of the game. He forgot, for a tense moment, that the men in striped shirts — the officials — were selected to interpret the rules as the game was played, and theirs was the responsibility to maintain order and dignity. They were appointed to make the decisions regarding the safety and welfare of the players.

We are like my friend at times. We step into another person's life, or another group's planning and actions, and righteously proclaim our superior knowledge.

Jesus spoke to this kind of behavior when He reminded us to disengage the logs from our eyes before we attempt to point out the speck in the eyes of others.

My friend never ventured beyond the court boundaries after that awful moment. He felt free to shout his opinions — without being uncouth — but he let the referees make the decisions.

Life is going to be better for Christians when we learn that we are family — and should act as though Christ is the center of our family. He really is, you know.



ALLEN

FMB appoints five missionaries with Tennessee ties

Five people with ties to Tennessee were named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. A total of 50 missionaries were chosen.

F. Geraldine Bowen will be a missionary associate to Gaza, where she will teach nursing courses and participate in other outreach ministries.

Born in Cross Roads, S. C., Bowen has been a nursing supervisor and intensive care unit staff nurse at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Memphis since 1982.

Bowen holds several professional degrees. She graduated from Blue Mountain (Miss.) College with a bachelor's degree; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas with a bachelor of divinity degree; Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis with a diploma; and Emory University School of Nursing in Atlanta with a master of nursing degree.

A member of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Bowen will go to Rockville, Va., for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field in 1990.

Richard and Lesa Bray will serve in Chile where he will start and develop churches.

Born in Memphis, Bray has been pastor of Highland Church in

Gary Williams joins

Madison-Chester Association

Madison-Chester/Crockett Associations have called Gary Williams as director of education and promotion beginning June 15.

He currently is educational director

at First Church, Union City, where he has served since 1985. He also has served First Church, Bemis; Liberty Grove Church, Jackson; and Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis; and as a consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The native of Bells is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He will assist Director of Missions Herbert Higdon.



WILLIAMS

Bogalusa, La., since 1987. He received a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Mississippi and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently enrolled in the doctor of theology program at New Orleans Seminary.

Born in Jackson, Mrs. Bray has been a secretary at New Orleans Seminary and an insurance adjuster in Oxford, Miss. She has an associate of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Bray is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Ted Wimberly of Malden, Mo. Her father is the pastor of First Southern Church, Malden.

The Bray's have two children, Eryn Michelle and Lauren Elise.

Jerry and Elaine Gordon will live in Belize where they will start and develop churches.

Gordon attends Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and has been pastor of Kensington Avenue Church in Kansas City since 1985.



BOWEN



BRAYS



GORDONS

A native of Gibson County, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Gordon, Gordon received an associate's degree from Jackson State Community College and a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. He expects to receive his master of divinity degree from Midwestern Seminary in June.

Born in Crockett County, Tenn., Mrs.

Gordon received a bachelor's degree from Mid-America Nazarene College in Olathe, Kan., and also attended Union University in Jackson, and Jackson State Community College. She is the daughter of Lena Ward of Alamo and the late Hollis Ward.

The Gordons have two children, Jerry Hollis and Willard Taylor.

Boyce Bible School to offer classes for deaf ministers

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Boyce Bible School will become one of the first schools in the United States to teach theological courses in sign language when it initiates the program next fall.

Four classes will be offered with instructors presenting all lectures in sign, said David Q. Byrd, dean of the school, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary that provides ministerial training for people who have not earned college degrees.

While the school has sought to attract deaf students for about a decade, the relocation of Deaf Opportunity Out Reach from Houston to Louisville has given Boyce a renewed vision for educating deaf people for ministry, Byrd said.

Deaf Opportunity Out Reach is composed of Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers working under the auspices of the denomination's Home Mission Board. Members travel across the country, doing evangelistic work among the deaf, helping to start deaf congregations, and supporting existing deaf work. Director Vesta Bice said a "good number" of the 25 team members will enroll at Boyce.

Only one other school, an Assemblies of God-sponsored college in Michigan,

teaches ministry training courses in sign language, Bice said.

The relocation of Deaf Opportunity Out Reach to Louisville poses a "ripe opportunity" for Boyce to pioneer in ministerial training for deaf people, Byrd said. Initially classes will be taught by hearing people proficient in sign language. However, he said he hopes qualified deaf instructors eventually can be secured to teach the

classes.

Deaf teachers are better equipped to teach deaf students, because they are more familiar with the deaf culture and the nuances of sign language, Bice said. Deaf students will benefit from the role models of deaf instructors, she added, noting, "When deaf persons teach, they are not just communicating, but they are saying to the students 'you can do this.'"

Causey chosen as Mississippi executive

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — William W. "Bill" Causey, pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, was elected executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board April 21.

The unanimous choice of the board's executive committee which served as search committee, Causey was elected unanimously during the called board meeting.

He replaces Earl Kelly who retires in August after nearly 15 years as chief executive officer of the administrative arm of Southern Baptists in Mississippi. Causey is slated to become executive director-treasurer-elect July 1 and will take office Aug. 16.

Causey, who will be 58 in May, has been pastor of Parkway Church since 1963. Prior to that, he was pastor of

Poplar Springs Drive Church, in Meridian, Miss., and from 1955 to 1957, he was assistant pastor at Parkway.

A native of Greenville, Miss., Causey is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Causey was president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, from 1979 to 1981. He has been a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson and Southern Seminary.

The search committee had asked publicly for recommendations, and Causey was chosen from 45 nominees.

Gene Dobbs, pastor of First Church, Philadelphia, Miss., and chairman of the search committee told board members that Causey is "a traditional, mainstream, committed Southern Baptist."



TENNESSEE WRITERS — Four writers from Tennessee attended the 1989 writers conference at Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham. Standing left to right are Carolyn Tomlin, Jackson, and K. Maynard Head, Cumberland Gap. Seated are Crea Ridenour, Knoxville, and June McEwen, Chattanooga. They joined more than 60 writers to receive training to write WMU materials for 1990-91.

Year of the Laity

Clarence DeVault • Cedar Ford Church • Luttrell

Clarence DeVault has been a member of Cedar Ford Church in Luttrell for 58 years. A retired auto mechanic, he has served as a deacon for 21 years. DeVault discusses the role of a deacon.

"A deacon should support and help the pastor any way he can. His role otherwise is maintaining unity and fellowship in the church.

"I have enjoyed being a deacon and fulfilling the Lord's will. It has not always been pleasant because the deacon ministry has its ups and downs just like other aspects of our lives.

"But in the end, we'll win the victory if we live and walk as we should."

— 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.

TenneScene

On the TenneScene... we have Baptists nearby Sailors Rest, Pressman's Home, and Newcastle ...

Churches ...

Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga, celebrated its 75th anniversary April 23 with a picnic dinner on the church grounds.

Manley Church, Morristown, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at West High School sponsored a concert April 15 featuring Paul Smith, formerly of the "Imperials," and Jim Channell from "Christian Countdown America."

Central Church, Johnson City, held a Whole Life Festival April 21-27. The event included a 5K run, a fun walk, a wellness fair, golfing, aerobics, volleyball, a cookout, seminars, concerts, and messages. David W. Crocker is the pastor.

Tom Lester, formerly "Eb" the hired hand on the CBS television series Green Acres, was the guest speaker April 23 at the evening service at North Knoxville Church, Knoxville.

First Church, Clarksville, held a "Disciple Now Weekend" April 27-30. The youth training program included youth leaders speaking to 6-12th graders about "The Priority of the Family" and "Am I a Part of the Problem or the Solution?" The pastor is C. Dennis Newkirk.

Ron and Bob Alley were in concert at Bell Road Church, Nashville, April 30. The Alleys performed during the morning worship service and at a mini-concert during an afternoon celebration on the grounds, which was held to recognize the church's program to build a new educational facility.

Missions ...

First Church, Millington, is saving labels and cartons from products distributed by Malone and Hyde and Piggly Wiggly to aid in a program to give cash to the Children's Home near Memphis. The church is also saving labels and cartons from Campbell's Soup products in a similar program to help provide sports equipment and meet other needs in the Children's Home Activities Building.

Two students who attend Calvary Church, Knoxville, have been selected to serve as summer missionaries through the Baptist Student Union and Tennessee Baptist Convention. They are Regina Adams, who will serve in Canada, and Trevor Martin, who will serve in the Philippines. In addition, Karl Troyer was appointed a

Oakhaven calls pastor

Oakhaven Church, Memphis, has called Bob Mackey as pastor.

Before coming to Memphis, Mackey was pastor of the Star Hope Church in Ellsberry, Mo. He earned a bachelor of theology degree at Hannibal-LaGrange College and a master of divinity degree at Mid-America Theological Seminary, Memphis.

Mackey and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, Matthew, Jonathan, and Alicia.

journeyman through the Foreign Mission Board and will serve in Mali, W. Africa.

Ronell Owensby, pastor of First Church, Rogersville, led a group from the Holston Valley Association on a mission trip to Venezuela in April to assist in building a church, personal witnessing and conducting a revival. Others who traveled to Venezuela included people from Hickory Cove Church, Rogersville, and Choptack Church, Rogersville.

Leadership ...

Concord Church, Chattanooga, recently elected six new deacons. They are Hugh Gardner, Tom Carmichael, Gene Boon, Owen Maddox, Virgil Adkins, and Jim Large.

Glynn Clark, Scotty Dean, Marshall Helm, Debbie Maxwell, Bob Patton Sr., Raymond Rigdon, Marilyn Shadinger, Steve Tate, and Mark Vick were recently elected as deacons at Immanuel Church, Nashville. Charles Businaro was elected chairman; George Ingram, vice-president; and Betty Kay Wasserman, secretary.

University Church, Johnson City, recently chose Tim Dunn, Don Schenck, and J. M. Whitson as deacons.

Bartlett Church, Bartlett, has called Nicky McCreary as associate pastor of students. Brenda Steinman as children's director, and Vicki Purifoy as preschool director.

North Jackson Church, Jackson, has called Perry Pratt as minister of education and youth.

Mt. Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, has called Gary and Anita Bohn as youth directors.

After 30 years of service as a bivocational pastor, John Tinsley, pastor of Beaver Church, Brighton, has announced his retirement effective May 14. He was licensed to the ministry in 1959 by Ardmore Church, Memphis.



GROUND BREAKING HELD—A groundbreaking ceremony was held April 2 for the Weakley County Association Mission Center building in Dresden. Construction is scheduled to begin this month. The building, to be paid for by contributions from the churches, also will be built with paid and volunteer labor. From left are members of the building committee: Derrell Cothran, Ray Stover, Bob Copeland, chairman, Richard Skidmore, director of missions, Billy Powell, Willie Perry, and Wayne Perkins, pastor of Bethel Church, Greenfield, and moderator of the association.

Ordinations ...

Antioch Church, Johnson City, recently ordained as deacons David Watts, David Beverage, Bobby Harrell, Dwight Harrell, and Alan Lyle. Ernest Foster and Claude Duncan were installed as deacons.

George Graves, Joe Warren, and Fred Warrington were ordained as deacons at the Eldad Church, Trenton.

Revivals ...

Several member churches of the Weakley County Association held revivals during the month of April. Churches and revival leaders were: Bible Union Church, Martin, featuring a different speaker nightly; Sidonia Church, Sharon, Bobby Robertson; Sharon First, Sharon, Clyde Tilley; Southside Church, Martin, Jack Bettis; West Union Church, Dresden, Dennis Beal; Eastside Church, Martin, Roy Auvenshine; New Salem Church, Dukedom, Terry Griffin; Mack's Grove, Dresden, youth.

The Beech River Association reported two revivals during April. They were held at Mt. Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, and Flatwoods Church, Holladay. A revival will be held May 7-12 at Salem Church, Parsons, with Larry Lewis speaking.

Park Avenue Church, Nashville, held a revival April 23-26. Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Church, Huntsville, Ala., spoke.

Several member churches of the Stone Association held revivals during April. The churches and revival leaders are listed. Wilhite Church, Cookeville, Perry Purtle; First Church, Cookeville, Charles Page; and Mill Creek, Monterey, Perry Purtle.

Block Springs Church, Blaine, held a revival April 23-28. Alvin Tallent was the speaker.

First Church, Lawrenceburg, held revival services April 23-26. Glenn Sheppard was speaker and Bill Rutledge was music director.

First Church, Dandridge, held a revival April 23-26 with speaker Howard Olive and music director David Jenkins.

Maury Association reported two revivals during April. Churches and revival leaders are listed. Hampshire Church, Hampshire, Larry McEwen; and Northside Church, Columbia, Steve Fehrman.

Highland Heights Church, Memphis, held spring revival April 23-26 with D. L. Lowrie speaking and Dick Hill directing music.

Graceland Church, Memphis, held revival services April 23-26 with Ronnie Mitchell speaking and Tommy Lane directing music.

Daysville Church, Rockwood, held a revival April 19-23 with Bucky Kerr speaking.

The Lawrence County Association reported several revivals during April. Churches and revival leaders are listed. Barnesville Church, Summer-town, Jim Ledbetter; Bonnetown Church, Five Points, Tommy Graves, Bremen, Ala.; Liberty Grove Church, Loretto, different speakers each day; Macedonia Church, Lawrenceburg, Vann Kissell; and Oak Hill Church, Leoma. Other Lawrence County Association churches will hold revival services in May: Beech Grove Church, Lawrenceburg, Jerry Flippo; Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg, Clarence Stewart, James Wilson; and O. K. Church, Lawrenceburg, Chuck McAlister, and John Burket.

Colleges ...

James Baggett has been named dean of the college of arts and sciences at Union University. Baggett has been associate vice president for academic affairs, dean of the school of humanities and on the history and political science faculty since 1977.

Phyllis N. Driver has been named chair of the division of business and economics at Carson-Newman College. Driver formerly taught courses in computer programming and designed and implemented inventory control systems for retail stores. Before coming to Carson-Newman in 1978, she taught elementary accounting and cost accounting at the University of Tennessee.

Knox County Association seeks education worker

The position of director of education and promotion at the Knox County Association of Baptists is vacant and recommendations for the position are now being accepted, said Knox County Association Director of Missions Walter Taylor.

"We will be accepting recommendations for the director of education and promotion position until June 1," Taylor said. All recommendations must be submitted in writing to Larry Beeler, FBC, Fountain City, 2801 Holbrook Drive, Knoxville, Tenn. 37918.

Teaching the Gospel in Ephesus

By H. K. Sorrell, retired; Brownsville

Paul began all of his missionary journeys from Antioch in Syria. But he would never return to the city where they were first called Christians. His fourth journey would be his voyage to Rome as a prisoner.

Paul's third tour of duty would be spent mostly in Ephesus. There was a need in Ephesus for indoctrination. There was a need for indoctrination on the part of:

Apollos (18:23-28)

At the close of the second journey, Paul had left

Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus. While they were there, a young Jewish man who had been born in Alexandria, Egypt, arrived.

He was an eloquent and enthusiastic preacher but as some would say, "He was wet behind the ears." He knew some of the Gospel facts but not all. Though he spoke diligently from all the divine revelation that he knew, it is recorded that he knew nothing of Christian baptism, only the baptism of John. In his earlier days, Apollos could have fallen under the influence of one of John's disciples who had come to Alexandria from Judea.

You can't fault a man who is doing the best he can with the knowledge that he has, but God saw to it that his



SORRELL

knowledge of the Scripture was perfected. It was no accident that Apollos was led to Ephesus. When Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos speak in the synagogue, they perceived that he needed further indoctrination in the faith.

In order not to embarrass the young man before others, they invited him into their home where they could politely share a more complete revelation. Apollos is to be commended; he didn't possess that "I know it all" attitude and spirit. He gladly listened to their instruction and, as a result, became an even more forceful preacher. For when he left Ephesus, the congregation did not hesitate to give him a strong letter of recommendation to the church at Corinth.

The twelve (19:1-7)

After Apollos left for Corinth, Paul arrived in Ephesus. He soon encountered 12 disciples of John the Baptist who were even more deficient in knowledge than Apollos. In fact, some believe that these 12 could have been the imperfect results of Apollos' preaching.

When Paul asked the men if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed, they replied that they didn't know what he was talking about; they had never heard of the Holy Spirit. When Paul examined their faith, he learned that they knew only of John's baptism.

Paul informed the men that "John

baptized with the baptism of repentance saying unto the people that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ." When the 12 heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. This was baptism, not re-baptism. There is a difference in being a supporter and being reborn.

When Paul laid his hands upon them, the evidence of the Spirit was seen for they began talking in a language other than their own. They began preaching with tremendous inspiration and power. We do not know where they came from or where they went.

There was a need for indoctrination on the part of:

The superstitious (19:8-20)

The Jews in Ephesus endured Paul's preaching longer than any other place. They allowed him to remain in the synagogue for three months before

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

May 7 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 18:23-19:41
Focal Passages: Acts 18:23-19:41

some of them became hardened.

The Apostle withdrew to the "school of Tyrannus." During his two years in the schoolhouse, the Gospel was heard by all who dwelt in Asia, for God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul.

Some of the superstitious Ephesians

picked up Paul's handkerchiefs, or sweatcloths, and his aprons that he had left at his bench and took them to the ill, supposing there was therapeutic value in the cloth. These folks remind one of the people who brought their ill out on the streets so Peter's shadow could fall on them. But God honored their faith and healed those who were ill and demon possessed. Paul was anxious for the people to know that God had worked the miracles and not he.

This inspired the seven sons of Scena, a chief priest, to imitate Paul. These Jewish exorcists sought to use the name of Jesus, whom Paul preached, to drive the demons out of a man. The unclean spirit challenged the spiritual racketeers and gave them a sound beating. Yes, God uses various instruments but all healing is from Him.

There was need for indoctrination on the part of:

The idolaters (19:21-41)

Since Ephesus was the site of the great temple of the Greek goddess, Artemis (Diana), there was much idolatry. The temple was one of the seven wonders of the world and brought thousands of pilgrims to the city. The sale of small replicas of the idol had become a lucrative business. As the church grew and the Gospel cut into the idolatry business, a confrontation was inevitable.

Peace with God and one another

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

There must have been an undercurrent rumbling its way through the Ephesian church for Paul to have spoken so pointedly to the issue of commonality and fellowship in Ephesians 2. Suppose, through an inheritance, you became fabulously wealthy overnight. Immediately, or at least after the initial shock, there would be the realization that something good had happened to you. In time there also would come the understanding that with such



BAILEY

wealth comes an appropriate responsibility or stewardship. Would you forget about the people who once were close? What about your lifestyle? Would you get out of the old neighborhood and try to forget the way it used to be? Would there be a new set of wealthy friends ("your kind of people")? And how would you be accepted by them? Would they resent your intrusion on their society, the only common ground being your bank account, with which you had nothing to do? Interesting questions, but questions very much like the Jewish and Gentile Christians faced in their new relationship with one another through the common ground of their new found wealth — Jesus Christ.

Paul understood that the believers in Ephesus were united in their position — new wealth through an inheritance, yet divided according to their disposition, background, and culture. So in

order to reconcile their differences, he begins by reminding them of some things they shared in common, the first being their common problem — sin. The "you" (Gentiles) in verses 1-2 and the "we too" (Jews) in verse 3 are all dead in sins, enslaved by the world, and empowered by Satan. God, however, rich in mercy and great in love, has taken the "you" and the "we too," and together they become the "us" of verses 4-7 in Christ Jesus.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

May 7 Lesson

Basic Passage: Ephesians
Focal Passage: Ephesians

So now, our common problem, sin, has been dealt with by our common Savior — Jesus Christ! His common method — grace through faith (vv. 8-9) launches us in our earthly experience toward a common goal — good works, that would glorify God, the Author and Finisher of this reconciliation. Just as any monetary inheritance is someone's gift to you and all you have to do is receive it, so salvation is God's grace gift to those who by faith will receive Jesus Christ. And the stewardship responsibility it not only implies but commands is a godly lifestyle that issues forth in good works. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, my soul, my all."

Verse 11 implies that probably "name calling" had crept into the fellowship at Ephesus. That's not a new problem, Baptists! Paul isn't designating the Gentiles as second-class Christians in verse 12, but rather reminding them, as well as the Jews

who had enjoyed a privileged status as God's chosen, of the universality of sin and the lossness of all mankind apart from the Gospel." (Ackland) "But now" in verse 13 parallels the reconciling work of God in the "But God" of verse 3.

When Christ died on the cross, He broke down every barrier that stood between Jews and Gentiles — the physical wall of the temple that segregated the Gentiles, the spiritual wall that kept them distanced (v. 13), and the legal wall of the Law that kept them condemned (vv. 14-15). Now Jew and Gentile are made "one new man" (v. 15), a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), by the work of Christ on the cross. Like two pianos, tuned to the same tuning fork, are likewise in tune with one another; so two men, in harmony with God by Jesus Christ are in harmony with one another, and have

Doctrines conference set

Wrigley Church, Lyles, in cooperation with Alpha Association's Discipleship Training Department, will host a Baptist Doctrine Conference May 8-12, 7 p.m. each night.

The conference is based on the book *Doctrines Baptists Believe*, by Roy Edgemon.

Guest speakers include Thomas Mattox, pastor of Summertown Church, Summertown; Charles Livengood, Alpha Association's director of missions; Carroll Owen, of Belmont College's School of Biblical Studies;

Marvin Sutor, Discipleship Training Department director, Alpha; and Don McCoy, pastor of First Church, Dickson.

constant access to the Father, not through some door in some temple, but through the Holy Spirit of God Himself (v. 18).

In verses 19-22 Paul tells us of our common fellowship. Not only are we fellow citizens of the same heavenly kingdom, but fellow brothers and sisters of the same heavenly family — the family of God (v. 19). In verses 20-22 Paul describes this kingdom, this family, as a building, "a holy temple." "Now the Gentiles, who once were excluded from the earthly Temple, as well as the Jews who had excluded them have become, themselves, the very dwelling place of God." (Ackland) A dwelling place established by the preaching of the Gospel by the apostles and the prophets, (v. 20) whose cornerstone and security is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again, if those two pianos are in tune with the same standard, they are, not can be or should be, but are in tune with one another. Are you out of fellowship with another believer? You probably need to pick up God's tuning fork, the Bible, and check yourself out.

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God rewards loyal service

By Pat Fife, pastor; English Creek Church, Newport

Twelve spies entered the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:1-16). All 12 men returned with glowing reports of the land which was to be inherited. However, only Joshua and Caleb spoke favorably concerning Israel's ability to overpower and conquer the residents thereof (Numbers 14:6ff).

The Israelites, as you know, rejected the urging of Joshua and Caleb — and suffered the consequences. Joshua and Caleb, on the other hand, received the blessings of God for their faithfulness.



FIFE

The passage at hand focuses upon the reward which Caleb received, and to him our attention is now turned.

Numbers 14:24 identifies the promised reward for Caleb; it is repeated here, v. 6. Before we examine this promise, perhaps we would do well to consider it from the point of view of the modern reader. In Hastings' Il-

lustrations, Robert Hastings shares an episode from the life of the late George Bernard Shaw.

"Shaw was being interviewed by a reporter who asked, 'Mr. Shaw, you have known some of the greatest men of our time: statesmen, artists, philosophers, writers, and musicians. You've now outlived most of them. Suppose it were possible for you to call back one of these great minds — which one would it be? What man do you miss the most?' Without hesitation the biting satirist answered, 'The man I miss the most is the man I used to be.'"

Do you not believe Caleb could have responded in the same manner to his promise? The promise to inherit his special portion of Canaan was made to him when he was only 40 years of age, in the prime of his life. Forty-five years later the promise was still unfulfilled! It is possible that Caleb may have almost relinquished the hope of his own land. (You know he must have remembered how Moses was allowed only to view and never to enter that same land).

We do need to recognize, however, that Caleb never became impatient. Even at age 85 he was prepared to receive his reward from God with a grateful heart.

So many of us would probably have

said, "It's about time!" or "What took you so long?" Caleb, to the contrary, simply spoke, "I wholly followed the Lord, my God," v. 8. He rejoiced in the receiving of "his mountain," v. 12.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

May 7 Lesson

Basic Passage: Joshua 14:6-15:19
Focal Passages: Joshua 14:6, 9-14

His reward from God was granted not only as the fulfillment of the promise of God, but also as a result of Caleb's continued faithfulness. "Because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God," v. 9b. For those additional 45 years Caleb also had been found faithful.

Perhaps because of his righteousness and faithfulness his strength had not failed him. "As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me," v. 11. The truth of this statement enables one to recognize Caleb was a unique — and youthful — 85 years young.

In addition, his drive, determination, and ambition were just as great as they had been. God granted Caleb his mountain. There was only one catch. It had not yet been captured. Hebron, Caleb's promised mountain, was a hostile and unconquered city. How much of a reward would you consider that to be?

Caleb, however, was excited. He claimed his promise! He drove out the inhabitants of Hebron (15:13-17). The 85 year-old man saw God's promise fulfilled. He also was willing to continue to obey the Lord, go to battle, and to settle a foreign land. For Caleb,

no change was too great, no task too difficult, for him to forsake being wholly committed to the Lord, his God.

Albert Bean, in the Life and Work Lesson Annual, has an interesting observation. "The importance of Caleb's receiving land as an inheritance must not be underestimated. The land promised to Caleb was south of Jerusalem and Bethlehem and west of the Dead Sea. This land belonged to an area designated Judah. At the time of the Israelite conquest, Hebron was already an important city. In time, the city would become important for Israel. Much later, David would be made king over the tribe of Judah and would rule in Hebron for over seven years," (2 Samuel 2:1-4).

To summarize this week's session we should note Caleb's faithfulness (with Joshua) even in the face of overwhelming opposition. We should also recognize that the next 45 years, filled with wandering in the wilderness and attempting to conquer Canaan, found Caleb just as committed to the Lord as he had been when he first entered the Promised Land as a spy. Finally, his fulfilled promise was not only a blessing for himself, it also was a blessing for all of Israel for centuries to come.

We so often understand blessings to be what we receive for ourselves. We also tend to evaluate our blessings based upon their material value. Most of our blessings, it is my contention, are not material, but spiritual.

Who can put a monetary value on the church which a missionary founds in a foreign land where the name of Christ has seldom, if ever, been heard? What material value is there for the one who was saved when a Sunday School teacher went out of his/her way to offer a witness for Christ?

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

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Thomas offers testimony on child-care proposals

WASHINGTON — For constitutional purposes, the tax code provides a better mechanism for assisting parents whose children attend church child-care centers than federal subsidies, a Baptist attorney said. Any child-care program that provides grants and contracts to churches and other pervasively sectarian institutions is constitutionally suspect, said Oliver S. Thomas, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel, in written testimony to the Senate Finance and House Education and Labor committees.

He cited a 1988 Supreme Court decision that involved a federally funded program of education and social welfare services. In *Bowen v. Kendrick*, Thomas said, the high court held institutions that are merely religiously affiliated — such as colleges, universities, community centers, and church charities — are eligible to participate on an equal basis with their non-sectarian counterparts. But pervasively sectarian institutions — such as churches, synagogues, and parochial schools — were held to be disqualified from participating, he added.

"The BJC questions the validity of any federal child-care program that provides grants and contracts to pervasively sectarian institutions," Thomas said. "In addition to containing potentially insurmountable constitutional problems, such an approach seems to be extraordinarily poor public policy."

"Congress, understandably, may wish to assist parents whose children, by choice or necessity, will attend church child-care centers; but government subsidies to those centers are not the answer. To the contrary, churches will be enticed into 'secularizing' their child-care programs and submitting to significant governmental regulation in order to serve the poor more effectively."

Citing a resolution on institutional child care approved by the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention, Thomas said a better approach would be to limit grants and contracts to non-sectarian institutions and then provide whatever assistance would go to families utilizing religious childcare providers through the tax code.

Officials suspect arson in Grand Canyon blaze

PHOENIX, Ariz. — An arson-caused fire resulted in \$125,000 damage to a Grand Canyon College men's dormitory and forced the evacuation of 29 students April 13.

One student was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and released later that morning, while the other residents escaped unharmed from the early-morning blaze at the Phoenix, Ariz., Baptist school.

The fire, which was reported shortly after 3 a.m., was the dorm's third this semester. Fires in the building's storage room Feb. 7 and 8 resulted in only

minor damage, according to reports from the college. Arson also is suspected in the Feb. 8 fire, said Phoenix Fire Department Investigator Joe Perkins.

Campers to rally, work in Las Vegas

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist Campers on Mission will gather in Las Vegas, Nev., for a regional rally and mission projects prior to the denomination's annual meeting June 13-15.

Carl Reagan, Campers on Mission specialist with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said campers will do construction work for at least three churches, assist with "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals, and participate in the one-day witnessing blitz planned by the board June 10.

Campers on Mission is a national organization to promote mission action among Southern Baptist campers of all ages. Although most Southern states have active chapters, few Western states have organized chapters, Reagan said.

RV space reservations for Las Vegas should be made with Shirley Cramer at Sam's Town RV Park, (800) 634-6371, Reagan said. Southern Baptist campers will receive a special rate of \$5 per night. Information about the ministry projects is available from state Campers on Mission leadership or from the Home Mission Board's volunteer division.

Louisianians lead Koreans in lay evangelism training

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Louisiana Baptist volunteers have participated in five Lay Evangelism Schools in the past year as part of their partnership with Korea Baptists. More than 2350 people have been trained in witnessing methods, said Calvin Cantrell, Louisiana associate evangelism director.

In addition, 1739 professions of faith in Christ were reported as the result of evangelistic services that followed the schools, Cantrell said. More than 90 Louisiana volunteers participated in five events beginning in March 1988.

The most recent visit was made Feb. 19-26, when Louisiana teams directed training in ten Korean Baptist churches, certifying pastors and laypeople as Lay Evangelism School teachers in their churches. More than 730 people were certified, including 639 pastors, Cantrell reported.

Each team led training sessions, shared in witnessing efforts and held evangelistic services in two churches on each trip to South Korea, he said.

The training prepared Korean Baptists for their centennial crusades, to be held May 14-21, with more than 150 Southern Baptist volunteers serving as team members, said Charles Lowry, director of the Louisiana Baptist church programs division and partnership coordinator.

"Korean Christians are meeting all over Korea to pray and plan for the revivals scheduled in May," said Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Mark Short. "Prospects are being located and cultivated for an evangelistic harvest. Koreans say they will have 600 revivals in May and another 400 in late summer."

Teams for the centennial crusade will have a pastor/evangelist and as many as four laypersons to assist with evangelistic witnessing, said Lowry.

Lewis challenges leaders to 'destroy' church-starting myths

ATLANTA (BP) — Pastors and missions leaders must destroy the "myths" that keep Southern Baptists from starting new churches, said Larry Lewis, president of the denominations's Home Mission Board.

During this year's annual meeting of state church extension directors, Lewis called on the group to take the lead in destroying these myths. And in a later interview, he expanded the charge to all Southern Baptist pastors, asking them to become "new-work minded."

Lewis identified five myths he believes stand in the way of church starting. First is the myth that too many struggling churches already exist, he said.

"There are indeed too many struggling churches," Lewis said. "When 67 percent of our churches are plateaued or declining, we're not doing our job."

"But I submit that starting new churches is not one of the reasons they are declining. I doubt there are many places you could document that a

church is in decline because there were too many churches started there."

The second myth Lewis attacked is that starting new work will hurt finances of existing churches.

He cited Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given unto you."

"I contend that is a promise for the church as well as the individual," Lewis said. "I think there is a curse on the church that is constantly selfish and self-directed. But I think there's a

blessing on the church that gives itself.

He suggested churches should tithe their members to new churches in the same way individuals tithe their incomes to the church. From his own experience as a pastor, Lewis said, this principle always helped strengthen his own church.

Third, Lewis attacked the myth that some churches are not able to start missions.

"There's no church too small or too big to be at the task of starting a new work," he said. "In fact, if there's a real excitement in anything a church does, I think it's being part of starting a new church."

"I have an idea that more churches are started by small churches than by big churches."

The fourth myth is that new churches must start with land and a building in a middle class suburb, Lewis said.

"One of the most common faults in church planting is to buy land and build a building too soon," he said, explaining that such a mistake can forever hinder a church because of bad location or too little space.

Finally, Lewis said, many people think they cannot start a new congregation without help from the Home Mission Board.

"This myth implies that we are dependent upon an agency, not on God," he said. "I contend that if God is in it, God will supply."

The strength of Southern Baptist growth has been the autonomy of local churches as church starters, Lewis said.

Korean-American pastors celebrate Easter

By Jim Burton
PYONGYANG, North Korea (BP) — Fourteen Korean-American Southern Baptist pastors witnessed North Korea's first celebration of Easter in 43 years in this city which was once called the "Jerusalem of the East."

The communist government of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea allowed the Southern Baptist delegation to hold a private worship service at Chang Gwang San Hotel before they attended official services at Bongsoo Church, the only Protestant church building in North Korea.

"From the beginning to the end it was a tear jerker to know that for 43 years they have not celebrated the risen Savior," said Dan Moon, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board consultant for Korean church growth and church-planting and director of ethnic Brotherhood Commission programs.

The historic visit represents the first time an evangelical delegation has

been invited into the communist country of approximately 20 million people.

Don M. Kim, pastor of Berendo Street Church, Los Angeles, preached the Easter message at the hotel. Won Ki (Jamie) Kim, pastor of Korean Church, Washington, D.C., presided at the service.

According to Moon, the pastors were joined by about 11 other American and Canadian Koreans who were in Pyongyang on other business. "After worship everyone exploded into tears," said Moon, whose office is at the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

The delegation was then taken to Bongsoo Church which was completed in late 1988. With reporters from the Soviet news agency Tass, the Chinese news agency Xinhua (pronounced Shin-wa), and the North Korean newspaper Roh Dong Press, the Southern Baptist pastors were joined by North Korean citizens and government officials.

Also in attendance was Ik-hwan

Moon, a South Korean Presbyterian minister and dissident whose visit was unauthorized by the South Korean government. Ik-hwan Moon was arrested April 13 when he returned to Seoul.

"Most people seemed to be at a distance from us," observed Dan Moon, who speculated that most of the people were invited by the government to attend. Moon, who led in prayer during the service, said there was evidence of several committed Christians in the congregation and noted seeing one elderly woman who had memorized Scripture and songs.

The service was led by Lee Sung Bong, pastor of the state-sanctioned non-denominational Bongsoo Church, and included the Lord's Supper. "When I held the cup I trembled," said Moon. "I asked the Lord to cover the whole church and its people with His blood. When I took the bread I could see the reality of the broken body among us."