

Baptist and Reflector

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NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

18,500 SBC messengers expected for Las Vegas

By Dan Martin

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — About 18,500 messengers will register for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-15, in Las Vegas, Nev., according to projections by SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter.

Porter, of Nashville, said: "I anticipate about 18,000 to 18,500 messengers will register. I cannot conceive registration will go over 20,000, but would not be surprised if it drops to near 15,000."

He bases his projections on the "long distance to Las Vegas" from many of the centers of Southern Baptist population, including Southern and East Coast states that normally have high attendance at annual meetings. "I also do not sense any excitement about going to Las Vegas," he said. "Therefore, I think attendance will be down."

The largest convention in the history of the SBC was Dallas in 1985, when 45,519 messengers registered. Another Texas convention — 1988 in San Antonio — drew significantly less registration, 32,727.

Much of the drop, Porter said, was because Texas and surrounding states — New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana — did not turn out the large numbers to San Antonio. Part of the reason, he said, is the Dallas convention was swelled because many

churches are within 200 miles of the city, increasing the one-day, drive-in vote.

"We will not have many messengers drive in for one day in Las Vegas, simply because there are not that many churches within easy driving distance," he said.

He also noted five Southeastern states — North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee — had significant registration in the 1985 and 1988 conventions. But, he said, "because Las Vegas is far from the Eastern seaboard, there is a significant question about how many will come from the five states."

Porter, who has the responsibility to register and oversee balloting and vote counting at the annual meeting, said registration will open in Meeting Rooms 1-4 of the Las Vegas Convention Center at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 11, and continue until about 10 p.m.

During the remainder of the week, registration will open at 8 a.m. and close about 10 p.m., except on the last day of the annual meeting, when it will close when demand ceases.

"The best time to register will be a couple of hours after opening," he said. "I urge messengers not to stand in line prior to the opening time. If they will come a bit later, they can

(See page 5)



CONVENTION HOST — Las Vegas Convention Center will be the site of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting when it convenes in the Nevada city June 13-15. Between 15,000 and 20,000 Southern Baptists are expected to attend the event.

April CP giving increases

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's combined ministry budget continued its roller coaster ride in April.

The SBC Cooperative Program received \$13,293,877 in April, a gain of 33.2 percent over April 1988, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

"For the first time this year, I am going to venture a projection of Cooperative Program receipts," Bennett said. "It is an optimistic forecast. If the trend continues — which I expect — I believe we will receive approximately \$140 million. This would mean that we would reach the basic budget goal of \$137.61 million and have more than \$2 million for capital needs. I would be greatly pleased.

"My prayer is that God will continue to bless Southern Baptists and that we will be faithful in giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program."

The April receipts were the third-

best monthly total in the Cooperative Program's 64-year history. They were almost \$4 million more than March receipts, which were among the worst in the past five years.

Since the current fiscal year began last October, Cooperative Program monthly totals have dropped below totals for the same months the previous year four out of seven times. However, this fiscal year's budget boasts two of the three best single-month totals, and January-February was the best two-month combination ever.

April's income brought year-to-date receipts to \$81,361,763, Bennett said. That represents a gain of more than \$3.3 million over the same period last year, an increase of 4.25 percent.

SBC schedules on pages 6-7

House votes down gambling

Senate committee rejects bill

NASHVILLE — A Senate committee rejected a bill to stop race track gambling in Tennessee except in Memphis. The May 2 vote was a close 5-4, unlike the 73-19 House vote passing a similar bill.

The bills would repeal the state law allowing pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing except in Memphis, the only city in the state which approved pari-mutuel gambling by referendum as required in the current state law.

"We are just one vote away ... from allowing the Senate to express its will," reported Frank Ingraham of Tennesseans Against Gambling and a member of First Church, Franklin.

"We're terribly disappointed that Joe McKnight of Jackson and Bob Rochelle of Lebanon voted with those who had long been associated with the gambling interests in Tennessee to deny the Senate the opportunity to vote on SB 524 which would eliminate pari-mutuel betting in the state except in Memphis."

"These Senators have often expressed support of the right of Ten-

nessee citizens to vote on this issue and surely they would not deny their fellow senators the same privilege."

Ingraham urged people to contact Rochelle at (office) 615-741-4109 or (home) 615-449-0818 and McKnight at (office) 615-741-4709 and (home) 901-424-2475 and encourage them to vote for SB 524. Rochelle and McKnight are members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee which rejected the bill.

Another bill which would eliminate pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing except in metropolitan areas of 700,000 or more may also be considered by a senate committee.

Senators on the State and Local Government Committee, which voted 5-4 to kill Senate Bill #524 are:

Avon Williams Jr., Nashville; Steve Cohen, Memphis; Ruth Montgomery, Kingsport; Don Arnold, Johnson City; John Ford, Memphis; Carl Koella, Townsend; Joe McKnight, Jackson; Robert Rochelle, Lebanon; Andy Womack, Murfreesboro.



ASSOCIATIONAL BUILDING DEDICATED — On May 7, members from the Lawrence County Association of Baptists dedicated their new associational office building in Leoma. The new facility contains 2660 square feet of space. Leslie Baumgartner, TBC missions department director, gave the dedication message. Two former directors of missions participated in the service — Frank Proffitt, now director of missions, Sevier County Association, Sevierville, and John Bolton, retired. From left are, Proffitt, Bolton, Director of Missions Bob Polk, Chris Gowen, moderator and pastor of Park Grove Church, Lawrenceburg, and Danny Lemay, a minister and chairman of the building committee.

—Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

Editorials

Mother — bravely, patiently, bearing her part

Joaquin Miller wrote that the greatest battle that ever was fought cannot be found in history books or on any of the best-made maps of the world.

He said the battle was not filled with sounds of cannon, or slashing swords — not even with the pen:

But deep in a walled-up woman's heart;
A woman that would not yield;
But bravely and patiently bore her part;
Lo! there is the battlefield.

The battles "last so long," he wrote, "from babyhood to the grave."

He is right. Mothers are the bravest soldiers, and the battles they wage for the lives and souls of their children are fought in many silent ways.

Sunday, May 14, is a special day, set aside for remembering mother. Don't make a fuss over me, mothers everywhere would say, almost universally. Don't make a fuss over me — they had just as soon bask in the glow of the child's growth and accomplishments.

Why, they had rather praise the wrapping paper and the clumsily-tied ribbon, than to receive some expensive present.

Of course there are exceptions. Every rule, each standard has an exception. Mothers, though, almost always are unselfish, caring, protective, loving to those to whom they gave birth.

For those whose mothers still love patiently and completely — we say remember them especially on Mother's Day. Give them yourself, make time for them, give them enduring moments.

And for those of us whose mothers are only memories — seek out the best of those golden hours and make them live again. Be the person she wanted you to be. And be the mother, father, brother, sister — that she taught you to be.

She waged war on a different kind of battlefield, not with cannons and swords. She put your interest first — she gave you food, shelter, love, Christian guidance — whatever she had that you needed — she gave.

The other part of Mother's Day is that Tennessee Baptists should participate in the Annual Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

The goal this season is \$875,000. It is attainable. Last year's goal of \$780,000 was

smashed, reaching a total of \$837,550. The generosity of Tennessee Baptists and their churches made this possible.

The offering accomplishes for hurt, lonely, and needy children the things that Christian homes and parents provide. Not all children have Christian homes — or parents.

But whatever the need, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes tries to give through the Mother's Day Offering, the Cooperative Program, and the touch of caring people.

It is sometimes said that children's homes, such as the TBCH, will always have money. The call for help is such a poignant call. It is true that many Baptists will answer the plea — even though children in desperate situations cannot speak for themselves.

It is also true that there will never be enough money for TBCH or any other Christlike plan unless Christians dig deeply and with generosity. Let's surpass the goal again, and give — yes, even \$1 million.

Those of us who were, or who are, blessed with Christian mothers who fought our battles with tough and tender tenacity — honor them as we help children today. God bless our mothers! — WFA

Let the Senate vote on the betting issue

There is much support in Tennessee for repeal of the current law that allows referenda for approval of pari-mutuel betting.

Four referenda in two years have turned horse race gambling. The Memphis referendum passed, thus pari-mutuel betting on horse racing is legal there.

Tennessee Baptists and others who banded against pari-mutuel betting were heartened last week when the Tennessee House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (78-19) to repeal, with Memphis being exempted.

The bill would have abolished horse race betting in Tennessee. But — hopes of those who worked to defeat betting were dashed just a few hours later, when they learned the Senate won't even be allowed to vote.

Though Gov. Ned McWherter still backs the repeal bill, proposed legislation was squelched by a vote of 5-4 as the Senate State and Local Government Committee refused to

give the Senate a voting opportunity.

The bill as approved by the House would have allowed Memphis two years to get a track approved by the State Racing Commission.

Leaders of Tennessee Citizens Against Gambling, including several Baptist leaders, have not given up. They say the Senate may yet get an opportunity to vote on a bill prohibiting pari-mutuel betting on horses.

The governor also said there is still hope. But it is important that opponents of pari-mutuel gambling make their views known to the Senate committee.

Another proposal in question is Senate Bill No. 455. It would allow referenda in counties where population is 700,000 or more — according to the 1980 or any subsequent federal census.

It is also possible that the original bill could be called out by a Senate vote, or by a

change in the committee's vote.

Representatives of the horse industry appeared before the Senate committee with an appeal to keep the bill from a Senate vote. The issue of gambling was not discussed.

We need to remember that raising or racing horses has not been the issue. Baptists and others involved in this long fight have been represented wrongly as people who are against the horse industry.

The matter of concern is gambling on horse racing. We believe that this is widely known — even in the Senate and House. But the argument always portrays Baptists as those people who are against the horse industry.

For both views (those against and for pari-mutuel betting) to be heard and voted — the matter should now go before the entire Senate. Anything less is not true representation of the voters. — WFA

How to preach to college students

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist churches that are failing to equip college students for witnessing and ministry may be missing one of their best opportunities to train a missionary force, the leader of Southern Baptist student ministry told a group of pastors.

Charles Johnson, director of the student ministry department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, told participants attending a conference on preaching to college students that students will be scattered throughout the world and can be missionaries if they are trained by their churches.

To see the potential impact of college students, church leaders need only to mark a map showing where college students who have been in their church in the last five years are located now.

"All segments of the congregation are important and should be trained in witnessing and ministry, but students will be in the church for only a few years before they go elsewhere for

more education or to begin their careers," Johnson pointed out.

Students can be trained through effective Sunday School programs and with specialized programs such as the Share seminar, a student ministry department witness training session designed for college students and student leaders, Johnson said.

"Too often churches focus special attention on students who plan to attend seminary. All students need the attention and special training to be witnesses, not just those who plan fulltime ministry roles," Johnson said.

Charlie Baker, pastor of Southern Hills Church, Tulsa, Okla., and a frequent speaker to student groups, said preaching that relates to life where students are, not where the pastor wants them to be, will be most effective.

"The uniqueness of preaching is its basis in the Bible. Preachers should not abandon that in their efforts to reach students or anyone else," said Baker.

To reach college students, preaching should be creative without going outside the expectations of the traditionalists in the congregation. Some congregations will be more flexible in allowing deviation from tradition than others, Baker pointed out.

The struggle to reach college students without alienating the rest of the congregation is caused by the different lifestyles represented by college students and older Southern Baptists, said Ircel Harrison, director of student ministry for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

College students generally are achievers, "I-am-me" and experiential sociological types, he explained. A large number of Southern Baptists are classified as belongers, an outer-directed social group much different from the inner-directed groups associated with college students.

"The church must decide whether it is developing a climate for belongers only or an open congregation that will reach wide-ranging types of people."

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Missions-minded McCluskey honored for 30 years' service

—Wallace Memorial Church

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, honored Pastor James McCluskey April 23.

He hadn't won any denominational or civic distinction on that particular occasion. The church family simply celebrated the 30th anniversary of the McCluskeys as pastor and pastor's family.

It isn't quite fair to say McCluskey is devoid of honors from "outside" groups — but the church really recognized him that Sunday evening for his accomplishments as church leader.

Bill Maples, staff writer for the Knoxville News-Sentinel, put it this way:

"If you want to talk about Biblical scholarship, his acumen is known throughout the South. If you want to talk about church leadership, his congregation is a panorama of people who want to do something and do it well.

"If you want to talk about officialdom, he has held about as many leadership posts as anyone in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Those who know him know all these things about James G. McCluskey, but when they think of him they remember the guy who teaches the children's church service with as much warmth and humor as he preaches the adult sermon with piercing logic. They know him as a person who puts a friendly smile and handshake at the top of his daily agenda."

The church averages more than 1000 in Sunday School and Sunday morning worship — but seating capabilities of the sanctuary were stretched on April 23.

The evening service was set aside for "roasting" Jim McCluskey. As he and Lib, his wife of 36 years sat on a sofa on the platform, various church members and family representatives reminisced about the McCluskeys' tenure as pastor and family at Wallace Memorial.

Speaking from the past were members of the pastor search committee, the first couple he married at Wallace Memorial, the first person

baptized, some church officers and leaders, and members of the McCluskey family. There were smiles and tears.

During the concluding portion of the program, the four McCluskey children with their spouses and the seven grandchildren, joined Jim and Lib McCluskey on the platform. A reception followed the recognition program.

McCluskey is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, and has two master's degrees from Southern Seminary. His doctorate is from Luther Rice Seminary.

He served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention 1985-86, and has held many other elected positions in the TBC and Southern Baptist Convention. He has served on the TBC Executive Board.

A strong believer in world missions, McCluskey has made mission trips to Spain, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Grenada, and Michigan.

Under his leadership, the church has developed several outreach programs such as a bus ministry, Living Christmas Tree, Living Pictures of Easter, and a special program for the Tennessee Valley Fair.

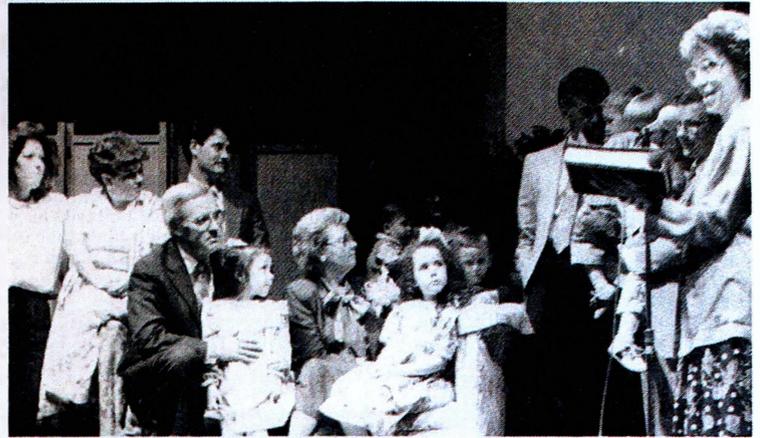
Jim and Lib McCluskey are known as a pastoral team. She is a consultant in children's work for the TBC Sunday School Department, and is president of the Ministers' Wives conference, TBC.

The pastor was interviewed by the *Baptist and Reflector* when he was TBC president, and about his wife, he said:

"The greatest contribution to my life is her stability. She is more even-headed than I am. She is a warm, caring person. She is an ideal pastor's wife. She thinks the best about people. She always has something good to say about people and to people."

After serving as pastor at Wallace Memorial for a year, there were 961 church members and 1204 Sunday School members. The numbers have grown to 2950 and 2567.

"One of the greatest things we have done in addition to our worldwide missions view," McCluskey says, "is the establishing of the mission in 1962 — that became Cumberland Church two



FAMILY AFFAIR — The McCluskeys, including children and spouses, and grandchildren, listen as a book of letters is presented to Jim and Lib McCluskey.



THEY SHARED DREAMS — Pastor Jim McCluskey and Mrs. McCluskey for 30 years have helped build dreams to reality at Wallace Memorial Church.

years later. Those 127 'missionaries' built a church."

Church members, according to leaders at Wallace Memorial, are encouraged to "live up to our mission heritage as exemplified by the life of the martyred missionary to China for whom our church is named, Dr. Bill Wallace."

McCluskey led a group from Knox-

ville and the church to visit the area in China where the medical missionary served, about a year ago.

The church also has benefited from spiritual growth experiences such as MasterLife, Evangelism Explosion, Prayer Life, and Parenting by Grace.

In the glow of the celebration and reception, "I'm ready to tackle 30 more years," McCluskey said.

SBC messengers should send resolutions early

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — To assist the Southern Baptist Resolutions Committee for the convention's 1989 annual meeting in getting a head start on its work, the chairman has appealed to messengers to send him advance copies of resolutions they plan to submit June 13 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Mark Coppenger, executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, asked that resolutions, preferably typed, be sent by May 24 to his attention at P.O. Box 24189, Indianapolis, Ind. 46224.

Coppenger was named in late April by SBC President Jerry Vines to chair the 10-member Resolutions Committee.

The committee plans to meet in Nashville Friday, May 26, to get acquainted, get organized and review advance resolutions submitted to the

committee, Coppenger said. The group also will meet Saturday, June 10, in Las Vegas, to continue its work.

Messengers who send advance copies of resolutions must also submit them on the first day of the convention, he said. Committee representatives will be at a table near the platform in the convention center to receive resolutions during business sessions that day. Titles of proposed resolutions will then be read into the convention record by a convention officer and forwarded to the committee for consideration.

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

"We will do our best to draft resolutions that are pleasing to God," Coppenger said.

Bylaws specify that three members of the Resolutions Committee also be members of the SBC Executive Committee. They are Jerry Brown, a truckstop operator and member of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Edmond, Okla.; Joy Dorsett, a homemaker and member of Central Park Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.; and Walt Tomme, pastor of Tyson Community Baptist Church in McLean, Va., but affiliated with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

Vines also named the chairman of the 1988 Resolutions Committee, Jerry

Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, to serve on the 1989 committee.

Other members are David Allen, pastor of Audelia Road Baptist Church in Dallas; Kenneth Hemphill, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va.; David McAlpin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pine Castle in Orlando, Fla.; James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga.; and Linda Shrewsbury, a member of Memorial Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla.

Union Grove calls pastor

Union Grove Church, McKenzie, has called Brian Anderson as pastor.

A native of Metropolis, Ill., Anderson was ordained April 16 at Fairview Church, Paris, where he was a member. Union Grove is his first pastorate.

Our Readers Write

No name-calling

Charles Schultz has a way of bringing out some great truths. This one is surely in keeping with his thinking.

Linus is speaking to Lucy and says, "Why are you always so anxious to criticize me?" Lucy replies, "I just think I have a knack for seeing other people's faults." "What about your own faults?" Linus asks. To which Lucy replies, "I have a knack for overlooking them." It seems as though Lucy is a Southern Baptist. We find fault with everything and everyone who thinks differently than we do.

As a result we have become critical to the place that our convention has lost its goals of reaching the world for Christ. It now seems as though our chief aim is to destroy the enemy, whoever that may be.

What can we do to put an end to our controversy. I believe that we can make a start by doing the following: Read the entire Epistle to the Ephesians and 1 John at least once a week and then begin to practice the admonitions of the writers of those two great books. We talk about how much we love the Bible, but how often we fail to practice the teachings thereof.

We are all at fault at times for the things we say and the attitudes that we manifest. It's time we quit name-calling and finger-pointing and give more effort in making peace in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Marshall Hargrave
113 Buckingham Drive
Jefferson City 37760

Willingness, prayer

Larry Lewis' words, *Baptist and Reflector*, May 3, on challenging church leaders to start new churches prompted me to write. In March 1983 the Lord led me to Whitewater Association in Indiana. I started with a mission in Manchester near Aurora. It is now called New Life Southern Baptist Church.

In July 1987, we began a mission in an old school building at Quercus Grove, a rural area. It now has outgrown the mother church, New Life.

With those folks a new church is not competition, but a joy. I am in my seventh year of making several trips each year to work with them. I go as often as the Lord provides money and

Kingsport church celebrates anniversary

Calvary Church, Kingsport, celebrated its 60th anniversary April 23.

First Church, Kingsport, was the mother church for Calvary. The first worship service in the present building was March 10, 1929. Since 1929 Calvary has started three missions which became churches in Kingsport: Lynn Garden, Springdale, and Long Island (presently Bays Mountain Church).

During the last ten years, several members have served as foreign mission volunteers in Burkina Faso, Mali, Brazil, Uganda, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, and Belize. Home mission projects have included youth mission trips to Michigan, Mississippi, Myrtle Beach resorts, and Beckley, West Va.

Each year the church sponsors Village Fest, a community outreach ministry providing local musicians, activities, and entertainment for the neighborhood surrounding the church. This activity is in cooperation with Kingsport Fun Fest. John Coates is pastor.

time. I get no money from them or from Loudon County.

The Lord called me into this and He takes good care of me. All I ask of saints is prayer. The field is white unto harvest.

I expect to spend a good part of the month of June in Indiana. I already have the money and, the Lord willing, time is also available to me. Now, all I need is your prayers.

J. W. Glass
1025 Hillcrest
Lenoir City 37771

Whose business?

I write in response to a recent letter challenging Southern Baptists to "mind your own business" in regard to the Right to Life Movement. In my opinion, the rights of the unborn should and must be addressed, not because we are Southern Baptists, because we are Christians. The Bible clearly defines our roles as citizens of earthly kingdoms. In 1 Peter 2:13-16, we are commanded to obey the laws of our land. We are required to respect, pray for, and pay merit to our government and leaders (Romans 13).

However, when these laws conflict with the laws of God, we are told that the laws of God are supreme (Acts 5:29). Did not Jesus explain clearly our dual role as citizens of this country and of His Kingdom (Mark 12:14-17)? Instead of minding our own business, shouldn't we be minding the business of our Lord?

There are several ways to lawfully protest the laws of our land. For example, we can petition, picket, write letters, and editorials to voice our views. We can work collectively as a people as my home church, First Baptist, Cookeville, has in establishing a Crisis Pregnancy Center for counseling, love, and hope for those considering abortions.

I feel it is Biblically sound to engage in civil disobedience to draw attention to grossly immoral laws (Daniel 1-3). In addition to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Peter and John chose the laws of God over the laws of the land (Acts 4:19-20).

Our greatest weapon is the power of prayer. Just as He did for the Israelites (Joshua 5), God can change the hearts of the enemy, and the battle for the Lord will be won. We must pray fervently for the hearts of those in authority.

The murders of innocent babies is His and our business. During the seventh week of my recent pregnancy, I had an ultrasound. I was amazed to see just how human this little one was at such an early time. Yet, I remember thinking in hor-

Children's leaders to meet at Camp Linden

A Teach/Reach Children's Retreat is scheduled May 19-20 at Camp Linden. The meeting is designed to update children's workers on age-group work, to challenge and help workers sharpen skills, and to offer ideas for relating to the child and his or her family.

D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist convention, will be featured speaker.

Program personnel include Beth Taylor, Linda Minard, and Tina Newberry of the Baptist Sunday School Board and Daryl and Ann Vandergriff of Rome, Ga.

The meeting begins on May 19 at 5 p.m. with registration and concludes the following day at noon.

For additional information, contact the TBC Sunday School Department (615) 371-2054.

ror that I could have lawfully destroyed that miraculous creation of God growing inside of me. Thank God that was merely a thought!

No, we cannot stop abortions by overturning Roe vs. Wade, but we can remove the myth that abortion is right and acceptable just because it is legal. Now, I ask you, whose business should we be minding anyway?

Karen Mayes
2689 Lake Valley Drive
Cookeville 38501

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on religion-related subjects are welcomed. Letters should be brief and concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be shortened and edited at discretion of the editor. Unsigned letters will not be read or used, but writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. There must be at least one month between publication of letters from the same writer. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Short letters are preferred. Address and phone number must be included.

Be on alert

The Interfaith Witness Department of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention alerts Baptists to a confidence game being worked on churches nation-wide. For several years a young woman named Bobbie Dintino, an escapee from a Utah prison camp, has been portraying herself as either a Mormon missionary or Jehovah's Witness wishing to convert to Christianity.

A number of churches from Florida to Alaska have been deceived into giving her financial aid, lodging, and transportation. Recently she was seen in Alabama. She likely is still in the Southeast.

Please exercise caution if you or your church is approached by any stranger who claims to be a Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, or from another religious group and needs help. The Interfaith Witness Department recommends you call our office before giving aid. Our number in Atlanta is (404) 898-7463.

Tal Davis, Associate Director
Interfaith Witness Department
Home Mission Board, SBC

The real problem

Abortion seems to be a popular subject today for TV, newspapers, and radio. What is the cause of abortion? Fornication (voluntary sexual intercourse between unmarried persons) is the sin which is causing the largest percentage of abortions.

Why can Christians not speak to the news media, hold Christian discussions with young people and last but not least,

Southern reunion set for Las Vegas

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has planned a reunion banquet for alumni and friends of the Louisville, Ky., seminary who will be attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas in June.

The banquet will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, at the Las Vegas Hilton. Program features include a keynote address by Southern Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt, presentation of the 1989 Alumni of the Year awards, and music by the seminary Vocal Ensemble. The reunion will also be an occasion for a victory celebra-

march with enthusiasm against fornication as many do concerning abortion?

Let us look at a few Scriptures which emphasize my point that fornication is sin — 1 Corinthians 6:13b, "Now the body is not for fornication but for the Lord." 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee fornication." 1 Thessalonians 4:3, "Ye should abstain from fornication." Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The promiscuous sex problem is a monster which needs immediate attention from all teenagers and adults. I pray that each one of us will start today attacking the real sin.

Mrs. Stephen P. Smith
Route 11, Box 257
McMinnville 37110

ACTS should change

If outside companies wish to purchase the ACTS network for millions of dollars, surely the Southern Baptist Convention could derive even more value by keeping it — with the right plan.

ACTS has been plagued by a fatal flaw. In our history as Southern Baptists, programs and ideas which have flourished have virtually always sprung "from the people." Not so with ACTS. It was conceived "at the top," it was promoted "from the top;" and "the people" have never felt ACTS was theirs. Its "original programming" is too often very regionalized and "top heavy." Our folks identify very little with ACTS because there is so little of our folks in ACTS.

A criticism of the R&TVC has long been the independence of other SBC agencies and groups. An answer to their current financial dilemma could be to join in a partnership with the whole SBC family.

I propose ACTS move its programming concept away from a Baptist version of PTL to one of mobilizing the talent and resources of the SBC. Consider the number of churches, state conventions, seminaries, Baptist colleges and universities, and Baptist student ministry groups (just to name a few) who are already creatively communicating the Gospel. Many of these already produce fine television programs for local cable stations. They represent an untapped resource for ACTS programming.

The trend of the television industry is diversification. The current financial crisis is also an opportunity to be at the forefront of television emanating "from the grassroots." The strength of the SBC is our people and the strength of their faith. If we find a way to portray that strength — in all its diversity — in dynamic and innovative programming, and have a means to deliver it to the living rooms of America we may truly have the privilege of reaching our world for Christ.

Charles L. (Larry) Smith
216 Idlewyde Drive
Louisville, Ky. 40206

tion for "Commitment '90," the capital funding effort for the seminary's \$16 million Campus Center Complex now under construction.

Tickets are \$17.50 each if the request is postmarked May 15 or earlier. After May 15, the price goes to \$21.

Persons interested in ordering tickets should mail their check and stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Alumni and Friends Reunion Tickets, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40280. If no stamped, self-addressed envelope is included with the ticket order, the ticket must be picked up at the Southern Seminary exhibit at the convention.

'Centrist' Baptists spell out positions on SBC issues

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — Centrist Baptists spelled out their positions on issues confronting the Southern Baptist Convention during a national symposium in Nashville May 2-3.

About 150 participants heard presentations from two denominational executives, a layman and four pastors in the "Here We Stand" conference, sponsored by Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, an organization of "centrist" Baptists formed in late 1988.

Participants also heard presentations from the pastor expected to be their standard bearer in the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev. Daniel Vestal, 44, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, made a formal presentation and held two question-and-answer sessions.

W. Winfred Moore, chairman of Baptists Committed and pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, told participants he was glad such an organization as Baptists Committed exists but noted reluctance for the fight by quoting war correspondent Ernie Pyle, who wrote, "There is no sense in this struggle, but there is no choice but to struggle."

He urged participants to "do what can be done to bring this convention back to its historic principles and practices; back to the kind of convention my mother thought it was when she brought the tithe of her egg money ... brought a 10th jar of everything she canned to church to be sent to what we called the orphans' home."

"Get your messengers together from your church and your area. As much as you and I dislike the idea, it is still a fact — and we didn't make it that fact — the only thing that really counts anymore is the number of votes in the house when the election (for president) is held."

David Currie, field coordinator of Baptists Committed from Houston, told participants they can turn the convention around in Las Vegas, but if they don't then, then they can in New

Orleans, Atlanta, and Indianapolis (sites of the 1990, 1991 and 1992 annual meetings).

The keynote address on "Here We Stand" was delivered by Nashville pastor Bill Sherman of Woodmont Church. The symposium, he said, was intended to "reinterpret what it has always meant to be all Baptist, what we believe and how we go about the sacred work of the church."

"We believe this reaffirmation is essential today, for the last ten years has seen a disturbing erosion of many of the great Biblical truths of our Baptist heritage," he said.

"Baptists historically have accepted each other and worked well together. Our history is not a Camelot, yet a strong trust and goodwill have been felt for other Baptists throughout the years."

"Acceptance was always the rule. However, such is in jeopardy today. There are Baptists among us who make no bones about controlling the denomination. They have stated their goal. They have worked their plan. Such a divisive climate has been cultivated by those who wish to sow distrust and slander those who do not go along with their program of change. The present denominational climate is a great tragedy. It is filled with distrust, manipulation, secrecy, slander, and disparagement. It must change."

Sherman noted that "ten years ago a movement was begun by some supposedly to save our denomination," and asked if Southern Baptists "are better off today ... than we were in 1979?"

"Then," he said, "our mission gifts were climbing every year. Now, our Cooperative Program budget is frozen, and gifts are on the decline."

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, told participants the long-held Baptist belief in separation of church and state is "crumbling," and detailed three "heresies" common today: revisionism,

non-preferentialism, and reconstructionism.

Another denominational executive, Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, noted the denomination is "divided ... no longer a mighty army," but told participants, "This is no time to give up on the SBC; there is a glimmer of hope."

He said, however, that to have hope, the SBC must have "authentic Southern Baptist leadership," and said those who would lead the denomination need seven characteristics: "They should have a profound and vital faith in Jesus Christ ... must take the Bible seriously as the authoritative word of God ... must know how to lead people to Jesus Christ ... must have courage and a willingness to stand by their con-

victions ... must be servants ... must have paid the price for adequate and legitimate preparation ... and must understand the importance of Baptist heritage."

Houston layman John Baugh told of the "costs" of disunity, and said they are being borne by "young men and women who are contemplating a divine call," and by "college students who are appalled by the untruths, meanness and slander still employed to gain even greater control of the convention" and by "pastors who will grieve and be crushed that they trustingly but naively followed the political party line."

In addition to the symposium, Baptist Committed leaders are organizing rallies across the country, to feature Vestal and other spokesmen, attempting to turn out messengers.

Vestal promises to share power

By Mary Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — If Southern Baptists elect Daniel Vestal as their president, his attitude will be winner-share-all rather than winner-take-all, he told a group of denominational "centrists."

Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta and an announced candidate for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency. He will face SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., and eligible for another one-year term, when the SBC meets in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15.

Vestal spoke three times to a symposium sponsored by Baptists Committed to the SBC May 1-2 in Nashville.

When Vestal announced his candidacy in mid-April, he said he would welcome Baptists Committed's support but insisted he does not belong to that or any other group. He does call himself a "centrist," a label adopted by most Baptists Committed members.

During two of Vestal's presentations in Nashville, he fielded questions from about 150 symposium participants. He also spoke on the authority of Scripture and Southern Baptists' declining adher-

ence to the Bible.

The first question put to him was about how he would conduct himself as president. "The pattern of the last ten years has been basically a philosophy of winner-take-all," Vestal said. "My philosophy would be that the winner shares all."

"My appointments would be from a different perspective. I would include all Southern Baptists — even the present leadership — because I'm a centrist."

Vestal also pledged, if elected, to seek a limitation on presidential powers. The ten-year SBC theological/political controversy has swirled around those powers, since the president initiates a chain of events that lead to the appointment of trustees for 24 entities related to the convention.

"The time has come to look at the powers of the president," Vestal said. "Something has got to happen structurally to prevent this (denominational strife) from happening again."

He would call for a study to formulate SBC bylaw changes "so we can de-politicize the presidential election every year," he said.

18,500 SBC messengers expected for Las Vegas . . .

(Continued from page 1)
easily register in five minutes."

The peak hours of congestion, he said, will be in the first hours after opening on Sunday afternoon and Monday and Tuesday mornings.

Messengers will register much easier

if they bring properly completed and signed registration cards, available from state convention executive offices, and, in some states, from associational offices, Porter said.

"I ask that messengers use cards that have in the lower left corner the

words, 'Revised 1987' or 'Revised 1988.' I urge that all cards with the words, 'Revised 1967' be destroyed," he said. "The revised cards are used to make the tabulating process more efficient."

After messengers are elected by their churches, the cards need to be filled out in detail, including information on the number of members of the church, the amount the church contributed to convention causes and the total number of messengers elected.

"Each church needs to carefully follow the messenger requirements and restrictions in Article III of the SBC Constitution," Porter said. "The requirements are printed on the cards, as is the criteria for determining the number of messengers to which a church is entitled."

The constitution specifies that "each church which is in friendly cooperation with the convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceeding been a bona-fide contributor to the convention's work" is entitled to one messenger.

A church is entitled to an additional

messenger for each 250 members or \$250 contributed to the work of the convention, up to a maximum of ten. The constitution also specifies messengers "shall be a member of the church by which he is elected."

Messengers who do not present properly completed and signed messenger cards must go before the Credentials Committee, chaired this year by Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala. If cards were not available, messengers may bring a letter on the church letterhead, but still will have to go before the committee.

When messengers register, they will receive a set of ballots "which must be used by that messenger and that messenger alone." Messengers also will receive a program booklet and have the opportunity to purchase — for \$4 — the "Book of Reports" which includes reports from all SBC agencies and many of the recommendations to be presented to the convention.

Porter said, "Every effort is being made to insure the integrity of the registration and balloting process. . . ."

Agency, seminary trustee nominations include Tennesseans

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees to serve on the boards of seminaries, commissions, and committees of the Southern Baptist Convention have been nominated by the 1989 Committee on Nominations.

The trustees must be elected by messengers to the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas, Nev., Convention Center. Tennessee trustees are listed below. A (2) beside the name indicates they are being nominated for a second term.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary — Stephen W. Anderson (2), Memphis.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary — Morris Anderson, pastor, Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville, replacing Robert M. Jelks of Paris.

Southern Baptist Foundation — David J. McDaniel, Nashville, representing the Historical Commission; Leonard M. Brannan, member, White Oak Church, Chattanooga; and Robert H. Whillite (2), Hendersonville, Brotherhood Commission — Thomas W. Daniels Jr. (2), Germantown.

Southern Baptist Convention

June 13-15, 1989

"Going, Weeping; Sowing, Reaping"

Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nev.

Convention Officers:
President — Jerry Vines, Pastor, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
First Vice President — Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.
Second Vice President — Rudy Hernandez, Pastor, Metro Church, San Antonio, Texas
Recording Secretary — Martin Bradley, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
Registration Secretary — Lee Porter, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
Treasurer — Harold C. Bennett, President, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville

Tuesday Morning
June 13 — 8:30-Noon
Music for Inspiration
Call to Order
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Registration Report and Constitution of Convention, Lee Porter, registration secretary
Committee on Order of Business, John B. Wright, chairman
Welcome, Mayor Ron Lurie, Las Vegas Response, Gerald Harris
Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
Theme Interpretation, Gray Allison
Executive Committee Report (Part 1), Harold C. Bennett
Introduction of Business and

Resolutions
Congregational Singing
Music, John McKay
President's Address, C. Jerry Vines
Benediction
Tuesday Afternoon
June 13 — 1:00-5:00
Evangelistic Singers
Seminary Vocal Ensemble, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Messenger Information Survey
Introduction of Business and Resolutions
Election of Officers (First)
Committee on Nominations Report, Joe H. Reynolds, chairman
Congregational Singing
Executive Committee Report (Part 2), Harold C. Bennett
Congregational Singing
Business — Committee on Committees Report, Introduction of Business and Resolutions, Miscellaneous Business
Election of Officers (Second)
Benediction

Tuesday Evening
June 13 — 6:30-9:20
Music for Inspiration
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Election of Officers (Third)
Theme Interpretation, Bobby Boyles
Sunday School: Board Report, Lloyd Elder
Congregational Singing

Foreign Mission Board Report, R. Keith Parks
Benediction
Wednesday Morning
June 14 — 8:30-12:30 p.m.
Music for Inspiration
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Election of Officers (Fourth)
Radio and Television Commission Report
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Milton Ferguson
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Lewis A. Drummond
Stewardship Commission Report, A. R. Fagan
Southern Baptist Foundation Report, Hollis E. Johnson III
Congregational Singing
Christian Life Commission Report, Richard Land
Brotherhood Commission Report, James H. Smith
Baptist World Alliance Report, Denton Lotz, Billy Kim
Committee on Denominational Calendar Report, James A. Green Jr.
Public Affairs Committee Report, Samuel Currin, chairman
Congregational Singing
Election of Officers (Fifth)
Business — Committee on Resolutions (First Report), Miscellaneous Business
Congregational Singing
Music
Convention Sermon, Morris Chapman
Benediction

Bold Mission Thrust Report, Harold C. Bennett
Congregational Singing
Home Mission Board Report, Larry L. Lewis
Benediction

Thursday Morning
June 15 — 8:30-12:30 p.m.
Music for Inspiration
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Business — Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
Education Commission Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr.
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report, William O. Crews
Annuity Board Report, Darold H. Morgan
Congregational Singing
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Landrum P. Leavell II
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Roy L. Honeycutt
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Russell H. Dilday Jr.
Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr.
Historical Commission Report, Lynn E. May Jr.
Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group, Larry L. Lewis
Recognition of Outgoing Officers
Congregational Singing
Music
Message, Charles Stanley
Benediction

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference

"Facing Our Challenges With Confidence"

June 11-12, 1989 Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Sunday Evening
June 11 — 5:45-9:00
Ralph M. Smith, presiding
Concert, Danny Martinez
Congregational Singing
Welcome and Prayer, Michael Rochelle
Solo, Johnny Hall
Message, Johnny Jackson
Presidential Greeting, Jerry Vines
Choral Praise
Message, Howard Gates
Congregational Singing
Solo, Johnny Hall
Message, John C. Click
Congregational Singing
Offertory Prayer
Choral Offertory
Solo, Martha Branham
Message, Charles Stanley
Benediction

Monday Morning
June 12 — 8:30-11:45
Rob Zinn, presiding
Concert, Todd Bell
Congregational Singing
Scripture and Prayer
Solo, Joe Estes
Message, Neal T. Jones
Congregational Singing
Solo, Andrew Culverwell
Message, Larry Lewis
Choral Choir, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Congregational Singing
Offertory Prayer, Choral Offertory
Solo, Andrew Culverwell
Message, Darrell Gilyard
Congregational Singing
Solo, Madeline Jones
Message, John Bisagno

Benediction
Monday Afternoon
June 12 — 1:15-5:00
Ralph M. Smith, presiding
Concert, Joe T. Carrell
Scripture and Prayer
Congregational Singing
Choral Praise
Message, Gordon Graham
Congregational Singing
Choral Praise
Message, Tom Elliff
Congregational Singing
Offertory Prayer, Choral Offertory
Election of Officers
Solo, Joe T. Carrell
Message, Rick Warren
Congregational Singing
Solo, Madeline Jones
Message, Joel Gregory
Benediction

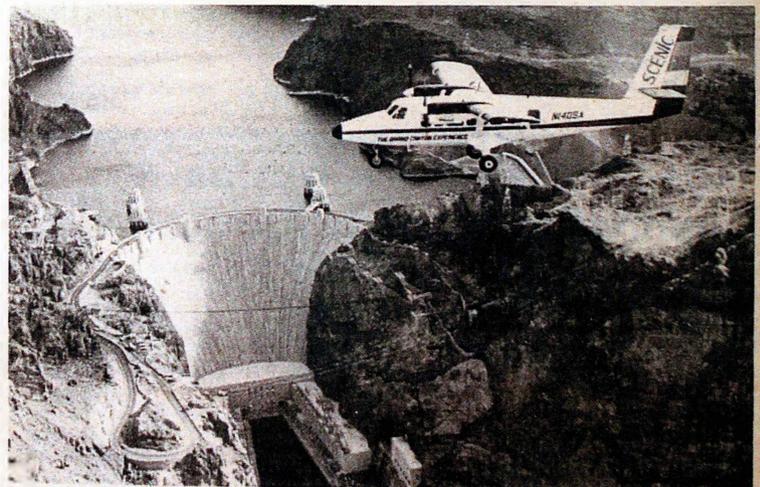
Monday Evening
June 12 — 6:30-9:00
Ralph M. Smith, presiding
Congregational Singing
Scripture and Prayer
Choral Praise
Message, James F. Eaves
Congregational Singing
Solo, Amy Brantley Sheehan
Message, J. Harold Smith
Congregational Singing
Offertory Prayer, Choral Offertory
Presentation from Broadman Press
Choral Praise
Message, Adrian Rogers
Introduction of New Officers
Benediction, New President of Pastors' Conference

**NO WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON SESSION**

Wednesday Evening
June 14 — 6:30-9:05
Music for Inspiration
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Theme Interpretation, Bo Whittington
Business — Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1990
Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
Presentation of Past Presidents
Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers

Thursday Afternoon
June 15 — 2:00-3:20

Music for Inspiration
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report, James M. Dunn
Denominational Press Report, Alvin C. Shackleford
Woman's Missionary Union Report, Carolyn Weatherford
American Bible Society Report, John D. Erickson
Benediction
Adjournment



AWESOME ATTRACTION — Hoover Dam, which blocks the Colorado River to form Lake Mead, is a marvel of modern engineering. It's also a major tourist attraction for visitors to nearby Las Vegas, Nev., site of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 13-15.

Baptist hymns provide tips for SBC messengers

By Marv Knox

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — As every poet knows, "Music has charms to soothe a savage breast."

Southern Baptists one-up the poets; for them, singing soothes the sagging soul. Hymns have fortified their faith through the decades. Lyrics and melodies have lifted and moved them beyond barriers that might have tripped them, had they remained tongue-tied.

Every summer, however, thousands of them test their fortitude. They pack their best suits and dresses, trek to a distant city and endure the mammoth marathon, otherwise known as the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

This year, they will convene in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15. Close observers say Las Vegas may be a better-than-average convention host. But just in case, messengers to the meeting might want to tote their Baptist Hymnals and be prepared to sing along:

- "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life." Nobody really knows how many people will attend the meeting. The record is 45,519 in Dallas in 1985, but prognosticators say that number is secure for another year.

- "We probably will have between 15,000 and 23,000 messengers," predicts Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist. "But to be honest, we don't know. We never know." Or, as a hymn says, "I Know Not What the Future Hath."

- "A Pilgrim was I, and A-wandering." Travel to Las Vegas and traffic in the city really shouldn't be too bad.

- "The airport is designed to handle a large influx of people, and taxi service is good," Hedquist says. "Also, two

good highways come in and out of the city. Folks who drive can find the Las Vegas Convention Center by looking for the Hilton — the center is right in the shade of the hotel."

Local traffic will be very congested on the first day of the meeting, he adds, "but the city is used to traffic, since it hosts such a high percentage of tourists."



S-B-C 1-9-8-9
Las Vegas

- "God of Earth and Outer Space." Actually, the convention center is indoors, and the seating is on one level — no "nosebleed sections."

- "We expect to meet in one huge room. We can put 25,000 people in there," Hedquist notes. "We will be prepared to offer overflow halls if registration goes beyond 25,000."

- "Room at the Cross." Convention planners have made room for everyone, the handicapped included.

- "This is a very good facility for the mobile-handicapped. It's flat," says Hedquist. "We're getting ready to mail a brochure for these people."

Hearing-impaired participants will have a section where proceedings will be signed, he adds.

Information about services for the handicapped is available from Hedquist's office: SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

"Rescue the Perishing." of course, first aid will be available.

- "Four emergency medical technicians and a nurse and ambulance will be on site at all times," Hedquist reports. "The first aid room will be accessible to the main hall."

- "Have No Fear, Little Flock." Children need not worry that they must pay the penance of their parents. No long meetings for them.

- Preschoolers may attend a child-care facility located in the convention center, which will be open for all seven sessions of the annual meeting. For information and registration, write to Marie Moore, College Park Baptist Church, 2101 E. Owens, Las Vegas.

Nev. 89030.

Children who have completed grades 1-6 may participate in the SBC Missions Day Camp, sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission. It will be open during the daytime sessions of the meeting and costs \$7 per day or \$20 for all three days. Registration will be conducted at the Missions Day Camp Booth near the messenger registration area of the convention center.

- "By and By." As in "nearby." That describes parking at the convention center.

- "Las Vegas law mandates that facilities must have almost one free parking place per person," Hedquist says. "Parking is extensive around the convention center. Some people might have to walk the equivalent of a couple of blocks, but they will be close. And all parking is free."

- "Away in a Manger." This old Christmas carol will remind messengers of how good they have it. None of them will be stuck in a stable.

- The SBC block is 6500 rooms, but Las Vegas boasts 53,000 rooms. That's more than one each for messengers who made it to the monstrous '85 meeting in Dallas.

- "Let Us Break Bread Together." A song of thanksgiving will be appropriate in Las Vegas — both for the food and for the ease of obtaining it.

- "This is one of the better cities, as far as food goes," Hedquist reports. "We will set up two large food-service centers on either end of the convention center, with both fast-food and restaurant facilities."

- Hedquist adds that local vendors have an exclusive contract on food service in the convention center, and coolers or picnic baskets will not be allowed inside.

Associational directors of missions to examine 'frontier'

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Associational directors of missions from across the Southern Baptist Convention will examine the "frontiers" of their ministry when they gather for their annual meeting June 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nev.

"The Association on the Frontier" will be the theme for the 28th annual meeting of the SBC Directors of Mis-

sions Conference, to be held in the Riviera Hotel immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting.

Associations are local or regional organizations of Southern Baptist churches. The convention has 1209 associations, whose work is coordinated by 961 directors of missions.

"The fact we're meeting in Las Vegas suggested our theme — a city in

the West, in one of Southern Baptists' new-work areas," said conference President Mack Smoke of Baytown, Texas, director of missions for San Jacinto Baptist Association.

"We're also thinking about defining the term," Smoke added. "What does 'frontier' mean? The front line; the area where you blaze new trails. For us, it's also the place where you find Baptists working together beyond the local church but still confronting the local church."

"And like the frontier, the ministry of Baptist associations is ever-changing. You have to be adaptable."

The conference program will include a discussion of Southern Baptist ministry in Las Vegas. Missions directors also will study ministry in sparsely populated areas, work with ethnics, ministry in the future, use of

volunteers, fellowship among local churches, and overseas ministry.

Speakers will include missions directors from Virginia to Hawaii; from Miami to Portland, Ore.; from inner cities to rural Montana. Smoke said, noting the discussions will involve the variety of challenges faced by associations.

"Our objective involves two or three elements," he said. "We want to help missions directors understand the key role the association plays out in the Christian faith and in Baptist life."

"The association is right there bringing churches of different backgrounds and stances together, and you must develop fellowship if you are going to function effectively. On a larger scope, Baptist relationships are distant or occasional; but on the associational level, you're face to face regularly."

WMU meeting focuses on Jesus' name

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — The name of Jesus will be the focal point of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting June 11-12. "In His Name" will be the theme.

Those attending will celebrate his name through music, hear how his name is being proclaimed around the world, and be challenged to minister in his name by the examples of others.

The first session begins at 2:20 p.m. Sunday, June 11, in the Rotunda of the Las Vegas Convention Center. The final session begins at 7 p.m. Monday, June 12.

Giving examples of ways Southern Baptists are proclaiming Jesus' name will be: Jack Johnson, Arizona Southern Baptist Convention executive director; C.B. Hogue, Southern Baptist General Convention of California executive director; and Ernest Myers, Nevada Baptist Convention executive director.

Jack and Avah Shelby, employees of

Cooperative Services International in Hong Kong, will describe ways the name of Jesus is being proclaimed in non-traditional ways in areas closed to traditional missionaries.

Highlighting the Sunday evening session will be a presentation of missions today, including the traditional and innovative methods used by Southern Baptists. Three missions leaders will speak: Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU.

Weatherford will bring the executive board report during the Monday morning session.

A video presentation of a recent China tour by The Centurymen will be shown on Sunday evening. The Centurymen is an all-male singing group sponsored by The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Women in Ministry plan seventh meeting

LAS VEGAS (BP) — Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will convene for the organization's seventh annual meeting at the Alexis Park Resort here, June 10-11.

"Stories of Faith: A Rich Tapestry" will be the theme of the meeting.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 10, followed by the first session at 10. The last session begins at 10 a.m. Sunday. Registration is \$25. The Saturday evening banquet will cost an additional \$10.

Keynote speakers for the two-day an-

nual meeting will be Catherine Allen, associate executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Jack Harwell, editor of SBC Today newspaper; Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America; Phyllis Rodgers Pleasants, student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Cheryl Collins, minister of youth at McLean (Va.) Baptist Church; and Marsha Moore, senior chaplain at St. Joseph Northeast Hospital in Albuquerque, N.M.

SBC chaplains month



AT BIRTHDAY PARTY — Randy Pool, left, and Harold King, right, pastor, Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, join inmates during a time of singing; and (photo to right) Pool, left, shares with an inmate.



Area churches host the party for the men with birthdays that month. The volunteers provide the refreshments and Indian Creek Association provides New Testaments for gifts. The volunteers also witness to those who attend the party.

Some 15 Baptists from Indian Creek and Shiloh associations have become Tennessee Department of Corrections certified volunteers by completing six hours of training. They help lead the weekly Bible study, host birthday parties, and help in other ways like teaching literacy.

Churches of several denominations lead Sunday night worship services weekly at the camp.

One twist to the story is that the work camp is a benefit to the community. During a nine-month period in 1988 the workers did \$360,000 worth of work in the community, Pool noted. And the amount is less than the actual worth of the work because it is figured at the minimum wage of \$3.35 per hour, he said, adding that Baptist facilities have benefited.

The inmates also have given needy people food baskets, bicycles, money, and wood for fuel, said Pool.

"That's the kind of fruit we're seeing come out of these men..." Pool concluded.

Baptists, inmates develop friendship

By **Connie Davis**, assistant editor
CLIFTON — When Randy Pool is visiting with an inmate at Wayne County Work Camp, he likes to tell him a story.

Pool asks him to imagine that he is a third time offender — habitual criminal. He is at his trial. The evidence is overwhelming. The judge announces the sentence — guilty, life imprisonment.

The judge continues, though, that a man has offered to take the defendant's place. The man judged guilty is free to go.

"And, of course, it's easy to tell them. 'That's what Jesus did,'" said Pool, pastor of First Church, Clifton.

The energetic Pool began visiting Wayne County Work Camp in Clifton even before it officially opened in the small town northwest of Waynesboro. He discovered a place for ministry.

In his non-stop but concise way, Pool shares facts and experiences of the three-year ministry of Indian Creek Association.

Ninety percent of inmates return to prison. Pool cited, and the inmates know it.

A measure of the inmates' concerns, he observed, can be seen in the fact

that repeat offenders get more out of the weekly Bible study he directs.

"We're not helping them get out, but helping them stay out."

Pool, who was recently named Tennessee Baptist Convention chaplain on a part-time basis for the 120-bed work camp, reported that about 50 men attended the Bible study last year and four made professions of faith. And he expects the prison population in Wayne County to increase in the future because of the growing number of state prisoners.

His business-like approach to the coordination of volunteers and programs for the medium and minimum security inmates is offset by his individual involvement.

Pool smiled as he shared some warnings he has received. One person who learned that Pool had taken inmates on furlough to a bus station commented: "What do they expect you to do if he tries to escape?"

He has even been encouraged to buy a gun. He noted that he didn't need "a .45 handgun to tell them about Jesus."

Commenting that he very rarely knows the crimes committed by the inmates, Pool explained, "I want to deal

with them as men for whom Christ has died . . . men without any labels."

Pool, who also serves as chairperson of the camp's Volunteer Services Advisory Board, started a monthly birthday party at the camp which has been successful. He explained that men who have come to celebrate one birthday have left celebrating two.

TeamTalk

By **D. L. Lowrie**

Christian education is an important element in our work together. It is a part of our strategy to train Christian champions for the years ahead. I was reminded of this as I spoke to the graduating class of Belmont College last week. President William Troutt and the faculty have given themselves faithfully to the task, so now the graduates will be moving out of training camp into the game. How I pray that they will be a generation of godly Christian leaders in every sphere of life.



LOWRIE

I have pledged my prayers to President Troutt at Belmont, President Cordell Maddox at Carson-Newman, and President Hyran Barefoot at Union. They have one of the more difficult assignments in our work. They need the faithful prayers of all God's people. I have pledged the same prayers to President William Palmer at Harrison-Chilhowee Academy as he leads this

unique school.

Why not pray for Christian education as we do missionaries? They are working in a world in need of witness of Christ. They are often working with students who do not know our Lord. They are working with limited resources. Your prayers could make the difference. I have added these men to my Monday morning prayer list.

What should you pray for as you remember them? Pray that God will keep the vision of Christian education alive in their hearts. Pray that God will give them wisdom as they select faculty members. Pray that God will give them compassion and understanding as they relate to troubled, searching students. Pray that God will prosper their efforts to raise funds for Christian education. Pray that God will protect them from the schemes of the adversary. Pray that God will visit our colleges with spiritual awakening.

There is real power in team praying. Jesus promised that a prayer team of two could make a real difference. I will be one member of this prayer team. Will you join me? I will meet you at the throne of grace as we pray for our Christian schools.

'I didn't realize until I was in prison . . .'

By **Remus Forgey**

I am an inmate at Wayne County Work Camp which is part of the Tennessee Department of Corrections.

My family consists of a mom and dad who are loving, kind, and have provided for four children very well though it was sometimes hard to do.

Our church was of a Baptist denomination. My parents took all the children to Sunday School and church. Many times I sat next to my mom and refused to go down for the altar call as "Just As I Am" was being sung.

When I was 14 or 15, I was given a choice. Go to church or stay home. As a rebellious youth getting into alcohol and marijuana, I stayed home.

Matthew 7:13 — "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat."

I didn't realize until I was in prison that the wide road I was on kept closing in on me with no way out. As the alcoholism set in, I lost contact with reality.

I was fortunately, praise God, a functional alcoholic. My work wasn't ever in danger, unless I got arrested. I finished high school, only by the grace of God, and went into the United States Marine Corps. I was discharged three years later after a conflict involving alcohol.

I met a girl after the Marines and after a while was married. That lasted five years before alcohol destroyed it. The negative emotional mood I was in while the divorce was taking place was more than I could stand.

So here I am, in prison for the first time. When I arrived in Turney Center, I was scared. The fear that was in me stuck out like a sore thumb. After sticking it out

for several months, I fell apart.

I knelt at my bedside in my cell at 2 a.m. one morning in November and prayed that God would help me. I prayed a sinner's prayer and tears just covered my face and shirt.

I got on my bed afterwards and picked up a Bible a friend had sent me. I began to read about God's unselfish love and how much I meant to Him.

Soon after I entered that narrow gate that few find, I found that it opened up a whole new world.

2 Corinthians 5:17 — "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Praise the Lord. God has provided for me ever since. As a babe in Christ, I attended church and Bible study every time the doors opened. Other inmates started seeing this different me.

In the two years that followed, my security has been dropped from medium to minimum trustee. Alcohol and drugs are out of my life. I claimed the victory over them that Jesus paid for 2000 years ago.

My relationship with my parents, brothers, and sister is so much better now. They have forgiven me; I have forgiven myself; and God has forgiven me.

I owe a great deal to all the free-world ministers, preachers, and friends in Christ. God has led many to witness to me and now He leads me to witness to others.

If I hadn't been arrested, I would most likely still be living in worldly sin. I praise God for this prison. I'll serve Him right here until He wants me elsewhere (hopefully soon). I also want to thank Reverend Randy Pool. He has been a wonderful inspiration in my life.

TenneScene

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

Leadership ...

West Jackson Church, Jackson, will install the following people as church deacons: Bob Brown, Harvey Curlin, Carroll Griffin, Mike Pyron, and Larry Teague.

Central Church, Mountain City, has called Harold Danner as pastor. He is from Zionville, N.C.

Stanley Hammonds has been called as pastor of Mount Harmony Church, Niota. He has served as pastor of Lamontville Church, Calhoun, and Rocky Mount Church, Athens.

Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville, has called Stephen May as minister of youth.

First Church, Clarksville, recently honored Junior Faulkner for his 17 years of service as building superintendent.

Park Avenue Church, Nashville, elected the following men April 9 as church deacons: Jimmy Burgett, Don Clark, Skeeter Daniel, John Evans, Sam Ferguson, Ron King, Lee Maples, Dennis O'Guin, Bobby Strickland, Gene Turner, Fred Vick, Larry Weathers, Robert Calk, and Rayford Hilley.

Churches ...

Central Church, Hixson, was host church for the East Tennessee Ladies conference, "Breakaway," April 28-29. The keynote speaker was Gloria Gaither.

Walter Taylor led the Bible study, John: Invitation to Life, at Fifth Avenue Church, Knoxville, April 23-26.

North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, has 170 theatre-style wooden seats to give away. Interested parties may contact the church office at (615) 476-8524 for more details.

six people were saved and 14 people rededicated their lives during the revival.

West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville held revival services April 23-28. E. W. Cook was the speaker.

Gayland Heights Church, Knoxville, held revival services April 23-26. Jack Day spoke and Bill Hays led music.

Parkway Church, Goodlettsville, held a revival April 23-26. John Laida was the speaker and Bill Cox led the music.

The Haywood Association reported several revivals held during April. Churches and revival leaders follow: Calvary Church, Brownsville, Union University students, church youth, Steve Walters; Holly Grove Church, Bells, John Meadows of Union University, John Kimberly, Clay Hallmark; Allen Church, Brownsville, Tommy Stevens, E. B. Bowen; Zion Church, Brownsville, John Lee Taylor of First Church, Gainesville, Ga., and Phillip Willis of Baton Rouge, La.; Stanton Church, Stanton, Jerry Davis, Mike Cole.

Bethlehem Church, Crossville, held revival services April 23-20 with Tommy Edwards, Mitchellsville, Ky., speaking. There were three professions of faith made during the week.

Main Street Church, Alexandria, held revival services April 9-16. Ronnie Davidson was the speaker.

Monte Vista Church, Maryville, held revival services April 30 - May 3. Ken Altom spoke and Greg Price led music.

Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, held revival services April 30 - May 3, with Robert L. Hamblin speaking and Guy Bates, Jr. leading music.

Quebeck Church, Quebeck, held revival services April 24-28. Gerald England was the speaker.

Beeler nominated for BSSB trustee post

In the May 3 issue of the Baptist and Reflector Judy Beeler was incorrectly identified.

Beeler, who will be nominated as a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, is a member of First Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.

She is a para-professional with the Knox County School Board in Knoxville.

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Revivals ...

Park Avenue Church, Nashville, held a crusade featuring Jimmy Jackson and David Speak April 23-26. Jackson is pastor of Whitesburg Church, Huntsville, Ala.

John Carpenter was the speaker for revival held at Roan Park Church, Roan Mountain, April 9-14. Bob Carlton led the music.

The Watauga Association reported several revivals held during May. Churches and revival leaders follow: Walnut Grove, Mountain City, Earl Campbell; Cedar Grove, Johnson City, Eddie Pless, Terry Wood; and Nelson Chapel, Mountain City, Haskel Ingram.

Ardmore Church, Memphis, held revival April 30 - May 3. Ken Story was the speaker and Rusty Eason led music.

Two Rivers Church, Nashville, held a spring crusade May 7-10 with Fred Wolfe as guest speaker.

First Church, Waverly, held an April revival led by John Humphrey. Fifty

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Paul's journey to Jerusalem

By H. K. Sorrell, retired; Brownsville

If the church is upsetting the status quo, you can be assured that a confrontation will ensue. Jesus said, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!" (Luke 6:26).

Paul didn't hesitate to upset the status quo, especially when it came to the shrine business. After the uproar in Ephesus died down, Paul carried out the arrangements he made before the controversy. He planned to pass through Macedonia and Achaia, proceed to Jerusalem, and then go to Rome.



SORRELL

After three years in Ephesus, Paul called the disciples together, embraced them, and departed to continue his third mission tour. First, there was:

The journey to Troas (20:1-12)

After revisiting the churches in Macedonia, Paul went to Corinth and stayed for three months. Just before he planned to sail for Jerusalem, Paul learned of the Jew's plot to kill him. Rather than boarding a vessel where

he could easily be killed, Paul changed his plans and went in the opposite direction to Troas.

The Apostle lingered in Troas for a week. Paul preached to the disciples on the first day of the week when they shared a meal. Even though Paul was well known and the spirit of the service unusual, one young man, Eutyclus, went to sleep and fell to the ground from a window ledge three floors up. He was killed instantly. Some believed he was knocked unconscious, but Luke, the physician, said that he was taken up dead.

Paul interrupted his sermon long enough to restore Eutyclus' life, and then preached until the break of day. The modern Christian who only wants a sermonette would never exclaim, "I am of Paul."

Leaving Troas, Paul walked to Assos while his company boarded a ship. Paul boarded the vessel at Assos and continued his journey.

The journey to Miletus (20:13-38)

Paul intentionally bypassed Ephesus, since he was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem for Pentecost. Knowing that the church in Ephesus needed his counsel, Paul asked the Ephesian

elders to meet him at the port of Miletus. This was the last time the elders would see their beloved friend.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

May 14 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 20:1-21:16
Focal Passages: Acts 20:1-21:16

In his farewell discourse, Paul reflected on his work as a missionary. He then spoke of the uncertainties of the future; but, as always, he was ready to die for Christ. He encouraged the church leaders to be faithful and to feed the church with the meat of the Word because the grievous or violent wolves (false teachers) and those who speak perverse things, would try to draw away the disciples.

Paul commended the brethren to God, knelt down, and prayed with them. They all wept, kissed him goodbye, and accompanied him to his ship bound for Jerusalem.

The journey to Jerusalem (21:1-16)

From Miletus, Paul and his company sailed to Coos and then to the beautiful island of Rhodes and on to Patara. At Patara they transferred to a larger ship and sailed by Cyprus to Tyre.

While the ship was being unloaded, the missionary party visited for one week with their fellow disciples. The disciples believed Paul's life would be in danger if he went to Jerusalem and begged him not to go. But Paul was as determined to go to Jerusalem as, Martin Luther was determined to attend the meeting in Worms. "I will go on, though as many devils were aiming at me as there are tiles on the roof," Luther said.

After the farewells, Paul boarded the ship and sailed to Ptolemais and then down to Caesarea. The long sea voyage was over and the rest of the journey to Jerusalem was by land.

While Paul and the disciples were being entertained in the home of Philip, one of the first deacons who later turned evangelist and won the Ethiopian eunuch to the Lord, a prophet by the name of Agabus, came down from Judea. Agabus tried to persuade Paul not to go to Jerusalem by tying Paul's hands and feet to symbolize what would befall him. Paul's friends wept and pleaded with him not to go.

He informed them that he was not only ready to go to Jerusalem, he was also ready to die there. The disciples prayed, as did Jesus in Gethsemane, "The will of the Lord be done."

Building up the body of Christ

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

Tenth grade biology was tough! I still shudder when I think of the lectures, tests, diagrams, and terms. But you know what made it all bearable? Somewhere out there was a frog with my name on it! I knew that sooner or later all the lectures, tests, charts — everything — would converge on one moment in time.

We had studied and learned and passed most of the tests, but we still needed guidance when it came time to dissect our frogs. So, Mrs. Green visited every table, pointing out errors here, assisting there, and generally fine tuning the whole "operation." Smart lady, Mrs. Green. She taught us, but then she showed us how.



BAILEY

That's the same method Paul uses in his letters to the Romans, Galatians, and Ephesians — first the doctrine, then the duty. He tells us what to believe, and then he shows us how to believe.

Paul used the word "therefore" in Ephesians 4:1 to tie together everything he said in chapters 1-3 about our "vocation" or "high calling" with a plea for us to live up to those blessings in chapters 4-6. The edification, or "building up," of the body of Christ, the church, to the glory of God is the purpose of this particular passage. The goal is to achieve unity that produces harmonious growth.

In vv. 1-3 Paul reminds believers of our responsibility for unity. The word "vocation" in verse one refers to vocational ministers and the "called-out ones" — all believers. Necessary characteristics of this lifestyle are spelled out in verse two — absence of self-pride, discipline, being agreeable

even under provocation, and patience when dealing with others. To paraphrase Ackland, Paul implies that being "Christian" with other Christians in the church won't always be easy, but our responsibility is to go the second mile. Note in verse three that Paul doesn't say that we're to make unity, but to maintain the unity already existing in the Body. Quoting Ackland, "The Holy Spirit is the source of peace within the church. But this peace cannot be realized without the 'endeavoring' of all members."

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

May 14 Lesson

Basic Passage: Ephesians 4:1-16
Focal Passage: Ephesians 4:1-16

In verses four through six Paul identifies the foundations of unity: God the Holy Spirit (v. 4), God the Son (v. 5), and God the Father (v. 6). The word "hope" in verse four has many aspects, but it is still one hope, tied to the glorious future of Christ. "One baptism" in verse five refers to the accepted identification with Christ's death and resurrection in Paul's day and in ours, not only the baptism of the Spirit, but water baptism,

specifically. "Father of all," (v. 6) in the context of the church, refers to all people who believe and are therefore part of the "one body."

The provisions for unity, spelled out in verses 7-16, deal with local bodies and the diversities of gifts. Unity doesn't necessarily imply uniformity. We often want to make the "good" we do the standard for everyone, but "Paul was a stickler for right beliefs, but equally insistent on the existence of, and necessity for, diversity within Christian fellowships," (Ackland).

In verses seven through 11 we see Christ the conquering King descending to earth, defeating Satan and sin, and ascending back on high from whence He bestows gifts to His followers. In verse 11 Paul lists these gifts, apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers. In verses 12-16, he lists the purposes of the gifts. The gifts of verse 11 are really the gifted ones, who are to use their gifts to prepare other members of the body for spiritual ser-

vice. The danger of failing to become spiritually "perfected" or mature (v. 13) is seen in verse 14, where shallow, uninstructed believers are easy prey for false teachers.

Notice the contrast of false teachers (vv. 13-14) and right believers (vv. 15-16). The "children" of verse 14 are to "grow up" (v. 15) in Christ, "speaking the truth in love," another vital characteristic of the mature believer.

In verse 16 we find the accomplishment of unity. Every member of the body, the church, did his/her part in perfect harmony with every other member of the body, not as an end in itself, but for the building up of the body of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

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God strengthens relationships

By Pat Fife, pastor; English Creek Church, Newport

Unchecked rumors can be devastating! On Oct. 31, 1938, Orson Welles announced over a national radio broadcast the invasion of earth by Martians. Even with an introductory disclaimer that the event was fictional, which not everyone heard, great panic was created. The rumors which followed were, of course, unfounded; nevertheless, the chaotic results were predictable.

On the other hand, we often hear some news which we deny because we really don't want to believe it. On Nov. 22, 1963, I was a high school student in Carrier Mills, Ill. I had been to lunch and was returning to math class. One of my best friends came into class and said, "Have you guys heard, the President's been shot!" Our response was, "Oh sure, and what other jokes have you heard?" Soon, however, the gravity of the situation was realized as that rumor was not unfounded. It was not a rumor at all, it was truth!

During this week's lesson we will attempt to discover how the Israelites

responded to rumor, checked out facts, and learned to differentiate friends from enemies.

In this week's text, the conquest of Canaan seems to be complete, notwithstanding other battles yet to be fought in the book of Judges. With the conquest of Canaan, in which all the tribes were involved, we see the return of the individual tribes to their particular lands which had already been captured. Among the first to return and settle were the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh — all on the east side of the Jordan.

After they crossed the river and returned home, they built a "great altar" (22:10). This altar was established among the three tribes as a witness to all that the "Lord is God" (v. 34). Their purpose was both holy and righteous. Their intentions were to have their private place where they could worship their Lord God.

At this point, the rest of Israel became confused. They "heard" (v. 11) about the altar which had been erected and made preparations to "go up to war against them" (v. 12). Based upon hearsay, the Israelites prepared to go to war against their brethren!

To their credit, Israel investigated

the rumor before war was formally declared. This may have been a decision of Joshua's or as John Tullock supposes in his *Old Testament Story*, "In a tribal assembly it was decided to send Phineas, a priest, to investigate the situation."

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES May 14 Lesson

Basic Passage: Joshua 22
Focal Passages: Joshua 22:10, 16, 27-29, 34

During the investigation, the delegation from Israel drew some rather serious charges and accusations. In short, they accused their brethren of trespassing against God, rebelling against God, being unhappy with the land they possessed, and bringing another curse upon the entire nation (v. 16-20).

Given the opportunity to explain their actions, the Eastern tribes gave the following explanation. The altar was an altar to the Lord for burnt offerings. Even more, it is a witness between east and west that all the tribes of Israel worship the same Lord.

Surely, in the objective of their worship, Israel was again united. Separation by regions, mountains, and a river, left the need to achieve unity. Israel had no better way to attain — or express — such unity than through their worship.

This lesson, I believe, speaks far more clearly to modern Christianity than we care to admit. In Luke 9:50 our Lord states, "... he that is not against us is for us." In the same Gospel (11:23) he reiterates the same thought, "He that is not with Me is against Me."

Allow me to ask a serious question. Who is our enemy? I submit the answer to that question is Satan. We often speak and act as if our enemies can be discovered within other Christian denominations — or even within the churches of our brethren.

May I remind you we are all the people of God. Our brethren are not our enemies! We can ill afford to continue to be exclusionary or divided. We must love each other and include our brethren from both theological and political extremes in efforts to reach our world for Christ. Failing to do so may well destroy the entire effort.

Rose Hill Church calls Randy Bynum

Rose Hill Church, Memphis, called Randy Bynum to serve as pastor. Bynum formerly served Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis, as minister of single adults and outreach leader. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain (Miss.) College, and a master of theology degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

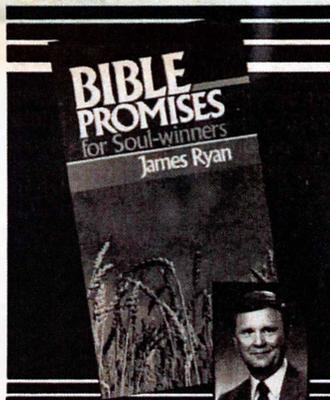
Bynum and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, have two children, Amy and Randle.

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James Ryan is manager, Church Training Section, The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. He writes for magazines, newspapers, and Sunday School materials.

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Counselors field questions during BTN teleconference

NASHVILLE — Pastors who counsel families were urged during a recent live BTN teleconference to develop a network of fellow Christian counselors to turn to for help if caseloads become too heavy or a problem too complex. "Even as a professional, I have to know when I am in over my head and I need to refer" people to other counselors, said Roberta Damon, minister of counseling at First Church, Richmond, Va., in answer to a call-in question from the viewing audience.

Damon was one of three panelists who appeared on "Counseling Families," a live teleconference for pastors, pastoral counselors, and church leaders who counsel families. The teleconference, which aired April 21 on the Baptist Telecommunication Network, was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry and church administration departments and the Southern Baptist Association of Family Ministers.

Panelists included Damon, Ron Mumbower, minister of counseling at First Church, Jackson, Miss., and Jim Hightower, pastoral care consultant in the board's church administration department. Gary Hauk, manager of the family ministry department's family enrichment section, was host.

Call-in questions about when it is proper to refer people to professionals, AIDS, using the Bible in counseling, and advantages of premarital and postmarital counseling were received during the hour-long program.

Meanwhile, Damon suggested Christian counselors get to know other Christian counselors in the community "who can be of help to you when you need it. We should have a Rolodex on our desks of names of people who deal in certain areas, like suicide, runaways, or abortion," she said.

51 chaplains, spouses endorsed by HMB

JONESBORO, Ga. — Fifty-one newly endorsed Southern Baptist chaplains and spouses were encouraged to minister for spiritual good rather than worldly acclaim during the spring endorsing ceremony April 23.

Charles Carter, pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, Ga., where the service was held, challenged the chaplains to live by hope, faith, love, and a healthy fear of God as they minister throughout the nation.

Participants in the service brought the number of chaplains endorsed by the Home Mission Board to 2033. The chaplains serve in all 50 states and in 14 foreign countries, in military, hospital, institutional, and industrial settings.

The 51 newly-endorsed chaplains and their spouses will serve in 18 states. The Home Mission Board does not appoint chaplains as missionaries or pay

their salaries, but "endorses" them to the employing agencies. In addition to endorsement, the board provides them with pastoral and professional support through personal ministry, seminars, and conferences.

Brotherhood pilots new national training approach

MEMPHIS — Called RA University, a new training approach for Royal Ambassador counselors, directors, and committeemen, has been developed by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

"RA University is the most extensive Royal Ambassador leadership training program we've ever provided," said Karl Bozeman, national director for Lad and Crusader RAs. "This may very well set the pattern for future Royal Ambassador national training programs. By using a college campus setting, we have been able to reduce the cost factor significantly."

More than 300 RA leaders have preregistered for the RA University training conference, promising to make the four day event the largest national training event in RA history, Brotherhood officials said.

Scheduled for May 25-28 at Rhodes College in Memphis, RA University will fill a training gap by providing extended classroom sessions at a centrally located national training facility, Brotherhood leaders said.

Small church pastors honored by convention

NASHVILLE — Long-time Missouri pastor Burton Hunt and Dick Mangham of Orlando, Fla., have been named the Southern Baptist Convention's outstanding small church pastors for 1989. The two were selected for outstanding and unique ministry contributions as part of a denominational effort to honor the efforts of small church pastors, said Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hunt, pastor of Cave Springs Church, Neosho, Mo., for 32 years, was a bivocational pastor until his recent retirement from the body shop of a local automobile dealership. Under Hunt's leadership, Cave Springs Church has been a model for missions giving in the state, with 43 percent of undesignated receipts given to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget in 1988.

Mangham, pastor of Holden Heights Church, Orlando, has led his church to reach out with ministries that have resulted in growth from an average attendance of 25 two years ago to about 140 this year. Holden Heights Church is surrounded by small industrial shops, topless bars, and a low-income community. In response to needs, Hunt led in establishing community ministries that include emergency food service, a children's day camp program, a Haitian mission, and counseling for families.

As part of their recognition, Hunt and Mangham will be honored at Bible-preaching/administration conferences this summer at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers. Hunt will receive an all-expense paid trip to Glorieta, and Mangham will be a guest at the Ridgecrest week. Each pastor will receive a plaque, a Bible, and other study helps during recognition services at the conference centers.

Historians trace 175 years of Baptists in America

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — Blame for the historic North-South split between U.S. Baptists lies on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line, H. Leon McBeth told a gathering of church historians.

McBeth addressed the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society during their annual joint meeting April 25-26 in Nashville. "Baptists in America: 175 Years of National Organization" was the theme. It marked the anniversary of the "Triennial Convention" missions society, the first national Baptist body.

McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, spoke on "The Broken Unity of 1845: A Reassessment."

"What happened in 1845?" McBeth asked. "The answer might be: That is the year the Southern Baptist Convention was formed; or, that is the year Southern Baptists withdrew from national Baptist cooperation over the issue of slavery. . . ."

"The popular perception is that Baptists in the South just decided to withdraw from national cooperation and from their own regional convention to go their own separate way. The record, however, suggests that the schism of 1845 was at least as much exclusion on the part of the North as withdrawal on the part of the South."

Northerners became angry in 1843, when they learned that two Baptist missionaries were slaveholders, McBeth said. A flurry of letters and editorials in Baptist newspapers "moved the issue onto the front burner

of Baptist awareness."

Northern moderates found themselves trapped between Northern militant abolitionists and Southerners, he said. Eventually, the Boston-dominated Acting Board of the Triennial Convention sided with the abolitionists, declining to appoint slaveholders as missionaries.

"They made a deliberate and intentional choice, on the basis of what they thought would be best for the missionary enterprise," McBeth said, noting the decision also was made "in order to prevent a separation (between militants and moderates) in the North itself."

Other papers presented during the meeting included:

- "The Shaping of Cooperation Among Early Baptists," by William L. Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va.

Several obstacles worked against Baptist cooperation in Early America, Lumpkin said: "the vastness of the new country, the sparseness of the population, the unplanned, and spontaneous generation of churches . . . (and) the variety of backgrounds and of denominational titles."

These were countered by forces that supported cooperation: "need for defense against foes, need for authentication of ministers, desire for fellowship and counsel, movement of ministers (and laypeople) among the churches . . . and large tasks (that) required the pooling of resources and united action beyond the capabilities of local congregations."

- "The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination, 1814-

1845: An American Metaphor," by William H. Brackney, vice president and dean of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

The General Missionary Convention, or Triennial Convention, was a metaphor for American life in that "so much of what happened with Baptists reflects what happened with our country," Brackney said. The Triennial Convention "could not have been founded before it was, and given the sectionalism of antebellum American history, it was destined not to survive 1850," he noted.

For example, he said, prevailing social and political trends made possible the development of a democratic convention; maturity of Baptists along with their nation allowed them to "enjoy public respect as one of the great religious forces"; and a "strong nationalist fervor" encouraged them.

- "Notable Achievements in Missions and Evangelism Since 1845," by B. Gray Allison, president and evangelism professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis.

Allison tracked the progress of the National (black) Baptist conventions, the American (Northern) Baptist Churches and conservative Baptists. They all have sponsored mission efforts in America and around the globe, he said.

Most of his paper was dedicated to Southern Baptists, he noted, saying: "Most of the achievements have come from Southern Baptists. I'm glad about that, and I'm sad about that."

The formation of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified

budget was "the greatest single stride forward in missions," he said. "This meant that convention agencies no longer had to raise their own funds."

- "Baptists in Higher Education, 1814-1989," by Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Baptists began at "levels of society which did not automatically assume that a college education was either available or appropriate," Walker noted. "Early Baptists were hailed as incorrigible dissidents who should be excluded from all structures of society, including the educational institutions."

Although Baptists were branded "anti-intellectual and anti-education," their leaders "recognized the value of education and educational institutions," Walker said. He described how Baptists created academies, colleges and universities, seminaries, and manual training institutes, which collectively numbered in the hundreds, even before 1900. Indeed, Southern Baptists have founded 186 colleges and universities, and 55 remain as members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

In response to a question, Walker urged Southern Baptists not to give up on their educational institutions, particularly because of their evangelistic value. Noting the average age of students is rising and those students are people who are making career changes and open to new ideas, he said, "We have a significant opportunity for presenting the Gospel to people who already are at a point of making decisions about their lives."