

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Lowrie installed

Board approves TBCH fund drive

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Meeting for the first time in the new Conference Center in Brentwood, the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board installed a new executive director, approved a Brotherhood Department director, granted its children's care institution permission for a fund-raising effort, and voted a 1989-90 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$26,297,860.

D. L. Lowrie, native Tennessean who spent most of his pastoral ministry in Texas, was installed as executive director Monday night (May 8). He became the TBC's top executive May 1 upon the retirement of Tom J. Madden, who served ten years. (See separate story, this issue).

Cameron Byler, director of Baptist Men, Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, was named Brotherhood Department director, effective June 12. Byler, 61, succeeds Archie King, who retires May 31. (See separate story).

Funding campaign okayed

The Christian Services Committee, chaired by Gary Anderson, pastor of First Church, Dunlap, recommended the Board approve a request from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes for permission to conduct a \$7 million statewide capital needs and endowment campaign.

After explanation of the needs by Gerald Stow, TBCH executive director, and several questions from Board members, approval for the campaign was granted.

The campaign will begin this fall, and will conclude during the fall of 1991, the centennial year for the TBCH. Board approval means that TBCH can solicit gifts from Tennessee Baptist churches.

"I am and will be philosophically opposed to direct fund-raising campaigns to the churches," Lowrie told the body. "But the needs are evident and the Children's Homes institution will have only one centennial. This makes this one-time approach unique."

Stow explained that many programs of TBCH need expansion to carry into the next decades. "There will be greater demands on Cooperative Program allocations for existing programs. The number of employees necessary for expanded programs and needs could stretch from the present 128 to 162 as we expand and improve services to the children."

He said \$4 million of the \$7 million goal would be used for endowment. The greatest portion of the capital needs funding would be used in developing the boys' Ranch, Millington, \$2 million for construction of

cottages, housing, and service building.

Budget up 6 percent

Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Church, and chairman of the Budget and Program Committee, recommended the 1989-90 CP budget goal be increased up to 6 percent — a total of \$26,797,860. The current budget goal is \$25,281,000.

Oakley's committee also recommended distribution of the CP budget for Southern Baptist causes be increased by one-fourth percent to 37.75 percent. Both recommendations passed. Later a motion was made by Lon Shoopman to study a target goal for division of CP funds (TBC-SBC). It also passed.

The Board approved a change in Harrison-Chilhowee Academy's program statement to include the seventh grade — and this will be presented for approval to the TBC in November. Program statements were approved for Telecommunications and Partner-



MANTLE PASSED — D. L. Lowrie, new TBC executive director, receives official name sign for his office from retiring leader Tom Madden (right).

ship Missions.

Golden State increased

Board members, after hearing a \$1 million goal for the 1989 Golden State Missions Offering, voted to amend the (See page 5)

Missionaries take safety measures as Panamanian unrest continues

By Art Taaiston

PANAMA CITY, Panama (BP) — With additional United States troops being sent to Panama, escalating tension has prompted at least five Southern Baptist missionary couples to relocate temporarily near the U.S.-protected Canal Zone, according to Jackie Cooper, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Panama.

"We're pulling most of our missionaries into the Balboa area," Cooper said in a May 12 telephone interview. Balboa is on the west side of Panama City, Panama, near five U.S. military bases and the Panama Canal.

On the morning of May 11, Cooper had reported that Southern Baptist missionaries in Panama felt no danger. That changed during the day.

"We were encouraged by Panamanians to leave the smaller towns," Cooper said. The missionaries'

Panamanian friends voiced concern over unpredictable paramilitary gangs like that which bloodied opponents of ruler Gen. Manuel Noriega May 10.

"We're not part of the evacuation that's been reported in the States," Cooper emphasized. "We're taking some contingency measures among ourselves because of the uncertainties of what might happen."

"There was no violence reported yesterday," he said, "but we don't know what next steps the (Noriega) government might take. We don't know what steps even our (U.S.) government might take. We know that the U.S. is sending troops down here," which will escalate tensions, Cooper said.

Many U.S. civilians who work at U.S. bases in Panama have moved from their homes in and around Panama City to U.S.-controlled canal areas. And President Bush, in announcing the deployment of additional troops in Panama May 11, encouraged U.S. businesses in Panama to send all U.S. employees there on extended leaves.

Cooper said the missionaries hope to return to their homes as soon as possible. "We're hoping there's going to be some sort of negotiated settlement so things will get back to normal," he said "but if that doesn't work out, we

(See page 5)



STEPHENS-BURNETT LIBRARY — Newly endowed library at Carson-Newman College was named last week. In the ceremony, from left: Stanley Benson, director of library services; Sam Dean, trustee chairman; Katharine Anne Stephens, donor; and Cordell Maddox, college president.

Donation endows Carson-Newman library

JEFFERSON CITY — The newly endowed library of Carson-Newman College was named Stephens-Burnett Memorial Library May 11 in a ceremony on campus.

The library was named in honor of the East Tennessee family which has been a part of the college history since the school's early days.

The endowment, the largest single gift ever received by Carson-Newman, came from the estate of the late

Charles Burnett Stephens. Stephens was a construction business owner in Morristown.

Katharine Anne Stephens, his sister, and other family members were present for the naming ceremony. Although the amount of the endowment was not disclosed, it is estimated that proceeds will be approximately \$1 million.

The endowment consists primarily of commercial property.

Katharine Stephens chose to honor

the family and her brother by endowing the library. Her brother had been a longtime contributor to Carson-Newman.

The family has been associated with Carson-Newman for more than a century. Two family members served as trustees, one as president of the college, and one as the college's first librarian.

The endowment fund will be used to procure resource materials and to maintain the building. A scholarship fund had been established by the late Charles Burnett Stephens.

Calvin Metcalf, pastor of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, and Tennessee Baptist Convention president, represented the convention at the ceremony.

An inside look

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Editorials

Constellations wait, the hour for man is late

This is the season of commencement exercises, and the three Tennessee Baptist colleges are sending into the world scores of young people.

Graduates of Union University, Belmont College, and Carson-Newman College will embark on courses for which many of them have spent most of their lives preparing. Hope is high, spirits soar.

But there is doubt and confusion. They have concluded one level of education and now they begin another.

Most adults have observed several graduation ceremonies, and some may be callous about the process. But behind the trappings that have become tradition for such occasions, we find several truths.

Teachers and administrators usually have pride in accomplishments of those who stride across the stage, matched only by parents and friends. There is grace and dignity befitting this triumph.

There are light moments, frivolity, nostalgia.

More than anything, however, graduation is a serious matter. Who is the audience for the commencement speaker? To whom should the address be directed?

We have heard speakers delineate what they thought graduates would like to hear, or needed to hear. We have heard discussions of world affairs pass under the guise of commencement addresses. Other speakers have used the experience to make a statement to the news media.

Some speakers talk for an hour and say nothing. Some speak volumes in fifteen

minutes.

What then should a speaker say to those who are about to be college graduates? First of all, he or she should realize it is too late for a cram course. It is not necessary to teach the graduates all they have failed to learn in four years — nor to review all that they have learned.

The best way to gain individual attention is to speak to individuals. Graduates are eager to be released from boredom and the confines of the classroom. They are ready to run, like children at recess. Though they have labored for certain rewards (such as fortune and fame), they should be relieved by words of the speaker, of confusion and restless wandering.

The message should be aimed at the individual, loaded with truth, with extraordinary effort to capture the spirit of the moment, the exhilaration of the future.

The commencement speaker must not lie to the graduates. They already know they are the hope of the long range planners. They must be assured they also are involved in the planning. In depth and honesty, they should not be told that "there's a big, bad world out there," and they should not be lulled into thinking that "everything is beautiful."

The speaker should put self last, nor try to sustain a perfect image.

Moreover, let the messenger be an instrument for God's message, barbed with the pure light of truth, with no word wasted.

There should be no "chasing rabbits" or thoughtless meandering along halls of trivia.

This is an uncommon time, this commencement. It would be unkind to tell them

that the world awaits their coming, because the world certainly will not stop and wait for them to work their marvels.

But, for what they will do eventually, we can agree with Amos Wilder that "the constellations wait, the mountains watch, the hour for man is late."

They can, and should, be told that there is an urgency about this world that demeans mankind, but at the same time demands our best. With centuries of intolerance and hatred abounding in history, it would be easy to warn them, "Beware!" But a better word would be an admonition and challenge, "Be alert, strong, sincere, pure and honest, but dedicated, trustworthy, be Christ's own vessel."

Graduates should be told about saints without haloes, the ordinary saints unembellished by titles or riches, who are willing to put the needs of others in front of the needs of themselves.

Rather than telling them they can or must conquer all evil and all disease, let them know that in the care and teaching of Christ they join a long line of volunteers, heroes without honors.

Then, if they seize this affirmation, they can answer the beat of the different drum and truly make a difference.

The awesome responsibility of our colleges is to adequately prepare students for life in a tough world, to be overcomers, to be a part of that "chosen generation." The task of the commencement speaker is to gently, but with fervor, be wind blowing on the spark of new beginning. — WFA

HMB plans to continue dialogue with Jews

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board intends to continue dialogue with Jews, even though the agency declined to co-sponsor a recent Christian-Jewish workshop, HMB President Larry Lewis said.

Lewis made the clarification after two Southern Baptists charged the board with undermining interfaith relations by withdrawing from the 11th National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations. The event was held March 27-30 in Charleston, S.C.

In the past 18 years, the board's interfaith witness department has co-

sponsored 15 dialogues with Jews. Support for this year's workshop was withdrawn after the agency's board of directors expressed concern about the selection of two of the Southern Baptist speakers, Lewis said.

The speakers in question were Nancy Hastings Sehested, pastor of Prescott Memorial Church, Memphis, and Robert Maddox, president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

In separate open letters to the HMB, Sehested and former HMB employee George Sheridan, who also participated in the conference, accused the agency

of undermining interfaith dialogue with Jews by withdrawing from the workshop.

Sehested charged the agency with sexism and "denigration of women ministers." Sheridan alleged the board withdrew support because Maddox had spoken at a conference of homosexuals while a speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter a decade ago.

Lewis denied those charges and said he regretted "misunderstandings" that resulted from the HMB administrative committee's decision to withhold sponsorship. Some members of that committee did not believe Sehested and Maddox were representative of the majority of Southern Baptists, he said.

Lewis said HMB directors wanted to distance the agency from a meeting where Southern Baptist representation was limited to controversial personalities.

"We strongly endorse the workshop and intend to support it in the future," Lewis said. "Our withdrawal was an attempt to keep our agency from becoming further embroiled in continued controversy."

"The administrative committee felt it could not in good conscience support the program of this particular workshop. It was a one-time action that applied only to this event, and does not preclude Home Mission Board participation in future workshops."

Tennesseans work in Venezuela

Fourteen Tennesseans and six from out-of-state combined their efforts to help Venezuelans in April.

Nashville physician Dewey Dunn of Woodmont Church reported that the team members' variety of talents were used in health care, maintenance, sewing, and music work at the Baptist seminary in Los Teques.

Graduation robes were made, the student housing building was scraped and painted in addition to other maintenance work, a music seminar was held in Caracas, and health care clinics were held.

The health care team was made up of a gastroenterologist, pediatrician/allergist, laboratory technologist, physical therapist, dermatologist, dentist, ophthalmologist, nutritionist, pulmonologist, and two nurses. Venezuelan doctors, a dentist, nutri-

tionist, and several nurses assisted. Clinics were held at the seminary and in four other sites and about 1200 people were treated.

Also 300 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed.

Dunn is coordinating a health care group to serve in Venezuela July 7-17 and requests volunteers to contact him at 1303 Lone Oak Circle, Nashville, Tenn. 37215, 615-383-8499.

According to Clarence Stewart, director of partnership missions for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, there have been no requests at this time for health care volunteers in the Philippines.

Tennessee Baptists' official relationship with Venezuela ended in December. The partnership with Filipino Baptists began in April.

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D. L. Lowrie installed as Tennessee Baptists' new leader

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
The mantle of leadership in the Tennessee Baptist Convention has changed hands.

D. L. Lowrie, a native of Bluff City who returned to his home state after 30 years of ministry in Texas, was installed May 8, just seven days after taking over the helm of the TBC as executive director-treasurer.

Lowrie succeeds Tom J. Madden, who retired April 30 after ten years as executive secretary-treasurer of the BC.

Approximately 200 people attended the installation service, the first formal function in the new Baptist center in Brentwood.

Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, called on Tennessee Baptists to member from the outset that Lowrie receives his ministry from the Lord. Elder, a long-time friend of Lowrie, noted that no matter what Lowrie is called — administrator, executive, or leader — he must see himself "as a preacher of the Gospel until the end of his days."

Elder admonished Tennessee Baptists to receive Lowrie as "a mortal man — a sinner saved by grace as we are."

Harold Bennett, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee called Lowrie "God's man for the hour" and delivered a ten-point charge to Tennessee Baptists' new leader.

Bennett reminded Lowrie he must assess a vision for Tennessee Baptists that goes beyond the borders of the state.

The SBC executive also challenged Lowrie to develop strategies for beginning new churches and developing established congregations. In addition, Bennett said, priority must be given to programs that will assist churches in the Great Commission task of "sharing the Gospel with every person in the world."

Bennett related that leaders must determine to never conduct a dull or

ineffective conference." Everything we do should be so exciting that people will "want to join our train," Bennett said.

Bennett, a former state convention executive director, stressed the importance of loving everyone in the state — the church and the unchurched.

The SBC leader reminded Lowrie of servanthood, noting churches created the convention. "Your goal is to assist the churches in reaching people for Christ," he said.

Bennett also called for cooperation with SBC programs, particularly Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan for reaching the world for Christ by the year 2000.

This task seems impossible, but remember nothing is impossible through Christ, Bennett challenged.

A strong faith and belief in missions were two other key elements emphasized by Bennett. He urged Lowrie to reject nearsightedness. "Refuse to be anything but all that God wants you to be," he said.

Finally, Bennett challenged, leaders must give Jesus Christ the pre-eminence in everything.

"There should never be any question about our commitment to Jesus Christ — God's only Son."

Lowrie, in accepting the mantle of leadership from retired Executive Secretary Tom Madden, made several commitments to Tennessee Baptists.

Noting that he is a "country Gospel preacher" Lowrie said that is what he will be in his new post despite having more administrative responsibilities.

Lowrie also pledged to maintain the "tenets of faith, the principles of life that have characterized Tennessee Baptists" since the first church was established in the state.

Lowrie made a personal commitment to "help us be mindful of our heritage," noting people "always get in trouble when they forget where they came from."

Tennessee Baptists' new leader also pledged to avoid any "action that is or



WELCOME TO TENNESSEE — New Executive Director D. L. Lowrie, left, his wife, Alice, and son, David, are welcomed by guests at a reception following Lowrie's installation to Tennessee Baptists' top post. Other members of the Lowrie family were present, including his parents, Orel and Irene Lowrie of Bluff City.

would be seen to be political in nature."

"There is not a political bone in my body or a political hair on my head. If there were, I would pull it out," Lowrie said, emphasizing there "is no place in God's family for political expediency."

Lowrie also committed himself to keeping the Great Commission before Tennessee Baptists. Decisions to be made must be done on the basis of how will it help the Great Commission, he said.

The Tennessee native pledged con-

stantly to call Tennessee Baptists to prayer, noting he learned in his first pastorate (at Biltmore Church in Elizabethton while he was a college student) that "God does what He does in response to the prayers of His people."

Finally, Lowrie pledged to always give God the glory and honor He deserves.

"Whatever happens that is good (in the Tennessee Baptist Convention), we'll give God the glory. Whatever happens that is bad, we'll take the responsibility," he promised.

Easter offering shows increase

ATLANTA (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board expressed enthusiasm about potential increases in the 1989 Annie Armstrong offering for home missions and concern about projected decreases in Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funding.

During the May meeting of the agency's executive committee, Home Mission Board Executive Vice President Bob Banks reported \$9.41 million had been received for the 1989 Annie Armstrong Offering as of May 9.

That is an increase of \$1.9 million, or 27 percent, over the amount received by the same date last year, he said. It also is the largest amount received by that date since 1982.

However, Banks cautioned that the final outcome of the annual offering is impossible to project from these early returns, since the offering is still being collected and processed through local churches and state conventions. The goal for this year's offering is \$39 million.

HMB President Larry Lewis joined board members in applauding the positive signs of giving, noting that the offering is "very critical and important to us."

But Lewis said he remains concerned about proposals from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to establish a new Religious Liberty Commission. He also voiced concern about the budget that would reduce the amount of money flowing to missions through the Cooperative Program.

Lewis said he is encouraged by Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines' request that the SBC Executive Committee not bring the Religious Liberty Commission proposal before the denomination's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15.

The Cooperative Program budget proposed by the SBC Executive Committee for 1989-90 would channel almost \$1 million less to the Home Mission Board than the current budget, Lewis explained. That shortfall is due, in part, to an effort to eliminate debt on the four-year-old SBC Building in Nashville. The budget, however, does not yet include funds for the Religious Liberty Commission.

"This reduction is almost intolerable in a time when we need to expand our missions efforts," he said. "I would hope something might occur that would cause the Executive Committee or the convention to rescind that action."

"We're facing a tough budget crunch over the next decade if something isn't done."

Carson-Newman trustees approve center's design

JEFFERSON CITY — Plans for a new student center at Carson-Newman College have received initial approval from the board of trustees May 11.

The board gave approval to the artist's conception, site and cost estimates, and preliminary design. A St. Louis firm has been authorized to proceed with the design to complete the plans.

In other actions, the board adopted a \$1.1 million increase in the 1989-1990 budget over last year's budget. More than 20 percent of the increase will go toward student financial aid, bringing the total of institutional funds for student aid to nearly \$2 million.

Carson-Newman, which reached its optimum enrollment of 2000 students last fall, is projecting another record enrollment for the upcoming year. Applications are 26 percent ahead of last year.

Byler elected Brotherhood director

During the May 9 meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, Cameron Byler of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission was unanimously elected as Brotherhood director.

Byler will succeed Archie King who will retire May 31. His service will begin June 12.

Byler was recommended by the

Church Program Committee's search committee headed by M.B. Howard, trustee and layman from Covington.

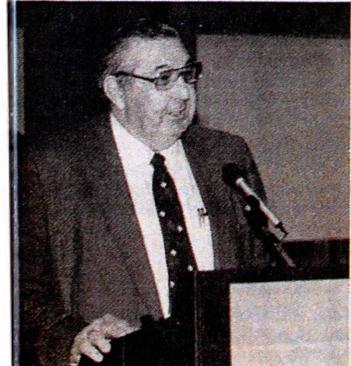
The native of Texas reported to the trustees that he had Tennessee ties. Byler noted that his grandfather lived in Bedford County during the Civil War.

He has been director of Baptist Men and National Coordinator of Disaster Relief at the Brotherhood Commission since 1985. Previously he was director of Brotherhood, church extension, and state assembly administrator for the Alaska Baptist Convention.

Byler has been manager of a Texas Baptist camp; Texas Royal Ambassador Director; minister of activities and recreation at First Church, Lubbock, Texas; dean of boys, athletic director, and head coach at Buckner Baptist Children's Home, Dallas, Texas; and athletic director and head coach in several high schools.

He is a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and has studied at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, and the University of Houston.

He and his recently deceased wife, Joyce, have two children.



NEW TBC DIRECTOR — Cameron Byler addresses the TBC Executive Board before his election as Brotherhood director.

Our Readers Write

Commends enthusiasm

I wish to commend the members of North Springfield Church. Recently our church conducted Church Loyalty Day. We emphasized outreach contacts and offering.

I have never seen such enthusiastic participation within a church membership during my 19 years of ministry. Everyone worked hard. One member who was in the hospital even used her telephone to call a person who responded by being present.

Our church averages around 150 in Sunday School. There were 757 contacts made the week before Church Loyalty Day! We had an offering of \$15,411.17. This was quite a Sunday.

I'm proud to be the pastor of a church with such vision. Thank you North Springfield Church!

Ray Stonecypher, pastor
1st Ave. and Walnut St.
Springfield 37172

Proper perspective

As we Southern Baptists look toward the convention, some anticipate with hope, some with dread and a host of mixed feelings, and some with a burning desire to be recognized, seen, and heard. I beseech you, messengers, by the power of God, the Holy Spirit, that you read Hebrews 12:1-2.

Do a word study on this passage of inspired Scripture.

Then remember if you are moderate, conservative, liberal, or trying to ride the political fence.

The God we serve does not change to suit our fancy. He, praise His Holy name, stays the same.

We at home will be praying for the messengers.

Holton E. Meyers
Box 92
Readyville 37149

A new life

On May 30 we will leave Tennessee for our new home in a community of 600 at

Baptist Memorial Retirement Center, San Angelo, Texas. I came to Tennessee in August 1953 as professor of sociology at Carson-Newman College. After 19 years I retired for the first time in August 1972.

Tennessee Baptists have been good to me and for me. I have greatly appreciated the many blessings received from Carson-Newman College and First Church, Jefferson City.

Many have asked "Why are you leaving?" Well, I will be 82 years young July 7. As time moves on, we all need to adjust to reality. During the rest of the journey it is our desire to be the least possible problem to each other, to our families, and to society.

We want to make this move while we are both capable of making decisions about the future instead of having our relatives and friends make them for us.

In this second retirement we will continue writing books and articles, and will do volunteer service in the Health Care Center.

Life in Tennessee brought us physical and spiritual blessings far above our fondest expectations and dreams. If the good Lord wills and "the creek (Jordan) don't rise," we plan to return, somewhere down the line, to visit the Tennessee that has so richly blessed our lives.

As we go, we pray God's blessings upon Tennessee Baptists and your excellent team of leaders, D. L. Lowrie, executive director, and William Fletcher Allen, editor of the Baptist and Reflector. Since my wife, Fern Harrington Miles, spent 20 years in the Philippines as a missionary, we are excited over the partnership between Tennessee and the Philippines.

In light of the evil and depraved culture in which we all travel, if we have a word of counsel it would be "Turn to the right and go straight ahead!"

Herbert J. Miles
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City 37760

Send news

The European Baptist Convention celebrates its 25th anniversary, Oct. 23-26, in Kaiserslautern, West Germany. We need help in gathering information for the event.

We want to hear from former EBC church members as we plan for the celebration. We invite and need personal anecdotes and stories which could help in the production of a historical skit. Former members may send anecdotes or stories to: Program Planning Committee c/o the convention office at Sonnenberger Str. 60, 6200 Wiesbaden Federal Republic of Germany.

James E. Foster
International Baptist Church
2000 Hamburg 50
West Germany

General Convention, and Pikes Peak Association, the BSU provides a most active and effective ministry.

Contact us at 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80919, (719) 599-9094. Also, for anyone attending West Point or the Naval Academy, similar ministries are provided. At West Point contact: Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y. 12520, (914) 534-7954. At the Naval Academy contact: Dick Bumpass, 201 Hanover St., Annapolis, Md. 21401, (301) 263-0963.

Dwain Gregory
Director of Students and Military Personnel
Baptist Student Union
550 W. Woodmen Rd.
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80919

Saints in isolation

Reference was made in TeamTalk (May 3 Baptist and Reflector) about Christians not being saints in isolation. "The Isolated M" was founded and edited for years by Harper Fowley for psychologically isolated MENSANS. Some members of Mensa and of other higher I. Q. societies are Christians, i. e., saints.

One of the handicapping conditions of extreme intellectual giftedness is, indeed, isolated from most of the general population.

There are Christians, i. e., saints, who live for months at a time, as I have, on locked wards of psychiatric hospitals while awaiting development of lithium and other medications to control bi-polar disorder.

This is living the life of a saint in isolation.

Living the incarcerated life, with convicted felons behind the walls, within prison gates, is also done in isolation. I know. I have lived that way, too.

Dr. Owen Meredith Smaw
1612 16th Ave. S.
Nashville

Center seeks director

The Pittsburgh Center of the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry is searching for a volunteer to serve as center director. This director will be the chief administrator in Pittsburgh as the Northeastern School begins its first year of operation this fall.

The Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry is a cooperative venture of the Northeast Task Team on Theological Education, the Home Mission Board and the six Southern Baptist seminaries. Our purpose is to provide contextually-based ministry preparation for lay and ordained leaders for Southern Baptist churches. Pending expected approval of the appropriate agencies, we will be offering the Master of Arts in Religious Education and the Master of Divinity degrees, plus two diplomas.

The Center Director will be responsible for supervising the Center office, contacting potential and applying students, administering the procedures and policies of the School, and representing the School in denominational and public meetings. The Center has an office at the Greater Pittsburgh Baptist Association.

We are seeking a person retiring from a career in ministry, education, or administration. An earned doctorate is preferable but not essential.

If you are interested contact Doran McCarty, Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry, 236 West 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023 (212-787-7037) or Dwight Moody, Pittsburgh Center, 7189 Baptist Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102 (412-835-3737 or 412-366-8427).

Dwight Moody
North Park Church
Allison Park, Penn. 15101

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.

Opposes abortion

I want to share the burden I have about the abortion issue.

If Godly men and women across this nation don't involve themselves in "other people's business" when unborn babies are being slaughtered, the problems now facing Southern Baptists will be obsolete.

Though I'm sure many women feel they have the right to do with their bodies as they choose, I don't believe it always to be true.

God help us if Christian people don't rise up against abortion. Have our courts heard the cries of babies being killed — or seen their tiny bodies developing in the first and second trimester?

Minding our own business sometimes is not enough.

Ann McReynolds
9423 Edenshire
Knoxville 37922

Welcome to academies

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy wants to contact men and women coming to the Academy June 28 and 29 as new basic cadets. We will meet their plane, provide lodging and transportation, and take them to the Academy at the required time.

Many arriving June 28 will need overnight lodging. The BSU will provide free lodging, therefore saving motel costs. We will meet those coming on June 29 and provide them transportation to the Academy. This is an opportunity to meet some smiling faces and make new Christian friends before beginning basic cadet training. If pastors, parents, friends, or the new cadets themselves will contact us with name, address, and telephone, we will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information.

The Air Force Academy Baptist Student Union is a widely recognized organization and is here for the purpose of contributing to cadets' spiritual growth. Through the support of our Home Mission Board, Colorado Baptist

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists! The Lowries will always be in debt to you. I have been reminded of this anew in recent days.

Alice and I went back to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, last week. It was something of a sentimental journey. This time we were there to witness the graduation of our son Steve. He is the second of our sons to receive a degree from this seminary. When I received a degree in the spring of 1962, Steve was a new baby in Alice's arms. I will always remember the stirring challenge that Baker James Cauthen gave to our graduating class. This man made us feel responsible for getting the Gospel to the whole world. This kind of missionary spirit still prevails at the seminary.

Where do Tennessee Baptists fit in this picture? You have provided for my education and my two sons' education through the Cooperative Program. Without your support I would probably have missed a seminary education. You also made another contribution.



LOWRIE

Three of my most beloved professors were Tennesseans and were educated in Tennessee Baptist colleges. T. B. Maston was a graduate of Carson-Newman. What a treat to study Biblical ethics with this native of East Tennessee. Curtis Vaughan, a native of Memphis and graduate of Union University, introduced me to Greek New Testament and made the New Testament come alive. Cal Guy, a native of Jackson and also a graduate of Union University, opened my eyes to the lost world in mission classes.

So whatever the Lowries do for the Lord, you have surely had a significant part in it.

As our Baptist seminaries conduct their graduation exercises this spring a number of Tennesseans will be graduating. Let's pray for these team members that God will open the right door for them.

If your church is looking for a pastor or staff member, you might want to prayerfully consider one of these graduates. God has called them and they have prepared themselves.

With the love and support of a local church they can become useful members of our team.

Again all of the Lowries thank you. You have helped us.

Survey shows interest lagging for Las Vegas SBC

By Dan Martin

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Interest apparently is lagging for the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to an informal survey of convention observers.

"I can't see any enthusiasm from either side for the Las Vegas convention," says one.

If projections are correct, the 1989 annual meeting, scheduled June 13-15 in Las Vegas (Nev.) Convention Center, will be one of the smallest in a decade.

Registration Secretary Lee Porter and Convention Manager Tim Hedquist, both of Nashville, agree messenger totals for the session probably will not top 18,500 and may even dip as low as 15,000 or 16,000. Conservative leaders predict between 16,000 and 18,000 messengers, while other observers say attendance may sag as low as 12,000 or 13,000.

If the lower figures are correct, the Las Vegas meeting could be the smallest since Pittsburgh in 1983, when 13,740 were present. It surely will be smaller than 1985 in Dallas — the all-time record — when 45,519 messengers registered.

During the past decade, convention controversy has swirled around the election of Southern Baptist Convention presidents and their use of appointive powers to change boards of trust of the national agencies of the convention.

Incumbent conservative president — Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla. — is challenged by a moderate, or centrist challenger, — Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta.

Election of officers appears to be the only substantive issue facing messengers, and neither conservatives nor centrists have been able to generate much enthusiasm to get their supporters to Las Vegas.

They cite five reasons: geography, the site, complacency, tiredness, and lack of other issues.

Las Vegas "is a long way away" from centers of Southern Baptist strength, observers say, noting meetings on the West Coast generally are poorly attended, simply because they are a long way away from areas with large numbers of Southern Baptists.

The site is cited as another negative. Many Baptists appear reluctant to go to Las Vegas, with its gambling, glitter, potentially offensive shows, and drinking.

One issue stirred controversy earlier in the year, but it apparently has been defused. That was a recommendation to create a Religious Liberty Commission to represent Southern Baptists in Washington, D.C., on religious liberty and separation of church and state matters.

SBC President Vines in late April requested the convention's Executive Committee — which had recommended creation of the new agency — to defer action in Las Vegas.

Vines did not mention the controversial nature of the recommendation but noted he wanted to keep the focus of the convention on missions and evangelism. He also did not suggest what should be done with the recommendation — whether it should be restudied, reconsidered or perhaps resubmitted to the 1990 annual meeting.

The Executive Committee apparently will honor his wishes and pull the recommendation during its meeting June 12, at least toning down one possible item of controversy, observers note. The action, however, could have other ramifications, such as possibly setting off a floor fight over the budget of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which currently represents Southern Baptist religious liberty concerns.

The Baptist Joint Committee and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have been at the center of an SBC storm for more than five years. The committee has been the subject of three special Executive Committee study committees, as well as at least two efforts to strip it of SBC funding.

Some observers spin a scenario that

holds that when the Religious Liberty Commission proposal is removed, conservatives will stage a challenge to the \$391,000 budget allocation for the Baptist Joint Committee. A similar challenge in 1984 nearly succeeded.

Other convention watchers say opponents of Dunn and the Baptist Joint Committee have been patient across the years and will just wait and see what happens.

Whatever happens likely hinges on who wins the presidential contest, observers say.

Some put the jigsaw pieces together to reflect a victory for Vines. They say enough conservatives will be on hand — primarily because of a massive door-to-door evangelism project planned in advance of the meeting — to carry the day for the incumbent.

Others put the pieces together in a vastly different picture: a decisive victory for Vestal. They say lower attendances tend to favor moderates and hope the conservative theology of Vestal will draw conservatives who are tired of the alleged "winner-take-all" tactics of political conservatives.

Most observers agree the 1989 convention — in contrast to the past four — seems devoid of issues and lacking in interest and enthusiasm.

"I think it is going to be the duller convention we have had this decade," says a watcher.

Lowrie installed, fund-raising approved . . .

(Continued from page 1)

report to restore a \$25,000 decrease for the United Tennessee League allocation. The amount had been cut from \$75,000 to \$50,000. The amended goal is \$1,025,000 and was approved by the WMU Executive Board.

In giving the midyear financial report, Lowrie, who is also TBC treasurer, told the group that the costs for the new Convention Center "will come in at or just below the \$4 million mark." He added that the Task Force "has worked diligently to keep us on target."

Lowrie reported that a loan had to be secured for \$2 million, to go with other funding — from Golden State Offering allocations, CP reserve funds, TBC general funds, capital reserves and interest, Executive Board reserves.

He said as of April 28, \$3.73 million had been spent on the construction and renovation project. June 20 is the date for completion of renovation in the existing Executive Board Building in Brentwood.

Long range planning

In other actions, the Executive Board:

- Approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee that a 14-member Long Range Planning Committee be appointed by Calvin Metcalf, president of the TBC, and John Laida, Executive Board president.

Lowrie explained the need for such a committee. "This is not a duplication of Task Force Work," he said. "This committee would augment and supplement the work of the Task Force — in growth goals, in discipleship, missions, giving, and other planning.

"We need to have goals, know where we plan to be in five, ten, 20 years."

The recommendation was approved, along with a notation that Executive Board Department directors and other

elected and salaried TBC officers serve as ex officio members.

- Approved a recommendation that the education committee that Union University be permitted to begin a master of education degree program by June 1990.

- Heard an update of Task Force actions from September 1985 to the present, given by Chairman James Porch, First Church, Tullahoma.

Other actions

- Recommendations were not given by committees for filling three staff positions: Missions Department director, and two division directors.

- Approved a recommendation that the 1989 TBC Annual Meeting be held November 14-16 at Central Church Bearden, Knoxville. A conflict with civic center dates forced the change.

In discussing the midyear financial report, Lowrie told the Board "there are no more un-budgeted funds."

In answer to a question about repaying the \$2 million construction loan, Lowrie replied that during the 1989-90 budget, "We will try to pay the interest. And what would have gone into the General Fund will also be used. There are no more available discretionary funds."

Jim Growden asked that TBC churches be challenged to increase Cooperative Program gifts.

Help asked for BJCPA

In a miscellaneous business discussion, Moncrief Jordan, pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, asked board members for action to show support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"Last November in Jackson, the convention approved a supportive resolution," he said. "We were assured when we entered into our building program that we would not be crippled in supporting programs that need support.

"We need to do something tangible

to back up repeated resolutions in a positive way. Other state conventions are doing this."

Board President John Laida asked

Missionaries take safety . . .

(Continued from page 1)

just don't know how long this might last."

Twenty-seven Southern Baptist missionaries are assigned to Panama. Eighteen are currently in Panama. Others are in the United States on furlough, vacation or medical leave or are in Costa Rica for language study.

"There's tremendous tension" in the Panama City area, Cooper commented, referring to the bloody confrontations May 10 between supporters and opponents of Noriega. "People are not sure what's going to happen."

The tension, along with an 8 p.m. curfew spread by word of mouth but never officially announced, prompted numerous Baptist churches to cancel Wednesday evening services May 10. "A lot of people just didn't want to be out at night," Cooper said.

Tensions in Panama, which have swirled around May 7's contested election, have prompted the missionaries to put a partnership with the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia on hold. The four-year partnership began in January. A number of Georgia Baptists were scheduled to work with Panamanian churches during May.

Also, the arrival of a two-year volunteer media specialist, Keith Morris of Abilene, Texas, has been delayed until after May.

Violence erupted May 10 when T-shirted members of Noriega's "Dignity Battalion" clashed with protesters led by opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and his two vice presidential running mates. The three

that "appropriate committees take note of this request."

Next scheduled meeting for the Executive Board is Sept. 8.

men and others with them were bloodied and one of their bodyguards reportedly was killed.

That night, the Noriega government nullified the election, blaming American interference. Opponents, meanwhile, accused Noriega's supporters of stealing, burning, and otherwise destroying thousands of vote tally sheets.

"We've noticed a stepped-up anti-American situation" ever since the American government charged Noriega with drug trafficking more than a year ago, Cooper said. This is reflected in slogans, military checkpoints at various locations and the like.

But, he noted, "It's mostly political." The anti-Americanism is not coming from the Panamanian people in general, he said.

"No missionary has been overly harassed," he said. "We have been stopped and we've had to present credentials and this kind of thing, but no missionary has been molested in the sense that we've been under any kind of danger up to this point."

Cooper said he hopes Southern Baptists will not allow the turmoil in Panama "to cause them to be less concerned for the Panamanian people. There is no open hostility between Panamanians and North Americans.

"The Panamanian people are just as open and as friendly as they can be. They're decent, hard-working people who want good relationships with everybody," Cooper said. "They're not trying to thwart our ministry."

Ministers meet together for first joint retreat

By Connie Umstead, news assistant
In spite of rainy weather, 140 ministers of youth, education, music, and recreation from across the state enjoyed a successful joint retreat at Lake Barkley Lodge in Cadiz, Ky., May 8-10.

It marked the first time the four areas of ministry met together for a retreat. In years past, each group held individual planning retreats and focused on topics important only to their ministries.

Ministers attended individual conferences to discuss topics relevant to their areas, such as music ministry budgeting and what a person needs to know to disciple to youth effectively.

Ministers in all areas were brought together in joint sessions featuring Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, who spoke on Lifo Training, a program designed to teach the concept of teamwork.

"The joint retreat allows us to put into practice what we're preaching about team building. I believe teamwork is the effective way to get things done," McDonough said.

He added that he would like for the ministers to remember at least one thing from Lifo Training. "The best teams are made up of people who are diverse in style. To work effectively as a team, we must appreciate differences and reach a level of trust and interdependency," McDonough said.

The closing worship service was led by D. L. Lowrie, executive director-treasurer, Tennessee Baptist

Convention.

"It has been good to meet with the staff of other churches. The theme 'Partnership in Ministry' says a lot. We need to work together," said Jimmy Smith, minister of recreation at First Church, Hendersonville. "There is competition between the churches and this helps do away with some of that. We are sharing ideas," he said.

One of the goals of the joint retreat was to provide ministers who serve in more than one area, such as youth and music, the opportunity to attend individual sessions in both areas.

Mike Hodges, minister of music at Manley Church, Morristown, said individual conferences covered the fundamentals of each area, and the keynote speaker applied to all areas.

"We found people with expertise to present their ideas (in the individual conferences) on the practical nuts and bolts of their areas, such as choral rehearsal techniques," Hodges said.

Judson Church, Nashville, took the opportunity to hold a staff retreat during the joint retreat. The staff members, including Pastor Raymond Langlois, attended the joint sessions and individual conferences, and held their own planning sessions.

"It has really been beneficial for us to hold our staff retreat during the joint retreat. Our staff has been working on the team concept together," said Tony Rankin, minister of youth/recreation at Judson and president of the Tennessee Baptist Youth Ministers' Association.

While some of the ministers feel the



COMBINED RETREAT — Staff members of Judson Church, Nashville, held a staff retreat in conjunction with the ministers' joint retreat. From left are Dennis Konniff, minister to singles; Raymond Langlois, pastor; and Barbara McGhee, minister of preschool education.

joint retreat would be most beneficial if held every two years, Rankin believes it should be held each year.

According to Rankin, many ministries, such as the youth ministry, do not have enough funds to bring in keynote speakers to their yearly retreats and the joint retreat provides an outside perspective. He also believes a yearly joint retreat would help to maintain friendships formed with other ministers.

Low Reynolds, minister of education/programs staff coordinator at Judson Church, agrees. "The retreat may have been more meaningful to us,

since we attended as a staff, but I think it should be done every year. The ministers of education have our times during the year, but we need to be with other ministers as well. We all hesitated to leave the retreat," Reynolds said.

Gerry Mayes of TBC Convention Ministries Division, said feedback about the retreat has been positive and the goal of providing combination ministers a chance to attend seminars related to all their areas was successful. However, plans are indefinite about when another joint retreat will be held.

Baptist musicians prepare to 'sound word, share love'

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — "Sound His Word . . . and Share God's Love" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in Las Vegas, Nev., June 11-12.

Musicians from across the Southern Baptist Convention are expected to convene at College Park Church for their 33rd annual conference, to be held immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting, also in Las Vegas.

"Since we're meeting in Las Vegas, we're going to focus in on the part-time music minister — the bivocation-

al music minister — and give him a Musicians-on-Mission conference," said conference President Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "We want to give support and encouragement to people who never attended our meeting before.

"Whereas our conference in San Antonio, Texas, (in 1988) was beaming in on the larger church, we're beaming in on several sessions on small churches and on how a small church can

develop a music ministry."

"We're also missionary, and the 'Sound His Word' (portion of the theme) means singing and playing instruments and doing things to share the Gospel," McElrath added.

"Another focus is worship," he said, noting Paul Duke, pastor, and Mark Lawson, minister of music, of Kirkwood Baptist Church in Kirkwood, Mo., will "demonstrate how a pastor and minister of music can work together in worship."

"We're also dealing with tensions in church music," McElrath said. "We'll look in the area of praise in worship, such as the use of choruses, in contrast to distinction to use of classic hymnody." Conference sessions will include presentations dealing with both approaches.

"We have tensions in church music," he said, "and we're trying to cover all the bases and support music ministry

in all the churches."

Mark Edwards, minister of music, First Church, Nashville, is president-elect.

The meeting also will feature racial and ethnic diversity, with program personalities hailing from various backgrounds, McElrath noted.

The conference will feature concerts by the Singing Illinoisans, ministers of music from churches in Illinois; Max D. Lyall, pianist and professor of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Vocal Ensemble; the youth handbell choir from First Church, Birmingham, Ala.; the youth choir of First Church, Garland, Texas; soprano soloist Henrietta Davis of Oakland, Calif., accompanied by Lyall; and the Golden Gate Seminary Chapel Choir.

Panel discussion topics will be "Revitalizing Praise and Worship" and "Planning Creatively for Worship."

Baptist workers in Lebanon meet deadlines despite artillery fire

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Intense artillery fire hasn't knocked Lebanese workers at Baptist Publications in Beirut off schedule.

Three religious education curriculum projects in Arabic were completed on time, despite recent artillery fire that has been the fiercest in Beirut in recent years. The curriculum units now are being tested in Jordan and Egypt and among Arabs in Israel.

Also, three new Christian books in Arabic came off the presses.

To complete the tasks, the staff artist, for example, took up residence in a bomb shelter beneath the new Bap-

tist Center in Beirut, where the publishing house and media and correspondence ministries are headquartered. He was joined by some 65 other people — Baptist workers and people who live nearby — in taking refuge in the shelter.

One editor took an office computer home and several others took materials home in order to be productive when it was unsafe to drive to the Baptist building.

Apart from the artillery fire, one editor also had to spend considerable time with his father who was gravely ill.



EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED — TBC workers recognized by D. L. Lowrie, right executive director, at the Executive Board meeting for their years of service were, from left, Dan Milliken, BSU director, Volunteer State Community College, Gallatin, five years; William Choate, BSU associate director, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, five years; Mary Allen, director of youth work, Church Training Department, 25 years; and Betty Williams, bookkeeper, Baptist and Reflector, 30 years. Greer Ruble, Sunday School Department director, five years, was unable to attend.

Brentwood's deaf ministry celebrates fifth anniversary

By *Connie Davis, assistant editor*
BRENTWOOD — Ila Morris shared that she almost stopped coming to church because even though she was just middle-aged she couldn't hear the worship services. But she learned about the church's hearing aid system.

Joy Mangrum came to the church because it had sign interpretation. She came back even though she felt uncomfortable sitting in the front of the church. She doesn't feel uncomfortable now that she has become a Christian.

Amy Allison, a college student, reported that she depended on her friends at church, especially those in the deaf ministry. When she had trouble deciding what to study, she asked the interpreter for her college courses, who also happened to be director of the deaf ministry at church, about finding God's will.

These speakers shared during a service led by the deaf ministry of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, on its fifth anniversary April 30.

The signed service was interpreted for the hearing persons in attendance. Even the performance of a hymn by the adult sign class was led by a deaf member of the church, Joy Mangrum.

Betty Stirsman, director of the deaf ministry of Brentwood Church, simply explains that the ministry is her "calling" — and an unlikely one at that.

She didn't want to go to the sign language class in the church the family attended. She couldn't spell, Stirsman explained. But her daughters, at that time 9 and 11 years old, wanted her to go so she could help them practice.

She relented when a daughter asked her during a worship service with tears in her eyes. Stirsman remembers hastily responding, "I'll go to class, just don't cry here in church."

She was ready to drop it after learning her ABC's, but the teacher pressured her to come to one more class. She learned how to sign a song, and she was hooked, she exclaimed.

"God didn't bless me with a voice to sing, but I learned I can sing with my hands."

It was a little late, at age 35, to be finding her calling, believed Stirsman, but she has followed it for ten years, even to the degree that it became her profession.

When she discovered that combining interpreting as a profession with a church ministry leads to burnout, she chose to pursue her calling.

Stirsman serves Brentwood Church by leading a Sunday School class for about ten members, a youth sign choir, interpreting class, sign language class, and serving as interpreter for all church services. She even attends



SIGNING SINGERS — The Youth Sign Choir at Brentwood Church which is led by Betty Stirsman "sings" for the deaf and hearing impaired in the audience while audible music is played for the hearing people present.
—Photo by Connie Davis

choir rehearsals to prepare for her music interpretations, which she does rhythmically so the hearing impaired can experience the music.

Stirsman explained that the language of signs is a language of concepts because of the many English words and the amount of time needed to express them.

She noted it would be confusing to interpret the hymn phrase, rock of ages or rock of old. She interprets the phrase, "The hope for all people." Often she consults the church's minister of music for help, she added.

Stirsman assists the Tennessee Baptist Convention as an interpreter for such events as the annual Youth Evangelism Conference. And she is a member of the deaf advisory committee and the local arrangements committee for the 1991 Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf in Nashville.

Ila Morris, during her testimony, said of Stirsman, "It shows in her signs that she has a deep, deep love for Jesus Christ." Harold Morris, her husband added, "Her ministry has been not just to help us hear, but as a genuine friend."

Springfield siblings enjoy secular success; prefer Christian music

By *Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor*

The secular music world has been good to Eric and Crystal Morris, a brother/sister team from Springfield.

In addition to singing at numerous conventions, the Morris duo has performed on the same show with Bob Hope and sung the national anthem for the Chicago Bears, Miami Dolphins, and Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League.

In February they sang at the eighth annual Roundtable Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D. C., held in conjunction with the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters. Their singing was included on a segment broadcast on the Cable News Network.

Yet, despite increased popularity, their first love is Christian music.

The secular music world has given us opportunities to perform, but we're most happy when we sing in churches, said Eric, a senior at Belmont College in Nashville.

Crystal, a senior at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, agreed. "We get more satisfaction out of our religious music because we believe so strongly in the Lord and His work."

Natives of Springfield, Eric and Crystal grew up in a Christian home and began singing together while both were preschoolers.

Eight years ago they joined First Church, Hendersonville, and have been active in the church's choir.

Crystal observed the two of them have received good support from "our church family." The talented duo, who have one album to their credit, has performed Christian music concerts not only at the



ERIC and CRYSTAL MORRIS

Hendersonville church, but other Tennessee Baptist churches as well — a trend they hope will continue.

Despite a busy performance schedule, both Eric and Crystal are set to graduate from college this year and are hopeful they will embark on a full-time career in Christian music.

Though their goal is to concentrate primarily on churches and Gospel music, they will continue to use their talents in the secular world.

And, according to Crystal, those events have been profitable in terms of sharing a witness for Christ.

While we sing other than Christian music at some of our conventions, we make it known we are a Gospel duo, Crystal said, adding that their performances sometimes take them to "many places where Jesus is not."

"Our mission is to take Jesus wherever we go — no matter what situation we're in," she said.

One Word More

By *Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor*

People today like to win. Only a few don't mind being second best.

Aaron possibly chafed at being second fiddle to Moses. The disciples of Christ argued about who would sit where when God's Kingdom comes. Saul didn't like all that praise for David.

Jealousies and envies are rampant in politics, business, and sometimes in denominational life. The bonus goes to the best, the winner.

Two cases of the extraordinary urge to be first come to mind. In their own way, they show how man continuously seeks glory, and some of the pitfalls of fame gained at the expense of others.

Mark down Robert Falcon Scott, Antarctic explorer. He and four members of his party died of starvation and cold near the South Pole early in 1912. Or was it despair? Was part of the cause of death related to his search for fame?

Scott and his men set out across the ice in November, 1911, determined to be the first men to reach the South Pole. Groggy in the intense cold and blizzards and darkness, they reached the Pole on January 18. Only then did they discover that Roald Amundsen had beaten them in their quest by a month — and had even left a note to prove it.

They headed back to their starting camp, weary and disappointed. Did

despair play a deciding role in their ultimate defeat — death, and second place ranking?

Another case for study. Hard-driving and ambitious Richard Burton, about 100 years ago, burned with the dream of finding the source of the great Nile River. Equally ambitious and cunning John Speke shared the vision. Both wanted to be first.

In their quarrelsome struggle across Africa, friendship developed into hatred and enmity. They connived. They tried to outwit each other.

Though both claimed some measure of fame for finding sources of the Nile, both led unhappy lives — complicated and miserable. Nobody won.

Have you seen families divided because of "first place" desires? Did you ever see friends go different ways because neither would exercise that Christian privilege of serving others? Marriages split up because it was necessary for husband and wife to "win," to be first.

And Christian in the year of Our Lord 1989, how does being second suit you? Can you swallow pride and accept that role?

Theodore Roosevelt said that life is like a football game. "The principle to follow is — hit the line hard; don't foul and don't shirk, but hit the line hard!" Of course the analogy comes from football.

If you and I use the gifts God gave us to the best — hitting the line hard, not fouling and not shirking, and it turns out second best — that's all right. As long as it is the best we can do — it's not second.



ALLEN

Mercer trustees vote to drop liberal arts

MACON, Ga. (BP) — Mercer University's trustees have voted to close the Georgia Baptist institution's liberal arts school in Atlanta June 30, 1990.

Mercer owns campuses in Macon and Atlanta and operates separate liberal arts schools on both locations.

About 60 faculty and more than 700 students will be affected by the decision. Faculty previously sued the university to save the jobs of eight faculty members who had been notified of their impending dismissals. Faculty now expect to add amendments to their legal complaint, and students announced they will join the faculty in taking legal action against the university.

Opting to reduce the university's deficit over the next five years instead of immediately, the trustees also voted to convert the northeastern Atlanta campus into a graduate and professional center.

The plan includes moving the pharmacy school from downtown Atlanta to the northeastern campus, then selling the downtown property. Mercer's two business schools will be combined, with the undergraduate business program based in Macon and the graduate program and some upper division courses based in Atlanta.

Closing the Cecil B. Day College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta will not save any money in the short term, because the loss of tuition is expected to offset any savings in operating expenses.

Charles Karcher, the acting dean of the CAS, said the "intent is to raise money through selling the land." The downtown property now housing the pharmacy school was appraised four years ago at about \$2.5 million, said Mercer financial officer Robert McKinnon. The northeastern campus sits on 37 acres, part of a 140-acre, largely

undeveloped tract owned by Mercer, he said, adding he does not have a current appraisal on the northeastern property.

"I don't know how much they're going to sell off," Karcher said.

The Mercer board voted 31-5 to close the Atlanta undergraduate school. Deans — including Karcher — first learned officially of the board's intention during the meeting in which the vote was taken.

"I think it would have been common courtesy to notify someone in our college," Karcher said.

David Hudson, chairman of the trustee executive committee, said Mercer's current financial problems — including \$14 million in short-term debt not known to trustees until last

December — made operating two liberal arts colleges especially difficult. The trustees also had to deal with the pharmacy school's critical need for more space, he added.

Hudson was one of five people — two trustees, two administrators and a member of the university's President's Council — designated to answer questions after the board meeting. Mercer police kept reporters and the curious outside the locked doors of the state-funded medical school while the meeting was being held inside.

Mercer's operating deficit for the current year had been projected to be from \$6 million to \$14 million. The budget approved for next year anticipates a deficit from this year of almost \$5.1 million.

This year's deficit must be added to the university's existing \$14 million short-term debt, of which almost \$11 million is loans used to cover operating deficits accumulated during the past five years.

Staff workers needed for TBC ethnic camp

Staff workers are needed for Ethnic Camp sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention July 17-21 at Camp Linden in Linden.

Older youth and adults are needed as Bible teachers, counselors, and leaders for children and youth attending the camp.

All expenses will be paid in addition to a small honorarium. The only requirements are that workers be at least 16 years old and members of Baptist churches.

For further information, people may contact James Redding, Missions Department, TBC, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024, (615) 371-2132.

Rittertown calls Pealer

Rittertown Church, Hampton, called William M. Pealer as pastor, effective April 10.

Pealer earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia Bible College in Columbia, S.C. in 1985, and a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in 1988.

Pealer and his wife, Debbie, have two sons, Jamie and Benjie. Pealer is the son of Guy and Ruby Pealer of Johnson City.

Tennessee Baptist Convention Treasurer's Report

November 1, 1988 — April 28, 1989

RECEIPTS

Cooperative Program	\$12,173,507.97
Annie Armstrong Offering	1,386,992.11
Lottie Moon Offering	5,521,973.41
Golden State Missions Offering	320,089.97
Reported Gifts ¹	516,375.32
Other Gifts	588,051.76
Other Income ²	1,537,055.62
TOTAL	\$22,044,046.16

¹ Reported by Belmont College, Carson-Newman College, Union University, Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. These gifts sent directly to institutions.

² Income from Annuity Board, Home Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board, Baptist and Reflector, Camps, earned interest on daily deposits, and refunds.

DISTRIBUTION

	Cooperative Program	Designated	Total
SBC GIFTS:			
Foreign Missions	\$2,184,280.36	\$5,677,876.49	\$7,862,156.85
Home Missions	853,618.55	1,413,353.93	2,266,972.48
World Hunger	0.00	217,990.78	217,990.78
Six Seminars	887,692.20	0.00	887,692.20
Radio & TV Comm.	178,670.58	0.00	178,670.58
All other SBC Gifts	264,299.03	2,092.15	266,391.18
TOTAL SBC GIFTS:	\$4,368,560.72	\$7,311,313.35	\$11,679,874.07
WORLDWIDE SPECIAL MISSIONS:	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,734.00	\$ 2,734.00
TBC GIFTS:			
Belmont College	901,395.52	37,867.50	939,263.02
Carson-Newman College	1,106,239.14	204,353.42	1,310,592.56
Union University	901,395.52	243,374.91	1,144,770.43
Harrison-Chilhowee Academy	243,604.06	16,555.79	260,159.85
Audits for Schools	21,279.29	0.00	21,279.29
CRV Scholarships	38,456.10	0.00	38,456.10
Children's Homes	587,541.02	188,073.20	775,614.22
Hospitals	0.00	460.88	460.88
Adult Homes	83,132.89	1,136.56	84,269.45
Audits — TBC, Hospitals, Adult Homes	21,011.47	0.00	21,011.47
General Convention Services	961,707.13	0.00	961,707.13
Executive Offices	126,458.40	0.00	126,458.40
Baptist and Reflector	122,404.62	0.00	122,404.62
Tennessee Baptist Foundation	132,021.69	0.00	132,021.69
Convention Ministries Departments	741,050.12	20,583.90	761,634.02
Conv. Ministries - Insurance Programs	216,688.41	0.00	216,688.41
Conv. Ministries - Mission Programs	439,623.12	148,842.35	588,465.47
Conv. Ministries - Student Campus Work	433,620.35	7,499.57	441,119.92
Woman's Missionary Union	203,309.76	31,091.72	234,401.48
All Other TBC Gifts	525.00	119,070.42	119,595.42
TOTAL TBC GIFTS	\$ 7,281,463.61	\$ 1,018,910.22	\$ 8,300,373.83
Preferred (Annuity Programs)	\$ 523,483.64	\$ 525.00	\$ 524,008.64
TOTAL ANNUITY	\$12,173,507.97	\$ 8,333,482.57	\$24,347,015.94
OTHER INCOME:	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,537,055.62	\$ 1,537,055.62
GRAND TOTAL:	\$12,173,507.97	\$ 9,870,538.19	\$22,044,046.16

Cooperative Program receipts from TBC churches will be printed later this month.

DISTRIBUTED GIFTS
SBC 48.43 percent
TBC 51.57 percent
100.00 percent

One Woman's View

By June McEwen

The human need for variety and the longing for excitement tends to obscure the joy inherent in the everyday, the ordinary. We need to thank God for ordinary days. Perhaps this awareness of the goodness of the ordinary becomes heightened following days of pain, suffering, disappointment, or grief. Thanksgiving for the ordinary day is a reflection of the statement of the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."



McEWEN

To rejoice and be glad is relatively easy on days of celebration and joy, but to focus prayers and thoughts on God in the midst of crisis and concern demands self-discipline and effort. The ordinary day can slip by unheeded and unappreciated. We need to give thanks for the ordinary day, the day when nothing much is happening.

Days of crisis and concern seem to enlarge the importance of existence. A fire, an accident, a death — these call for greater than normal reactions. The pulse quickens, the adrenal flows, body and mind react with sharpened sense and increased energy. There is a sense of the extraordinary and the need to meet great demands which is challenging and exciting. We are exhilarated in the face of the unusual.

In a similar vein, days of celebration seem to break down walls of separa-

tion. Preparing for a wedding, welcoming a new baby's arrival, moving into a new house — such happy occasions make it possible to talk to strangers and to enjoy fellowship with people we do not know. We feel more alive, more at one with others, and sure that they will share our joy. No wonder we enjoy the extraordinary.

To the contrary, in midst of suffering, separation, conflict with others, and illness, we long for the routine, the dull, the ordinary. We look back with longing and new appreciation for days that are ordinary. In the Old Testament, Job expressed such longing when he cried out, "If I could only go back to the old days, to the time when God was watching over me, when His lamp shone above my head, and by its light I walked through the darkness (Job 29:1-3 NEB)." In the dark night of the soul, we too long for an ordinary day, a day filled with light, confidence, and the assurance of God's presence.

Coping with the extraordinary days of crisis, concern, and celebration depends on our commitment to God, our reliance on His wisdom, and our trust in His care. We can relate with Job when we read his confession:

I know that Thou canst do all things and that no purpose is beyond Thee.

But I have spoken of great things which I have not understood, things too wonderful for me to know.

I knew of Thee then only by report, but now I see Thee with my own eyes.

Therefore I melt away; I repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:1-6 NEB).

God made ordinary days for gladness, rejoicing, and thanksgiving.

TenneScene

... Covering three Grand Divisions — Gilt Edge (West), White House (Middle), and Red House (East) ...

Leadership ...

Richard Walker Bush, Jr., has been called by Balmoral Church, Memphis, to serve as minister of youth and outreach.

Roger Richards, pastor of Merton Avenue Church, Memphis, has retired from full time ministry. He will serve as interim pastor for the church.

Bennington Park Church, Memphis, has called Mark Weeks as minister of music and youth. He attended East Texas University.

Noel Wright has been called by Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, as minister of education and evangelism. He comes to Kirby Woods from Muscle Shoals, Ala. He earned a bachelor's degree from Memphis State University and an R.E. degree from Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Barbara, have three children.

First Church, LaVergne, has called Larry Dwayne Sneed as minister of music. He comes from First Church, Waynesboro, and is a student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Tracy Evans has been called as minister of youth by Maple Springs Church, Medon. Evans, a native of Jackson, is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia,



LAYMAN ELECTED — For the first time in recent history a layman has been elected assistant moderator of the Holston Association. Shown with newly-elected moderator Clay Austin, right, is Lee Ray Robertson, a member of Central Church, Johnson City.



GIFT OF APPRECIATION — On April 16th Laurel Bank Church, near Maryville, presented their pastor, Frank Easter, a new 1989 Cadillac on his 25th anniversary as pastor. Easter is not only loved by his congregation but is held in high esteem by his fellow pastors and many others across East Tennessee, according to John Churchman, director of missions for the Chilhowee Association. Bobby Beaty of the church, left, presented the keys to Easter.

has called Michael Keen as minister of youth and recreation.

First Church, Hampton, has called James Archer as interim pastor.

Butler Church, Butler, has called Bob Reed as interim pastor.

Chris Perry has been called as minister of youth and music at First Church, Lawrenceburg.

Cypress Creek Church, Martin, has called Randy McClure, Hickman, Ky., as pastor. McClure and his wife, Kathy, have two sons.

New Home Church, Baxter, has called Sam Putnam as pastor.

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

Pratt and his wife, Karen, come to North Jackson from Louisville, Ky., where he served as minister of youth at Hazelwood Church and is a graduating senior from Southern Seminary. Mickey L. Basham is the pastor.



PRATT

Ordinations ...

Beech Springs Church, Gleason, ordained Bill Blaylock as a deacon.

Zed McMitten will be ordained as a deacon by West Jackson Church, Jackson.

Park Avenue Church, Nashville, elected and will ordain the following people as church deacons: Jimmy Akers, Brian Dunn, Dennis Harris, DeWitt Miller, Drace Sullivan, Mike Russell, David Watson, Dale Jeffreys, DeWayne Gill, Elmer Potts, and Albert Walden.

Falling Water Church, Hixson, ordained Kevin C. Seabury into the ministry March 26. He is presently serving as minister of youth.

Head of Richland Church, Rutledge, held a deacon ordination earlier this year. Rodney Metcalf, Mark Myers, and Tim Dyer were ordained.

Lea Springs Church, Blaine, ordained Eddie Evans as deacon.

First Church, LaVergne, will ordain John Bratten as a deacon May 30.

Jack Collins was ordained as a deacon by First Church, Bean Station.

Eddie Mosley was ordained into the ministry April 2 by First Church, Waverly.

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

Revivals ...

Kie Bowman was the speaker in revival at Raleigh Church, Memphis, May 7-10. Chris Wommack led music.

A group of students from Union University along with the church youth of First Church, Bethel Springs, led a weekend revival May 5-7. Offering given during the revival was donated to the summer missions work of Union University.

The Wilson County Association reports several revivals to be held during May. Churches and revival leaders follow: Calvary Church, Lebanon, Nathan Hale; Immanuel Church, Lebanon, Donnie Cantrell, William Walker; Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet, George Miller; and Mt. Juliet Church, Mt. Juliet, Rick Ingle.

First Church, Millington, held revival services spaced over four Wednesday evenings during late April and early May. The speakers were Randy Isbell, pastor of Hopewell Church, Savannah; David Miller, director of missions, Little Red River Association in Heber Springs, Ark.; W. B. Oakley, Dyer; and D. L. Lowrie, executive director-treasurer of the

MasterLife teleconference scheduled

A MasterLife Growth Teleconference, scheduled for May 21 from 3-5 p.m., will be broadcast live over the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

The conference is for MasterLife alumni and those interested in MasterLife training. Avery Willis, author of MasterLife will answer questions.

Telephone numbers will appear on the screen during the teleconference. Viewers are encouraged to call in questions.

Also during the teleconference, live reports from the foreign mission field are planned with missionaries.

TBC sites and hosts for the live teleconference are:

Wayne Simpson
Third Church
410 W. McKnight Drive
Murfreesboro
Tom Savage
Pinecrest Church
Johnson City
Mack Bingham
Central Bearden Church
6300 Deane Hill Road
Knoxville
Robert Cooper
Brainerd Church



LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY — First Church, Humboldt, recently held an open house on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its library. Shown are librarians who have volunteered their time and service. From left, Bonnie Hadley, two years; Beulah Palmore, 13 years, and Boots Lam, 25 years.

Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Stevens Street Church, Cookeville, began a revival May 7 with Henry Linginfelter speaking.

Churches ...

Hillhurst Church, Nashville, celebrated an Old Fashioned Sunday April 30. The worship service began at 3 p.m. with old fashioned singing and preaching, and a covered dish dinner.

Wilhite Church, Cookeville recently celebrated the completion of payments on the church mortgage with a dinner, note burning, singing and beginning of revival. The pastor is Steve Shipley.

Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, celebrated its 35th anniversary May 14.

Double Springs Church, Cookeville, held a celebration May 7 to dedicate their new building. The day included a fellowship dinner, Gospel singing with the Buckner Family, open house, and a dedication service with Carl Scarlett speaking.

300 Brookfield Avenue
Chattanooga
Jack Childs
Brotherhood Commission, SBC
1548 Poplar Avenue
Memphis

Robert J. Norman
Clearview Church
Franklin Road
Franklin
Jerry Whitson
First Church
205 E. Main Street
Gallatin

Keener Ragsdale
Graceland Church
1666 Raines Road
Memphis

WMU seeks counselors

Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union is seeking college-age girls to serve as counselors and unit leaders this summer at Tennessee GA/Acteens camps.

Camps will be held for seven weeks from June 5-July 21 at both Camp Linden, Linden, and Camp Carson, Newport.

For additional information, contact Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038.

Paul attacked in Jerusalem

By H. K. Sorrell, retired; Brownsville

When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he was well received by the brethren. The next day there was a called business meeting and Paul reported on the progress of the Gospel among Gentiles. Even though the spiritual leaders were delighted over Paul's evangelistic success, they were concerned about malicious reports they had heard. They had been told Paul was trying to persuade Jews to forsake the Mosaic law and their religious customs.

Someone suggested that Paul participate in a purification ceremony in the Temple with four other men and pay the expenses involved, not only for himself, but for the others. Paul agreed to do this because he had respect for the Mosaic system as long as a person didn't justify himself by it or impose the system on a Gentile convert as a requirement for salvation.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am

not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Therefore, Paul did everything that he could to appease the brethren and maintain harmony (21:17-26).

The attack (21:27-32)

While Paul was in the Temple performing the suggested purification rites, some of the Asian Jews saw him there and laid hands on him. They stirred the crowd into a mob by shouting, "This is the man, that teacheth all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place."

When the Asian Jews recognized Trophimus, a Greek who hailed from Ephesus, they "assumed" that Paul had taken him beyond the court of the Gentiles into the Jewish sector. In a moment the mob had pre-judged Paul, found him guilty, and would have executed him if the Roman soldiers hadn't rescued him.

The arrest (21:33-39)

In the heat of hostility and hysteria, the commanding officer had Paul chained and carried into the fort. The Roman officer thought that Paul was the Egyptian rebel assassin who

claimed to be a prophet and had led a band of cut-throats to Mount Olivet with the promise that the walls of Jerusalem would fall down at their approach. Many of his followers had been killed, but the Egyptian had escaped.

Paul told the officer who he was and where he was from. He then asked permission to speak to the mob. The officer was so impressed that he could speak Greek that he gave his permission.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES May 21 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 21:17-22:29
Focal Passages: Acts 21:17-22:29

The address (21:40-22:22)

Paul addressed the crowd from the steps of the fort. When the people heard him speak in Hebrew, they became strangely silent. First, Paul identified himself as a Jew, born in Tarsus, and one who had come to Jerusalem to be a student of Gamaliel. He spoke of his zeal in persecuting the Church and then his experience on the road to Damascus and his trance in the temple after his return from Damascus. Paul further shared his part in the stoning of Stephen. But when Paul spoke of God sending him

unto the Gentiles, the silence ceased and the crowd exploded, "Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live."

The appeal (22:23-29)

In uncontrollable rage, they tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air. The Roman officer commanded that his prisoner be brought inside the barracks and be scourged. The officer hoped to secure a confession from Paul as to why the people were against him.

Paul had been scourged before, but he did not intend to suffer another flogging. He asked a centurion as they were binding him, "Is it lawful for you to scourge an uncondemned Roman citizen?" The centurion was well versed in Roman law and knew that flogging a Roman citizen could mean a court-martial. They knew Paul was telling the truth for if his citizenship couldn't be verified, the penalty could be death. The commanding officer was frightened when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen by birth and had been bound at his order. Realizing that Paul was more important than they first thought, the Roman soldiers withdrew and stood at a distance. The tables were reversed. Paul could have had the commanding officer brought to justice but he did not want revenge, only protection.

Called to new life

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

I like that old familiar testimony that goes like this: "I'm not what I ought to be and I'm gonna' be; but praise God, I'm not what I was!" All who have experienced God's great grace in salvation could say "Amen!" to that, I suppose. "I'm not what I used to be!" "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!" Too often, however, all the emphasis is upon the fact that no longer are we what we "used to be." It's easy to overlook the part about being what we "ought to be," isn't it? Many times we make the same mistake as we read Ephesians 2:8-9 and forget to go on to verse ten. Certainly we are saved by grace through faith, but what about "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do," (NIV). This is what Paul has in mind beginning in chapter four. We're saved out of sin and its bondage, but we're saved unto liberty and a godly lifestyle that manifests itself in works that are pleasing unto the Father.

In chapter 4:17 Paul again returns to the analogy of a walk in describing the Christian life. A walk begins at a stated point, continues along on an accepted route, and terminates at an expected destination. In emphasizing God's call to a new life ("being what we ought to be") Paul urges the believers in Ephesus to walk so as to be recognized and identified for what they are, disciples of the Lord Jesus, citizens of heaven on assignment as "ambassadors for Christ" in a foreign land. And, he gives a lengthy caution to walk in purity and not to be defiled

by the world.

Be different

In verse 22 Paul says we're to put off the old self, which is now decimated by the ravages of sin, as though we were taking off a worn-out coat for which we no longer have any use. As we do that, we're no longer what we used to be. But in order to be what we ought to be, we must put on a new coat, a new nature whose maker and pattern is God (v. 24). This change of garments, however, requires the exercise of a renewed mind (v. 23) that cooperates willingly with the purposes of God. In verses 25-31 Paul describes the fabric of that old coat in contrast with the new: lying versus speaking truthfully in love; sinful anger, as opposed to a reconciling spirit of restoration; stealing rather than working productively with a mind toward helping those in need; and bad language or spiteful,

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES May 21 Lesson

Basic Passage: Ephesians 4:22-5:4, 18-20
Focal Passages: Ephesians 4:22-5:4, 18-20

worthless talk in opposition to using our tongues to minister grace to others. Notice in every case it's not enough to simply say "off with the old;" there must be a "putting on" (v. 24) of those things that would glorify God. In verse 32 we find not only our example but also our motivation for this change — Jesus Christ. By the grace of God which found ultimate expression at Calvary, in that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," how dare we treat with contempt or a judgmental attitude all others for whom Christ paid with His very life.

How quickly and thoughtlessly we do violence to grace, and insult and

"grieve" the precious Holy Spirit of God.

Walk in love

In chapter five Paul continues his call to be "imitators" (literally) of Christ as a loving son might mimic his father's actions. And again the example is Christ (v. 2). In the Old Testament the offering of a sacrifice pleased the Lord so much that it was described as a pleasing aroma (Exodus 29:15,18,41). What a beautiful word-picture of the magnitude of God's love for you and for me, expressed in the sacrifice of the cross.

Stay alert

In his translation and notes on Ephesians, Paul Caudill writes of verse 18, "Paul acknowledged man's need for help in the extenuating circumstances

Conference aids Biblical understanding

Eudora Church, Memphis, recently held a Conference on Biblical Archeology, led by Mike Mitchell, editor of Biblical Illustrator magazine, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"We had never seen a conference like this held by any other church. It met a real need in our situation," said Calvin T. Harvell, pastor of the Eudora congregation.

More than 70 conference participants from Memphis and surrounding areas heard about the latest in archeological findings, scroll translations, and current issues in the world of Biblical archeology, as well as methodology in excavation.

"The value of such a conference should not be overlooked," said Jim Witherington, minister of education at the Eudora church and conference coordinator.

"Although the purpose of archeology is not to prove or disprove anything, to be able to see and hear through the findings of the archeologist that the Word of God is accurate in the information it imparts gives validation to

of life such as grief, disappointment, and failure; but he reminded believers that the help comes not from beverage alcohol which issues in a state of utter hopelessness. Rather the believer . . . is to be constantly filled with the Spirit." When the eye is right, it responds to light. When the ear is right it responds to sound. In the same way, when the heart is right it responds to God, and the fruit of that response is reverent praise and thankful worship (vv. 19-20).

Called to new life! And not just in the "sweet bye and bye." Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, abundant life, right here and right now." You say you're not what you used to be? Wonderful! Now rejoice that in Christ you can be all that He wants you to be!

the faith that we have already placed in it."

Although plans for 1990 have not yet been made, indications are that the conference will be held again. "If we don't have it, some other church should," Harvell said. "Such a conference will help a church grow in its confidence of the Bible."

Belmont selects Anthony as new campus minister

Belmont College has named Dane C. Anthony, a native of Elkhart, Ind., as the college's new campus minister effective June 10.

Anthony will replace interim Baptist Student Union Director Dawn Werner.

He is former BSU director at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.

Anthony will serve in the newly created position of campus minister, which combines former ministries of Belmont's chaplain and BSU director.

He and his wife, Sandra, have one daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth.



SORRELL



BAILEY

God calls for response

By Pat Fife, pastor; English Creek Church, Newport

Three thoughts are discovered in this week's text — remembering the past, recognizing the present, and renewal for the future.

None of us will ever outlive his past. We are all products of our environments. Much of what we believe was taught to us as children. Loretta Lynn will always be a "coal-miner's daughter." She will never forget her heritage or environment.



FIFE

The same scenario was true for Israel. In Joshua 22:2-5, Joshua becomes the spokesman for God. God reminds the Israelites of their history. He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God took the responsibility for sending Jacob to Egypt, and He received the credit for bringing Israel out of Egypt.

It is important for us to remember

our past. Many churches fail to remember or celebrate their past. Their children do not know who the founders of the church were and are unaware of past struggles and victories. It is no wonder that these children, when adults, may not be as committed to the church as their parents and grandparents were.

The same theory may be true at the convention level. We may need to improve our teaching of Baptist history and doctrines, and the purpose of the Cooperative Program. We may be rearing a generation of Southern Baptists who do not know a great deal about any of these subjects. Consequently, it is no wonder their commitment may be less than some of us desire.

Israelites avoided this problem with a continued emphasis upon their history. Over and over again, they are reminded of God's being the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. The Exodus stands along as the most important event in the Old Testament. Israelites, as a result, were aware of their heritage.

In 24:13 God attempts to impress upon the Israelites that He continues to provide for their needs. Not only is He the God of their past, He is to be their God in their new land.

Life and Work Lesson Series May 21 Lesson

Basic Passage: Joshua 23-24
Focal Passages: Joshua 24:2-5, 13-15

God provided land, cities, houses, and food. The Israelites did not labor for any of God's provisions. These conveniences were necessary. Israel had been in bondage for over 400 years. Building cities and planting food would have taken time — assuming there would have been the knowledge. If Israel needed encouragement to continue, then this word from God through Joshua should have been sufficient. He had always provided for them. He was still meeting their needs.

As Christians we should also recognize that God continues to provide for us. Many of us have most of what we want, and most of us have more than we need. Are we aware of the Provider is God? Are we prepared to give to the less fortunate as God gave to us? Are we more prepared to pro-

claim God to the world as the Source of provisions for life, physically and spiritually, than was Israel?

Joshua now turns his attention to this need. In 24:14-15 Joshua states his renewal and commitment for the future. Joshua has, at this point, completed his responsibility as the Lord's spokesman. He now begins to share the conviction of his heart and mind.

He first admonishes the Israelites to renew their commitment to their God. He enjoins them to "put away" other gods.

In order to reinforce his challenge to his countrymen, Joshua also made a commitment. The commitment in verse 15 may well be the most familiar text in the entire Book. "... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

This was the challenge for Israel. From the Book of Judges we learn they sometimes kept that commitment, and sometimes did not. Nevertheless, I am convinced they made their renewal with good intentions.

I am just as confident that we as Christians today really desire to be the very best Christians we can be. If Joshua asked us whom we serve, we would respond, "The Lord our God."

There are ways we can strengthen our commitments. Spend more time in prayer. Become more faithful "doers" of the Word. Be more generous with our provisions to further the cause of Christ. In short, "... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We need to hear Joshua's challenge. "Choose whom you will serve." Will you — with your house — serve the Lord your God?

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(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Lewis tells missionaries to be mission-minded

ATLANTA — Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, urged 116 newly commissioned missionaries to be ministry-minded as they seek to evangelize the nation's unchurched population.

Lewis, who spoke during the spring commissioning service at Union Church, Atlanta, told the home missionaries: "When we're doing the things God would have us do, people will come to us, follow us, and want to know why we are doing those things. That's when we can share Jesus with them."

Lewis reminded the missionaries that 1.4 million individuals are added to the world's population each week, "each one doomed to a Christless eternity unless we are convinced we must feed them the spiritual food, the bread of life, which they hunger for."

The 116 new missionaries will serve in 35 states and Canada in the areas of black church extension, church and community ministries, evangelism, interfaith witness, language church extension, metropolitan missions, new church development, new church extension, new church starting, and rural-urban missions.

Secretaries challenged to front-line ministry

NASHVILLE — More than 700 participants in the National Conference for Southern Baptist Secretaries April 26-29 in Nashville were affirmed as "front lines of ministry" and bridges "from the staff to the church membership."

"The church secretary is a growth agent in local churches," said Joe Stacker, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, which sponsored the conference. Being a secretary "is more than a job, it's a ministry. You are on the front lines of ministry for sharing the Word of Jesus Christ."

The role of secretaries is changing with developments in technology, Stacker said. For example, more than 6100 churches now have computers, and by the year 2000 more than half of the 37,000 Southern Baptist churches will have some form of computer technology.

Betty Dilday, a speaker, conference leader and the wife of the president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, urged secretaries to embrace technological changes.

The National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries elected Betty Walker of First Church, Burlington, N.C., as president. Other officers are: Karen White, First Church, Coppell, Texas, vice president for membership; Tish Jones, Mount Vernon Association, Annandale, Va., vice president for publicity;

and Becky Brown, First Church, Branson, Mo., secretary-treasurer.

Former businessman named to FMB's lay mission post

RICHMOND, Va. — A former businessman now working for a church in Texas will enlist Southern Baptist lay people to participate in global evangelization strategies overseas.

Mike Barnett, 36, was named transnational adviser by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, effective May 1. Barnett will oversee enlistment for the "tentmaking" and "Baptists living abroad" programs.

In April, Foreign Mission Board trustees voted to approve the tentmaking program. Tentmakers are Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians who choose secular work overseas as their financial support system while participating in foreign missions. Since 1972, the board has corresponded with thousands of Southern Baptists interested in doing missions while living overseas. These people have come to be known as Baptists living abroad.

Barnett has been minister of missions at Gambrell Street Church in Fort Worth, Texas, for the past year and a half. There he has supervised a program that includes 20 mission congregations tailored to neighborhoods in the area.

Missouri journalist to join FMB news staff

RICHMOND, Va. — Mary Speidel, coordinator of news services at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., will become a staff writer in the news and information services department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, June 12.

Speidel, 30, a native of Cape Girardeau, Mo., has worked at William Jewell since August 1986. Previously, she was a news writer in the public relations office at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1983-86, and an editorial assistant in the children's ministries department, Nazarene World Headquarters, 1981-82, both in Kansas City, Mo.

She earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau in 1981 and a master of divinity degree from Midwestern in 1986.

Stetson University receives \$2.08 million

DELAND, Fla. — A \$2.08 million gift from the M. E. Rinker Sr. Foundation of West Palm Beach, Fla., will fund a new institute for tax and accountancy in Stetson University's School of Business Administration.

The total gift currently pledged is nearly \$3 million when added to a prior 1986 commitment from the Rinker Companies Foundation, Stetson officials said.

A major activity for the new tax and accountancy institute will be an annual national seminar for tax lawyers and accountants on current tax-saving legislation and procedures, said H. Douglas Lee, president of the Florida Baptist school.

FMB researcher sees statistics as 'signs from God'

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP) — He tells about the masses who have never heard the Gospel, about millions who have been martyred since the time of Christ, about the billions that modern-day Christians spend on themselves.

His are not traditional Sunday morning sermons, however. David Barrett, an Anglican missionary whose career has focused on missions research, preaches with statistics and charts drawn from a computer database.

"Statistics are signs from God," Barrett likes to say, attributing the quotation to a modern-day Protestant monk in France.

But Barrett stands ready to amplify the point. Statistics help "make sense of the missions task," he says. They provide "a crucial part of our knowledge of the real world... a concise way to get across stark facts, to pinpoint situations where the Christian response is obvious."

"Of course, Christians can say, 'I see what I've got to do, but I'm not going

to do it.' A lot of people do that," he concedes.

Barrett, who hails from Great Britain, has been working with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board since 1985 fashioning facts into the World Evangelization Database.

Perhaps the most widely quoted statistic from the database is that 1.3 billion of the world's 5.2 billion people have never received a clear explanation of the Christian gospel. Many of these unreached people live in huge cities with few, if any, churches.

Christians, meanwhile, spend \$130 billion a year on their own churches and activities and less than one percent of that amount to introduce the Gospel to those who remain unevangelized year after year, according to Barrett.

In his latest project, Barrett is creating 30 "global diagrams" of key aspects of world evangelization in the past, present, and future. They are being prepared in cooperation with 20 Christian researchers and missiologists

the convention.

The seminary will recognize six distinguished alumni at the luncheon. Those to be honored are Nilson Fanini, William Souther, Ben Elrod, John Seelig, William Hendricks, and Finlay Graham.

Tickets for the luncheon may be ordered by writing to John Seelig, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, P. O. Box 22000-3E, Fort Worth, Texas 76122, or by calling (817) 923-1921, ext. 2350.

from 12 countries.

One of the diagrams, for example, focuses on "global human need," outlining areas where Christian action can open up opportunities for communicating the gospel: poverty, corruption, human rights abuses, disease, addiction, warfare, pollution of the environment, and natural disasters.

Another diagram involves Barrett's estimate of 40 million Christian martyrs since the time of Christ. By his definition, martyrs are believers in Christ "who lose their lives in a situation of witness as a result of human hostility."

Barrett hopes the diagrams ultimately will become available to concerned Christians through full-color copies, posters, computer disks, and computer communication via telephone lines.

Beyond the World Evangelization Database and the global diagrams, Barrett's previous undertakings include his 1982 *World Christian Encyclopedia*, a 1010-page country-by-country assessment of Christian strength that was 14 years in the making. Among other books he has written is a recent one that examined the decline of Christianity in cities worldwide.

Barrett also writes a yearly statistical update in the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*.

Among the statistics he has highlighted are 119 million people killed by their own governments during the 20th century, compared to a death toll of 36 million combatants in war; an "ecclesiastical crime" estimate of \$760 million in church

funds embezzled by 5 percent of the world's Christian workers each year; and the purchase of 45 million computers by Christian institutions and individuals since 1980.

Even within the church, statisticians have their critics, Barrett acknowledges. It is "unspiritual" to chart the progress of the faith, some critics argue, citing God's disapproval of King David's census. Another oft-heard argument is that human beings, not statistics, should be of greatest concern.

King David's pride, not the census, stirred God's anger, Barrett counters. Numerous censuses are reported in the Old Testament, the earliest being a list of nations in Genesis 10. Tallies related to Israel's preparedness for entering the promised land form the bulk of the Book of Numbers. And the numerical growth of the New Testament church often is noted in the Book of Acts.

"Every major denomination and agency in the Christian world keeps elaborate statistics," Barrett says. "Most use them minimally for planning. They ignore the wealth of information gathered at great expense by their own missionaries and pastors in the field."

In seeking to utilize these statistics, Barrett says: "We're producing maps. Not maps of geographical areas, but maps of all kinds of other features of the human condition" — maps which point to peoples' needs and how they can best be reached with the Gospel.

Also, Barrett adds, statistics can correct "excessive optimism or undue pessimism."

Southwestern Seminary sets luncheon plans

FORT WORTH, Texas — Tickets for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's national alumni luncheon are available and may be purchased by mail until June 2.

Southwestern's luncheon will be held immediately following the Wednesday morning session June 14 of the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, Nev. The luncheon is at the Las Vegas Hilton. Tickets are \$17.50 per person by mail, or \$20 if purchased at