

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Florida Baptists schedule special session on abortion

By Greg Warner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Florida Baptists will join the highly charged abortion debate next month when they hold a rare special session of their state convention.

The session, set for Sept. 8-9 in Orlando, is intended to influence Florida lawmakers to adopt more restrictive abortion legislation during their own special session one month later — Oct. 10-13.

By an estimated 55 percent majority vote, members of Florida Baptists' State Board of Missions approved the request of state convention president Bill Billingsley of Hollywood to hold the special session. It will be only the third time in the 128-year history of the Florida Baptist State Convention — and the first time in 22 years — that a special session has been called.

"I want our society to know that Southern Baptists are not going to stand by quietly while women are having abortions for convenience and economic reasons," Billingsley said in issuing the call. "Human life is more precious than that."

Both of the convention's vice presidents opposed the unusual meeting. The regular annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention is scheduled for Nov. 13-15, which he said would be too late to influence state legislators.

Billingsley called for the special session after he and three other prominent Florida Baptists met with Florida Gov. Bob Martinez July 25, the same

day Martinez detailed his proposal for an overhaul of the state's abortion legislation.

The governor's plan would parallel legislation enacted in Missouri and upheld recently by the U.S. Supreme Court in the celebrated Webster decision. It would prohibit abortions performed by state employees or in state facilities except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother; prohibit abortion of fetuses 20 weeks or older if it is determined they can survive outside the womb and if the pregnancy does not threaten the life of the mother; require doctors to inform women considering abortions about the health and development of the fetus; and require abortion clinics to meet stricter medical standards.

One of those who met with the governor was Daytona Beach pastor Bobby Welch, who arranged the 30-minute meeting and initiated the idea of a special session. "If the governor of the state will call, for political and humanitarian reasons, a special session of the state legislature, it is unthinkable to me that Florida Baptists will not reciprocate for spiritual reasons and the sanctity of life," said Welch, pastor of First Church of Daytona Beach.

Martinez, a strong opponent of abortion, has agreed to speak at the special session, which will be held in Downtown Church in Orlando.

Billingsley said he will ask messengers at the September convention. (See page 3)



BAPTIST CENTER GUESTS — Missionaries furloughing in Tennessee were recent guests of the Baptist Center in Brentwood. They were attending an orientation sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program and Stewardship Promotion Department. From left, front row, Carter and Charlotte Davis, Pat Stooksbury, John McPherson, and Paula Settle; back row, Carol Henson, Crea Ridenour, Ed and Elaine Jump, and Larry Hendricks.

Child-care tax credits proposed

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — Child-care measures in both the Senate and the House of Representatives contain provisions that would assist families in which one parent stays home to care for the children.

Directed by a child-care resolution passed at the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has worked with congressional staffs on the inclusion of such a provision in any federal child-care legislation.

The Senate-approved Act for Better Child Care Services includes a package of tax credits that would benefit both parents who purchase childcare services and those who care for their children at home.

The Senate ABC bill would supplement the existing earned-income tax credit (EITC) for low-income families

with children younger than age four. The EITC is available to families whether or not they pay child-care providers.

The EITC expansion would provide a maximum credit of \$500 for families with one child and \$750 for those with two or more.

The Senate measure also would make the existing dependent-care tax credit refundable to families who purchase child care and whose incomes are less than \$28,000. By being refundable, the credit would be available to families who owe no income tax. It also would be available in advance through workers' paychecks.

"For more than a year we have stressed the urgency of tax-credit benefits as a key to any child-care legislation," said Larry Braidfoot, CLC general counsel. "The active support

(See page 3)

Tennessee fourth in messengers

Of the 20,411 registered messengers at the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Las Vegas, Tennesseans ranked fourth in percentage of messengers and in representation of SBC membership. Tennesseans ranked sixth in representation of Cooperative

Program gifts.

The state's messengers totaled 1517. Twenty-three state churches had the maximum number of ten messengers and 14 had eight or nine messengers. The statistics were reported by SBC registration secretary Lee Porter of Nashville.

The percentage of Tennessee messengers was 7.4 behind Texas (13 percent), North Carolina (8.9), and Georgia (8.8). The top six states in percentage of messengers, which included South Carolina and Virginia, totaled 50.4 percent of the total. Messengers from the top 12 made up 77.6 percent of the total.

The percentage in representation of SBC membership was 7.2 following Texas (16.7), Georgia (8.3), and North Carolina (7.9).

In the area of CP giving, Tennessee had 6.4 percent of messengers behind Texas (15.7), Georgia (10.5), Florida (8.2), Alabama (7.6), and North Carolina (7.1).

An inside look

In Philippines

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Golden State offering

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Special Friends

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Groundbreaking held

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Teams return from Philippines

The first evangelism teams of the Philippine/Tennessee Partnership arrived in Manila July 27 for a two-weeks stay. The 29 men and 18 women formed 19 teams, 13 serving in Mindanao to the south and six serving in Luzon, in the Manila area.

The teams experienced first hand the life of Filipinos as guests in homes of pastors and people whom they served. Eight days of intensive efforts in witnessing, preaching, and Bible studies resulted in 651 professions of faith and 105 rededications.

This Philippine evangelistic campaign confirmed expectations that this Partnership will be different. Accommodations throughout the Partnership will be almost exclusively in homes of gracious people of the country and church leadership will be involved as translators and hosts for the teams.

Some aspects are similar. However, the need for the Gospel is urgent. The people are open and receptive to the message and appreciative of the volunteers who share it. There is opportunity to train leaders, build facilities, and provide enrichment for the lives of the members of churches.

Team members committed to sharing Christ during the week of evangelism, responded positively and enthusiastically in evaluating their efforts. As the mission areas and the Philippine churches also learn from this campaign, the stage will be set for future teams of Tennesseans to have even more rewarding and productive impact on the Philippines. — Clarence Stewart, director, Partnership Missions Department, TBC.

Articles about the July-August evangelism work will appear in upcoming issues of the Baptist and Reflector. Volunteers will write of their experiences. — Editor

MOVING? Cut out and mail this address label to the Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 along with your new address.

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Editorials**God through me — missions in Tennessee, 1989**

The 1989 Week of Prayer for State Missions is scheduled for September 3-10. The statewide goal for the Golden State Missions Offering is \$1,025,000, and the theme for the annual emphasis is "God Through Me Reaching Tennessee."

Before we delve into the "why" and "how" of state missions, some preliminary words may be beneficial. Ordinary Baptists have difficulty in picturing themselves as missionaries.

It is hard sometimes to visualize ourselves as doing missions — right here in Tennessee. Jackie Cooper, missionary to Panama, has a way of describing "missionary." He considers himself an ordinary Baptist.

"A missionary," he says, "is a Christian who is being faithful in following Christ. He is an ordinary Christian who is serving God where He calls him."

That means that while we are using our spiritual gifts in working for the Master — we are missionaries. Now, is there any reason why Tennessee Baptists should not be missionaries in Tennessee?

In developing any partnership work — foreign or domestic, there is a simple formula for involving people. Tell the people — tell them, that mission involvement consists of praying, giving, going. The fullest involvement means doing all three. But each of the three is important to the overall effort and end result. Articles in this issue tell of some state missions work.

Each person (missionary) will explore the depths of personal involvement. Shedding tears over lost causes is not the way. Crying, as did Christ, over the lost condition of people, is.

But crying means more than shedding tears. Does the heart cry when a soul is lost? Does the heart agonize over hunger, pain and suffering, despair and loneliness? Does the mind study and set forth ways and means to conquer defeat? Does the body become strong when it is being tempted to succumb to devilish laziness?

It is no new thought to project that we are channels of blessing, and that we should be willing to be used of God, to do our best. So God does missions in Tennessee, through individual Baptists — as we reach out.

The Week of Prayer, September 3-10, is the power which undergirds our mission. Churches throughout Tennessee can join in the overarching concern for missions "at Jerusalem."

Goals for churches and associations should be worthy of the cause. Prayer should be invoked continuously. Every call should be sincere, with people as the object of spiritual action.

WMU groups and churches across Tennessee have been mailed materials for use in educating church members as to mission concerns and allocations in the Golden State Missions Offering. Suggestions for churchwide programs are included.

What does the offering accomplish? We encourage churches and individuals to give generously so that no portion of the state missions offering will have to be curtailed.

Three allocations of \$150,000, Camps Capital/Renovation, New Work Revolving Loan Fund, and Site Fund for New Churches, lead the way. The last two will be fully funded.

The Mission Lot and Building Fund is allocated \$100,000. Other allocations include Black Baptist student work, camps for mentally handicapped, Language Missions ministries, Ministers Aid Fund, rural and mountain missions, student scholarships, summer

preachers' schools, student summer missions, United Tennessee League, Mega Focus cities priority funding — and a score of others.

When prayer and action abound, the results will be colossal, mind-bending. Pastors and church leaders must actively support every facet of the prayer week and the missions offering. To do less is to say to the church that local missions is not important.

Tennessee is a missions-minded state convention — just as we are noted as volunteers. As we journey to the Philippines, to Michigan, to other places as volunteer missionaries — we will be better able to serve if we have fresh and viable experiences here at home.

The 1989 Week of Prayer for State Missions is September 3-10. The Woman's Missionary Union, Tennessee Baptist Convention, spearheads the praying, giving, and going. The Golden State Missions Offering goal is \$1,025,000. Tennessee Baptists have the capacity to accomplish that which is noble and almost beyond comprehension. Let us reach for the stars. — WFA

Falwell disavows any SBC takeover

Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va., and founder of Liberty University, has sent a letter to Southern Baptist state convention papers.

The letter says that because of his commitment to Liberty University "and our missions board, we have determined that we would be of little value to the SBC."

The Virginia pastor, known as a leader among independent Baptists and perhaps other evangelical groups, also says, "the Holy Spirit has not led me to join the SBC. But I may be the best cheerleader the SBC has on the outside as the convention continues its re-affirmation of commitment to the inerrancy of God's Word."

He added that he believes the "overwhelming majority" of Southern Baptists believes the Bible to be the infallible Word of God — and "I feel right at home with them." He's not the first to discover that truth!

Falwell was a source of conversation when he appeared on the Southern Baptist Evangelists' Conference program in June, and when singers from Liberty performed at the SBC. Though he was not on the SBC program, he was seen in and around the meeting hall

quite often — and was interviewed by the Las Vegas press.

We suppose that many Southern Baptists are sighing with relief now that Dr. Falwell has set the record straight as to his intentions.

It is a fact, he says, that more Southern Baptist pastors speak at his church and school than from any other group — and that he speaks at many SBC churches. It is a source of consternation for some that sons and daughters of several Baptist leaders attend Liberty. But many, many more attend Southern Baptist schools.

Dr. Falwell indeed does have Southern Baptist friends. The July/August issue of his "Fundamentalist Journal" features SBC President Jerry Vines with a full-color cover photo with accompanying article. Another photo/story tells about several Liberty University students who are children of SBC leaders.

And, after all, if we are working for the Lord in teaching, preaching, evangelizing, and discipling — we will all be together someday. Meanwhile, Southern Baptists need not fear, according to Dr. Falwell, that he plans to "capture" the Southern Baptist Convention. After all, he would be a rookie among veterans — even though he might feel at home. — WFA

Union seminary extension courses begin in September

The Union University Seminary Extension Program will offer courses at nine satellite locations this fall beginning in September, all in West Tennessee:

Adamsville: at Shiloh Association Center, How to Understand the Bible, taught by John Pippin, Tuesdays.

Bolivar: at Hardeman Association Center, Exodus, taught by Jimmy Garrett on Tuesdays; Master Life I, taught by Carey Johnson, Tuesdays; Fundamentals of Music, Steve Wood and

Ramble Creek calls pastor

Michael Crouch, Tullahoma, has been called to Ramble Creek Church, Big Sandy, as pastor.

Recently ordained by Lincoln Heights Church, Tullahoma, Ramble Creek is Crouch's first pastorate. He is a senior at Union University, Jackson.

James Pulliam, Tuesdays.

Covington: Big Hatchie Association Center, First Corinthians, taught by John Tolbert, Mondays.

Dyersburg: First Church, Old Testament Part II, taught by Judd Lambert, Mondays.

Huntingdon: Carroll-Benton Association Center, How to Understand the Bible, taught by Wesley Pitts, Thursdays.

Jackson: Union University, Leadership Development, taught by Gary Williams, Thursdays.

Martin: First Church, Revelation, taught by Wayne Perkins, Mondays.

Memphis: Ardmore Church, Job, taught by Wrex Hauth, Tuesdays.

Paris: Western District Association Center, How to Understand the Bible, taught by Richard Van Cleave.

The program is not the same as the

college's Seminary Studies Program, a joint effort between the six Southern Baptist seminaries and Union. Addi-

tional information may be obtained by contacting John Adams at Union, (901) 668-1818.

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Connie Davis, Assistant Editor
Connie Umstead, News Assistant

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Barbara Cox, Administrative Secretary
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New programs formed at Rural Life Center

The acronym-makers at the Baptist Rural Life Center on Mindanao in the Philippines have been at it again. Readers may recall the SALT program developed at the center directed by missionary Harold Watson. SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology) outlines practical techniques for growing crops and retaining topsoil on the steep hillsides prevalent in many areas of the world.

SALT has drawn official attention in the Philippines and in many other Asian countries. Some groups from Thailand have visited the center, and visitors from Malaysia spent a week in training at the RLC earlier this year.

In May Harold visited Vietnam under auspices of Cooperative Services International (the Southern Baptist Christian-service organization that places nonclergy professionals in

technical positions around the world). A training group from Vietnam could visit the center early next year.

The RLC has become Asia-wide, Harold reports, and "the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation is in the process of being born." An Asian Training Center is being built at the Rural Life Center. Missionary Jeff Palmer, now in language study, is to assist in the Asian program. "Other agricultural missionaries in Asia also will be involved, either as consultants or in some other capacity," Harold adds. Jeff and his wife Regina are from Waverly, Tenn.

Meanwhile, on the acronym front, new programs and variations continue to be formed. The first class graduated earlier this year from TEACH (Tribal Evangelism, Agriculture, Church, and Health care). The program resembles

the training in BOOST (Baptists Out Of School Training) that provides a variety of practical instruction, including Bible study and agriculture, for young people no longer in school.

The nine-month TEACH program puts emphasis on Bible training. "We use the story-telling (or chronological) approach to Bible study," Harold explains, and it appears "this is going to be a major breakthrough in training tribal workers."

SALT now has its own variations. Animal SALT, or SALT 2 (Sloping

Agricultural Livestock Technology), integrates animal production into the conventional program. Agro-SALT, or SALT 3 (Sloping Agro-Forest Land Technology), combines food production, fruit production, and marketable forest trees.

There's UPLIFT (Using Properly Lowland Integrated Farming Technology), offering a simple, effective way of increasing productivity on small, irrigated lowland farms.

— From "Global glimpses," The Commission, Aug. 1989.

Tipper Gore to keynote family seminar at First Church, Nashville

Tipper Gore, author of Raising PG Kids in an X-Rated Society and wife of United States Senator Albert Gore Jr., will keynote the third annual family seminar sponsored by First Church, Nashville.

The seminar, entitled "Families in Touch," is scheduled Sept. 24 from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at the church.

The seminar is designed to provide expert advice to families on subjects ranging from preschoolers and discipline to managing a two-career marriage and family.

In addition to the keynote message, several seminars will be offered.

- In Touch with Teenagers and

Discipline — Lane Powell, Marriage and Family Professor Samford University and author of The Dating Book for teenagers.

Conference participants are invited to join seminar leaders at a complimentary snack supper at the church immediately following the last session. Child care will be provided.

Pre-registration costs for the seminar are: \$7.50 per person and \$10 per couple. Persons who register after Sept. 12 will pay \$10 per person and \$12.50 per couple.

For more information on registration and child care, contact First Church at 664-6000.

Florida Baptists schedule . . .

(Continued from page 1)
tion to adopt a "foundational, generic statement" on abortion, one he said could be supported by almost all Florida Baptists.

Plans also call for the convention to train messengers in ways to influence their legislators and offer suggestions for organizing a "caravan" of Baptists to go to the state capital of Tallahassee during the special legislative session.

Messengers also will be asked to approve formation of a 15-member committee that will plan a strategy for the Florida Baptist Convention and Florida Baptist churches to implement homes for unwed mothers, adoption services, foster care services, crisis pregnancy centers, and education in Christian sexuality.

Such a response is critical even if no changes are made in the state's abortion laws, said John Sullivan, Florida Baptists' executive director-treasurer.

"I don't want us to have a special session just to pass another resolution on abortion," Sullivan said. "I want us to define some procedures and strategies for carrying through the decision of the convention."

At Billingsley's request, Sullivan invited Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, to meet with Florida Baptist leaders Aug. 18 to help draft the

statement and recommendation to be presented to the special session.

The statement was taken primarily from Land's introduction to the CLC's friend-of-the-court brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court during debate of the Webster decision.

The statement acknowledges the reality and right of disagreement among Baptists on abortion, then adds: "Nevertheless, we are far more united in our agreement that legal change is needed than we are divided about some of the difficult circumstances about which disagreement exists."

"We believe human life to be sacred and begins at conception," the statement says. It denounces "casual attitudes about abortion" contained in current laws and insists "the right of human life must be protected by the state."

In order to minimize divisiveness, leaders said, the statement does not deal with which, if any, exceptions to abortion are morally permissible. Nor does it take a specific stand on Gov. Martinez's proposals, adding simply, "We must support legislation that will achieve dramatic saving and nurturing of human life."

Carolyn Anderson of Lakeland, second vice president of the convention, wrote a letter to State Board of Missions members opposing the special session, objecting that a special session would be "divisive" and "political," and that it was not the proper way to deal with the abortion issue.

She was invited to attend the meeting with Land. Afterward she said she could support the outcome. "The issue of having the (special) convention is behind us, therefore we need to work together and be united as much as possible," she said. She described the statement as "palatable" and said it "can have a significant impact on reducing abortions."

"What I'm most excited about are the long-term plans," she added. Through the proposed adoption services and sex education, she said, Florida Baptists can help women keep from "having to make the choice for abortion."

Land suggested other Baptist state conventions will look for leadership to the role of Florida Baptists play in abortion legislation.

New post for Willett

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Michael Willett, who was dismissed as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary last year, will teach this fall at a Methodist seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Willett, 33, was dismissed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board July 21, 1988, for "doctrinal ambiguity," particularly regarding the deity, miracles, and physical resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Willett was in language study in Costa Rica when another missionary in language school voiced concern about Willett's theology.

A year after his firing, Willett says he still is fighting bitterness over the dismissal.

"Bitterness is a poison that can kill someone's spirit," he told Helen Gray, religion editor of the Kansas City Times. "I am committed to not allowing bitterness to capture me."

Child-care tax credits . . .

(Continued from page 1)
of key Southern members helped secure an unexpected victory in the Senate."

On the House side, a package approved by the Ways and Means Committee also features an expanded EITC that would be both refundable and available in advance.

The Ways and Means plan would increase the current credit from 14 percent to 17 percent for low-income families with one child and would provide larger credits for families with additional children. It also would provide a supplemental "young child" credit for families with children five or younger.

Child-care legislation — the Child Development and Education Act — approved by the House Education and Labor Committee is expected to be referred to Ways and Means. Members there say they plan to substitute their package for a section of the child-care

bill that would provide grants and contracts to child-care providers.

"It appears very promising that tax credits will be a key part of whatever shape the final House bill takes," Braidfoot said. "This would mean that, in all likelihood, the only major feature the Senate bill and the House bill will have in common is an emphasis on tax credits."

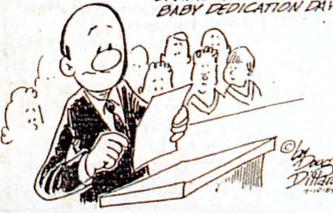
"Obviously, we are more pleased with the House Ways and Means proposal, which would provide \$14.5 billion in tax credits over a period of four years. Also, we are pleased at its exclusive reliance on the earned-income tax credit, which we think is more equitable than the dependent-care tax credit."

Braidfoot said this is a crucial time for interested Southern Baptists to contact their representatives and urge them to support inclusion of tax credits that benefit parents providing home-based child care in the final bill.

Pulpit TEARS

With Bra BLOT

THE BULLETIN FROM
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Funnyside up

"What steps would you take in determining the height of a building, using an aneroid barometer?" a college exam question asked.

One student, short on knowledge but long on ingenuity, replied, "I would lower the barometer on a string and measure the string."

"I can't eat this garbage," cried the enraged diner. "Call the manager."

"It's no use," said the waiter, "he won't eat it either."

Tal D. Nasham, The Treasury of Clean Jokes (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Our Readers Write

Philippine mission trip

I have just returned from a very exciting and prosperous mission trip to the Philippines. What a great privilege it was for me to be able to make this evangelistic journey. I am encouraged by the partnership we share with this country. Through my trip I also gained more confidence and knowledge in the structure of the SBC. The care and organization with which details were arranged for this trip were superb.

I am grateful for the Lord's call for me to make this trip during the '88 convention, when it was made known that we were beginning this three-year endeavor. I thank Him for making the way possible for me through some very important people in my life. I thank Him for my wife Susan and children, Thad and Tyler, for their understanding and devotion; my wonderful church, Mt. Gilead, who gave financial and spiritual support; and also my families and friends support.

I also want to thank Brother Clarence Stewart, who I greatly admire, my new friends from Tennessee, the SBC missionaries in the Philippines, and the wonderful Filipino people.

Also, thank you Tennessee Baptists for the desire to be partners with the Philippines. My life will never be the same!

Phil Mitchell
Rt. 2
Cedar Grove 38321

No one is perfect

Your editorial comments in the Baptist and Reflector of Aug. 16, augment a human weakness that should make "conservatives" humble, and perhaps keep all of us humble. I refer to the Baptist Sunday School Board's actions concerning President Lloyd Elder, and the appointment of a non-employee to be in charge of one of its publications. I might also throw in the issue of the appointment of the Penningtons as well.

The human weakness to which I refer is the propensity to goof it up or go awry by trying to be Godly or "perfect as God wants us to be," therefore able to set down God's guidelines for the selection of people to service.

It might be very profitable to meditate for some time on Matthew 13:30 and 13:48, verses within the parables of the Darnel and the Dragnet, and then remember that we are not the ones to make the final decisions. Personally, I think that God will be rather liberal since neither Matthew, nor Mark, nor Luke, zero in on being born again.

It would also be profitable to think deeply over: the failure of the so-called Ezra-Nehemiah reforms; the conquering of Jerusalem by the Romans on two occasions; the fall of Gamla and Masada to the Romans. If these events are failures in righteousness, remember Qumran, certainly an experiment to prove some of the theology of the Old Testament.

Let I be accused of anti-Semitism, I conclude by saying that righteous Jews, whoever they are, and righteous Baptists, whoever they are, will be accepted by God.

In short, religions of the world need to aim for more kindness and gentleness.

Eugene Keele, chaplain (Ret.)
P. O. Box 38
Grand Junction 38039

Something wrong?

It is hard to believe Jerry Falwell spoke to the Evangelists' Conference and his quartet and choir sang at the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

There is something wrong when an Independent Baptist, who has not given to the Cooperative Program and who has been critical of the Southern Baptist Con-

vention on his television program, has more voice at the convention than many others who have been committed to the CP all their lives.

There is something wrong when the convention elects its presidents from among men whose churches have given less than five percent of the budget to the Cooperative Program, while many pastors whose churches have given much more cannot appear on the program or serve on a committee or board.

As I understand it, the purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention is for churches to cooperate to do missions and other programs which the individual churches could not do by themselves.

It is not the purpose of the convention to promote non-Southern Baptist schools. (Mid-America's president spoke to the convention and several had displays).

It is not the purpose of the convention for an hierarchy of men to tell churches what they are to believe. And it is not the purpose of the convention to endorse presidential candidates or Supreme Court justices.

Ruth O'Leary
700 W. 4th St.
South Pittsburg 37380

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.

Women preachers?

Genesis 1:27 says: "Man and woman were created in God's image." God instructed them to populate and rule over the earth. Notice the woman was on the same level with the man, not on the level of the animals to be ruled by man! But our male dominated society chooses to suppress the woman to a lower level.

In Galatians 3, Paul says: "You are all sons of God through faith, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus and heirs to the Promise!"

First Corinthians 12 says: "Both men and women are gifted by the same spirit." In Paul's letter to the Romans (ch. 16) he commends Phoebe, our sister, a servant in the church at Corinth, servant meaning minister or deacon. Several other women are mentioned as "saints" — meaning a godly person set aside for service to God. Verses 17 and 18 say: "Now mark them that cause division, for they serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly."

Acts 21:9 says: "The evangelist Phillip had four daughters who prophesied. In Joel 2:28, God said, "I will pour out My Spirit on your daughters, and they will prophesy." Men that is preaching!

A recent article by Dr. Lowrie mentioned the good things we enjoy due to past revivals, the equality of women, etc. Is Mrs. Pennington enjoying the treatment she received? Women are not equal in the SBC!

This summer 13,600 Acteens attended a conference. Over 850 committed themselves to be a "light" to the world.

Will the trustees say "no," if God calls some of them to preach? Have we a board of Pharisees, who say our laws are above God's law?

I have taught adult Sunday School almost 50 years, and I have yet to find a Scripture that forbids women to preach. Jesus sent women with the message! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bessie Buckner
561 Rockwell Dr.
Cookeville 38501

Making music

In the June 28 issue of the Baptist and Reflector, there was a letter from Dr. Earl McCosh whom I know.

On next year's SBC program, I suggest Dr. McCosh and some of our brothers or sisters be allowed to form a quartet from our own musical family. Members could come from different areas of the state. Let's show our colors!

Ms. Jane Mays
Route 3
Strawberry Plains 37871

James and Criswell

I am appalled that Gordon James' article (July 19) was considered worthy to be printed in the Baptist and Reflector. Clearly James' purpose was to besmirch the character of Dr. Criswell. The real issue is stated in the third paragraph, "James has written a book critical of Dr. Criswell's theology." Doesn't James have anything else worthwhile to do with his time? Perhaps a hobby? This man is a liberal, unconcerned with Criswell's writing (which he obviously read in order to criticize).

The editor, Dan Martin, and Gordon James, should publicly apologize to Dr. Criswell for this article. The printed apology also should appear on the front page of every Baptist paper as well as on the Times Dispatch of Virginia.

If the editor and Martin cannot find constructive material for the papers, they need to use the writings of Drs. Criswell, Lee, and Truitt. If that's not enough, I can supply plenty of conservative material to busy them for a while. The average liberal writing will be destructive.

We conservatives should observe 2 Timothy 3:1-7; Scriptures which are inerrant.

Vaughan W. Denton
Kirby Parkway Church
4480 Kirby Parkway
Memphis 38115

No attempt was made by this paper to besmirch W. A. Criswell, a Southern

Baptist giant. The story was handled as news and included statements from Dr. Criswell. It was used in at least 14 Baptist state papers. The Baptist and Reflector carries hundreds of constructive news and feature items 51 times a year.

— Editor

Welcome, students

This letter is to welcome all incoming students to Furman University, Greenville, S.C., from the Baptist Student Union. Furman's BSU is open to any student who desires to become involved and follow Jesus Christ's leadership while in college. Everyone is invited to attend and encouraged to become a part of a dynamic group of college students.

BSU provides opportunities for Christian growth and maturity through weekly meetings, fellowship with other believers, Bible study groups, mission involvement and education, intramural sports, outreach teams, choir and drama, weekly prayer breakfast group, and social activities.

During the upcoming school year there will be a number of special emphases.

One of the most exciting opportunities Furman's BSU has is to help support and send out Student Missionaries to serve around the nation and the world. This year, 34 missionaries were commissioned from South Carolina.

Join us in Baptist Student Union. Whether you would like to play on an intramural team, learn how to share your faith, or find someone with whom you can talk, BSU is for you.

Dean Allen, president
Baptist Student Union
Box 28540 Furman
Greenville, S.C. 29613

Against drunk driving

We always enjoy reading the Baptist and Reflector.

We commend you on the articles regarding drunk driving which appeared in July.

We, at UTLL, have worked for several months to get drunk driving declared a national crisis. At the present time, we are urging people across the state to sign petitions which will be sent to the President.

Wayman E. Jones
Executive Director
United Tennessee League
P. O. Box 40327
Nashville 37204

FCC nominees confirmed

WASHINGTON (BP) — Despite protests from several evangelical leaders, the Senate has confirmed President Bush's three nominees to the Federal Communications Commission.

By voice vote, the Senate approved the nominations of Alfred C. Sikes, who has headed the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration since 1986; Andrew Barrett, an Illinois commerce commissioner; and Sherrie Marshall, an attorney and former FCC official. Sikes has been designated by Bush as FCC chairman.

Following the announcement of the president's nominees, several leaders within the evangelical "pro-family" movement lodged complaints with the White House. They voiced disappointment that John Price, an Indianapolis lawyer who chairs a group called Decency in Broadcasting, was not selected as FCC chairman.

Ed McAteer of the Religious Roundtable, James Dobson of Focus on the Family and Donald Wildmon of

American Family Association accused the Bush administration of turning its back on the nation's evangelical community.

"It is clear that even collectively, we have little or no influence with the administration," Dobson wrote in a letter to White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. "At least ten organizations were united behind John Price as potential chairman of the FCC, yet the president totally ignored our combined appeal."

Wildmon accused the Bush administration of wanting nothing from evangelicals except their votes. "Come election time, we will suggest they find a good conservative Democrat to support or simply stay home," he added in his letter to Bush.

In testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee — which held a hearing on the FCC nominees — McAteer, a Southern Baptist, said he does not believe Sikes will address the decency issue at the FCC.

Student guidebook addition to be done 'with dignity'

By Linda Lawson and Frank Wm. White
GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)— Action by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees instructing publication of an addition to the Baptist Student Ministry Guidebook will be carried out faithfully and with integrity, according to Charles Johnson, director of the student ministry department.

The department "will be faithful to their action and carry it out with integrity," Johnson said Aug. 13 in a prepared statement to campus and church ministers and state directors of student ministry attending the Student

Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. The statement also was presented by Jimmy Edwards, vice president for church programs and services, to directors attending a simultaneous conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Trustees Aug. 9 adopted a four-point proposal from Floyd E. Hughes, a trustee and pastor of Immanuel Church of Caledonia, Mich., stipulating:

- "The student ministry department be directed to publish an addition consisting of the Barnett team approach to

the present guidebook;"

- Max Barnett, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Oklahoma, serve as managing editor, approve any writers, and be given "adequate pages to develop the addition;"

- That Barnett approve a field consultant, to be paid by the student ministry department, "to implement the new approach;"

- That work begin immediately on the process "to bring about this addition."

The Baptist Student Ministry Guidebook, 1988 edition, includes, according to information on its cover, "strategic plans, programs, and projects needed to develop and strengthen student ministry on college campuses and in churches."

Johnson said he wanted student ministry directors to have information about the action and the initial response of the student ministry department. He asked directors to share questions and concerns in the meeting. He pledged to respond personally to each one when he has more information about how and when the addition will be prepared.

Barnett, an employee of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma who has held his present position for 22 years, was present in the Glorieta session and indicated he plans to accept the assignment to prepare the guidebook addition.

"What I want is that there be another option for the organizational structure (of Baptist Student Union). That's all I've ever wanted," said Barnett.

The Barnett team approach emphasizes Bible studies and discipleship groups, according to Larry Woods, director of student ministry at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., and a Ridgecrest conference participant. Leaders from the discipleship groups form ministry teams and a leadership team is selected to function as a BSU council, said Woods who described the approach during the campus ministers' meeting at Ridgecrest.

Barnett said Hughes telephoned him twice, once several months ago and once after the trustee action. He said Hughes had mailed him a copy of his proposed recommendation about a week before the trustee meeting, but because of a mailing mixup it did not reach him until a day after the meeting.

Barnett said he was surprised the proposal included the stipulation he would approve a field consultant. "I told him (Hughes) I don't want to hire somebody for the student ministry department," he said.

He said the focus of his efforts will be to "see that we have different organizational approaches." The addition will be based on the input of many, said Barnett.

Regional Sunday School conferences set

The 1989 Regional Sunday School Leadership Training Conferences for the state will begin Sept. 11 and conclude Oct. 3.

Featured speakers will be Harry Piland, Sunday School Division director, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Keener Pharr, president, Church Growth Priorities, Inc., Signal Mountain; or Chester Vaughn, program director, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Jackson.

The two-night conferences will include training for workers with mentally retarded persons, college students, ethnics, and in church music.



PILAND

At the Knoxville conference media library also will be offered.

Additional training will include outreach and evangelism, Sunday School growth, Here's Hope Revivals, teaching improvement, planning, administration, Bible study projects, ministry, Challenge 10/90, and Final Four.

The schedule follows: Sept. 11-12 at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville; Sept. 18-19 at First Church, Chattanooga; Sept. 21 at Central Church, Johnson City; Sept. 25-26 at First Church, Memphis and First Church, Jackson; and Oct. 2-3 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

On Mondays and Thursdays the sessions begin at 6:45 p.m. and on Tuesday they begin at 7 p.m. Preschool childcare will be provided.

A SOLDIER stationed at the United States Naval Air Station — Memphis, studies at the Military Oasis Center, which receives GSMO funds. —Photo by Connie Davis



ASHPORT CHURCH near Ripley received GSMO funds in 1988-89 to assist in its move to higher ground from the Mississippi River's flood plain and for additional construction at its new site in a growing community. — Photo by Connie Davis



TUITION AID from her church, here presented by her pastor, Maurice Branch, First Church, Farragut, and the GSMO, allowed Susan Williams to attend Carson-Newman College.



AN EDUCATIONAL BUILDING for Bethlehem Church near Lewisburg was built with help from volunteers like Bruce Hulette of Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel, and GSMO funds. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen



A HOME FOR THIS CHILD of a homeless family is provided by Appalachian Outreach's Samaritan House, a ministry of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and the GSMO.

GOD through ME Reaching Tennessee
 1989 Week of Prayer for State Missions
Golden State Missions Offering
Goal: \$1,025,000
 Tennessee Baptist Convention



Several campers used a parachute to help them exercise.



Staff Director Tommy Jordan chatted with James McCullough, Memphis, after fishing in the Buffalo River.



Richard Yates, Martin, practiced his archery skills before moving on to other activities at camp.

Spiritual needs highlighted at Special Friends Camps

By Connie Umstead

The Tennessee Baptist Convention-sponsored Special Friends Camps at Camp Carson and Camp Linden concluded Aug. 18 with 158 mentally handicapped people and 116 counselors in attendance.

The two annual week-long camps are designed to help handicapped people develop physical, social, and self-help skills in a Christian environment. While at camp, they participate in games, sports, crafts, and Bible study.

"Our specific goal is to provide a safe, secure camping experience in which mentally retarded people can operate to their fullest potential and develop self-help and social skills," said Camp Director Liz Lee, who is program associate in the TBC Sunday School Department and originator of the six-year-old program. "Our primary focus is for them to discover how important they are as God's creations and, through this discovery, to have some encounter with God in some personal way."

Their efforts seem to be working.

First-year camper Cathy Simpson, Hermitage, said, "I like everything about camp. I've learned Jesus forgives us from our sins. I believe in Him and I'm a Christian."

Brenda McKnight, Summertown, also a camper, said the first night of camp she learned Colossians 1:16 which told her God created all things in heaven and earth.

"Everything we do at camp relates to our relationship with God. He's constantly with us and is dominant," Lee explained. "We must trust God totally in relating to the campers. The staff say they grow spiritually during camp week. God becomes a reality when we see the simple trust of the campers."

The campers, ages 11-70, represented 46 different Tennessee churches. About half the campers came from churches with special education ministries.

Lee said her dream is that special ministries will become a regular part of church education.

She said three percent of the population is handicapped and there will always be a need for special ministries.

Photos by
Connie Umstead



Camper Shirley Jones, Murfreesboro, shot a ball at the basketball net during camp activities time.



Michael Hughes, Fulton, and Paul Buchanan, Nashville, braved the waters of the Buffalo River in a paddleboat.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

When Polonius gave advice to his son Laertes, according to Will Shakespear, he said a mouthful. Here's how it might be written today: "Son, be honest with yourself. Don't be puffed up with excessive pride and don't underestimate your ability to do what is right. Be true to these values — and you will be truthful and honest with others."

During the American Revolution many settlers kept their allegiance to the British Crown, and refused to take up arms in the struggle for independence. One of these was Peter Jackson, a farmer of Massachusetts. He was put in the county jail because he decided to join the British forces.

The jail was so poorly kept that any prisoner could have escaped easily. But Jackson considered himself a prisoner of the authorities. The same honesty which made him declare loyalty to the British made him equally ready to endure the consequences.

Knowing that his crops would suffer, he asked the sheriff for permission to work the farm by day and he promised to return to jail each night. Jackson's integrity was so well known that this was permitted. He did so for almost a year, until time came for his trial as a traitor to the cause of the rebellion. The prisoner told the authorities that

this trip to Springfield for trial was a needless expense for the county sheriff and he offered to make the trip alone.

Once again, he was trusted — and he set out to present himself for trial and certain condemnation. Walking alone, Jackson was overtaken by a Mr. Edwards, a member of the Council of Massachussets.



ALLEN

Peter Jackson told him he was on his way to Springfield to be tried for treason. Edwards thought he was joking.

Jackson walked on into Springfield, and the trial was held on schedule. He was found guilty and condemned to death. He appealed for mercy and the Council met to deliberate his request. The crime had been proven.

Finally it was Mr. Edwards' turn to speak. He simply told of Jackson's conduct while in prison as well as what had happened when they met on the road to Springfield. Jackson was pardoned.

Truth and honesty and integrity — they're not old-fashioned.

"The reluctance (to start a special education ministry) comes when people think they need specialized skills," Lee said. "I've discovered that the only skills needed are an extra ounce of common sense and tons of love. You treat them like any other people and they respond."

Six churches reported new ministries in the last year and many of the first-time campers were from these churches.

The Special Friends Camp ministry began when Jim McDonald, director of the TBC Business Office and co-director of Special Friends Camps, urged Lee to check into offering a camp for the handicapped.

"In visiting churches and associations, I would talk about camps," McDonald said. "People would say they had a handicapped child and no camp was available for them."

The first camp at Camp Linden in 1983 had 98 campers. Enrollment has increased each year since then.

The Golden State Missions Offering makes Special Friends Camps affordable. Comparable camps cost \$265-300 a camper, which many families cannot afford. Because the Golden State Missions Offering pays most of the cost, Special Friends campers pay only \$55.

Lee said another reason for Special Friends is to allow the family of mentally handicapped people to have a week of free time. Many families take their first out-of-town vacation when their special child goes to camp the first time.

"The families count on that week," Lee said.

One-third to one-half of the campers return each year.

Another aspect of camp is the relationships between the campers and the counselors, most of whom are youth.



Many campers played softball during activities time. Skippy James, Union City, got a base hit.

"The youth counselors leave camp with a positive feeling of self worth because of the mutual love. They are forced to interact on a level they will face in no other lifetime situation," Lee said. "They become adult to that camper who may be 40-years-old."

The youth group at First Church, Hendersonville, has provided counselors for several years. Twelve youth from the church served this year. These young people return to their church and recruit and train new counselors for the next year.

The Hendersonville church "always sends mature, high-quality youth," Lee said.

"One of the successes of camp is that once the mentally handicapped are at camp, they are no longer different," Lee concluded.

Cleveland churches respond to missionary family's crisis

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
CLEVELAND — As missionaries to Israel for 20 years, Jim and Mary Anne Burnham were used to dealing with crises.

Last summer, however, the Burnhams were faced with the toughest crisis of their lives — cancer.

Normally in good health, Mary Anne became sick early last summer. An ardent walker, she eventually reached the point she could not even climb the stairs in her Jerusalem home.

But for five months, doctors could not discover what was wrong and misdiagnosed her illness, the Burnhams reported.

Finally, they discovered Mary Anne, a Tennessean from Turtlecove, had ovarian cancer that had spread rapidly.

Mary Anne had two operations to remove the cancer, but were told that she only had a 30 percent chance of recovery.

And though she could have stayed in Jerusalem to undergo chemotherapy treatments, friends convinced them to return to the United States for the treatments.

In early October last year the Burnhams called Mary Anne's sister, Judy Massengale of Cleveland, and asked her to find "a house, a car, and a doctor, not necessarily in that order," Burnham said, adding they told her they would be home in five days.

The Burnhams had other connections to Cleveland. About four years ago they lived in the missionary house of Westwood Church. In addition, Jim had been interim pastor of two Cleveland churches — Hopewell and Mount Carmel.

Unfortunately the missionary house at Westwood was in use, but when contacted, Pastor Bob Bell told Mary Anne's sister the church would have a house ready for them in five days.

Westwood, in the midst of a church building program, had been using the old pastorium, which they eventually planned to tear down, for Sunday School space.

After learning of Mary Anne's need, Westwood, the two churches Burnham had served as interim pastor, and

Teleconference set on intercessory prayer

NASHVILLE — Churches with an intercessory prayer ministry or those interested in starting one should tune in to a National Prayer Corps teleconference on Sept. 17.

The teleconference, to be broadcast live on the Baptist Telecommunication Network, is from 3-5 p.m. Central Time.

The National Prayer Corps is comprised of about 10,000 people who have pledged to pray 30 minutes each day for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Call-in questions about the NPC, intercessory prayer ministries, and missions prayer emphases will be answered by a panel.

The panelists include T. W. Hunt, LIFE consultant for prayer for the Sunday School Board's Church Training Department; Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board; and Minnette Drumwright, director of the international prayer strategy office at the Foreign Mission Board.



AMONG FRIENDS — Missionaries Jim and Mary Anne Burnham's return to the United States so Mary Anne could be treated for cancer has been made easier by the efforts of three Cleveland churches. From left are: Bob Bell, pastor of Westwood Church; the Burnhams; Darrell Henry, pastor of Hopewell Church; and Jon Henson, pastor of Mt. Carmel Church.

— Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

others who knew of their plight sprang into action.

In five days the house was transformed. Led by Judy Massengale, members from area churches repaired, painted, wallpapered, and carpeted the house in Mary Anne's favorite colors, thinking it would help her healing process.

Individuals and Cleveland businesses donated furniture, appliances, food, and other items. They even furnished a waterbed because Mary Anne had back problems and a brass bed for 16-year-old Melody's room, similar to the one she had in Jerusalem. They thought it would help Melody make the transition to the United States after living in Israel all her life, Mary Anne recalled.

"We could not believe it when we walked in," Mary Anne said, noting there "was such an outpouring of love."

Bell noted that supplying a house for the Burnhams "is the least we can do for our missionaries when they have trouble."

Hopewell Pastor Darrell Henry agreed. "Anything we could do to relieve the little things was important. Our goal was to take the exterior burdens off them so they could devote their time toward Mary Anne's getting well."

But for Mary Anne, the return to Cleveland and the kindness and love demonstrated by their friends did not ensure a speedy recovery.

On her first visit to her new doctor in Chattanooga, he discovered the cancer had advanced to the third stage, meaning another operation was imperative.

Since her return last October, Mary Anne has had two operations, undergone ten chemotherapy treatments, and spent 78 days in the hospital.

It has only been in the past few months that the Burnhams have been able to think about what the future holds.

Tests are scheduled for Mary Anne to determine if the cancer is gone. Doctors have already warned the family, however, that even if the tests return clear, the recurrence rate for ovarian cancer is high.

So, the couple, who received their 20-year pins as foreign missionaries this summer from Bell during a special service at Westwood Church, knows there is a possibility they may not return to the mission field in Israel.

Because of Mary Anne's health, even if the cancer is gone, they have been told monthly visits are imperative for several years.

Also, for their daughter's sake, they are committed to staying in Cleveland until she graduates high school and enters college. The Burnhams also have a married son and daughter who live in Kentucky and North Carolina, respectively.

Mary Anne said they were committed to spending their careers in Israel, but because of the cancer "we may have to look at a redirection."

"God called us and took care of us for 20 years in Israel. He certainly will continue to do so," she affirmed.

Burnham, who served in several capacities in Jerusalem and is now interim pastor of Big Spring Church in Cleveland, agreed.

"God called me to do something at the age of 16, but I didn't know what until later. I feel the same way now."

"I know we'll be ministering for the

Lord someday, somewhere."

The Burnhams are appreciative for all the support they have received from the Foreign Mission Board, the Cleveland community, and friends across the world.

"We're grateful to be a part of a mission board like Southern Baptists have. They have taken care of us," the Burnhams agreed.

In addition, support letting the couple know they are being prayed for constantly, has poured in through cards and phone calls.

Burnham noted they have two brown grocery bags stuffed full of cards and are still receiving more.

"I believe in the power of prayer and I have felt it so much," Mary Anne said, adding that prayer is "like a tangible force. I feel so surrounded by it."

Despite the trauma they have faced, the Burnhams noted some good has come from the tragedy. They related that Arab and Jewish friends, some even non-believers, have contacted them and said they were praying for them.

In addition, the experience has had positive impact on the churches involved.

The tragedy has helped Hopewell Church, Henry said. "We have seen Mary Anne's progress as a result of prayers. It has given our church a fresh confidence in prayer," he said.

Jon Henson, pastor of Mount Carmel, agreed. "Our church has gained strength because of their faith," he affirmed.

Bell noted the experience has had a unifying effect to the degree "we felt corporate prayer going up for the Burnhams."

"These are our missionaries and we have a special cause to pray for them," Bell concluded.

One Woman's View

By June McEwen

Family reunions are an American tradition with an ambience all their own. More often than not, these gatherings take place during the summer. They range from simple picnics in public parks to extravagant parties in posh hotels involving months of planning and coordination.

The people who attend are interesting studies. Little children are examined to see which older relative they resemble. Older members of the family are evaluated to see how strong they are and how well they are holding up. The middle-aged are eyed sympathetically because of the responsibilities they are bearing for rearing the young, enduring the spasms of adolescent offspring, and assuming more and more for the aged and the disabled. Youth are admired and enjoyed as they choose their vocations, their spouses, and their places to live and work.

Memories are shared as family stories, tales, legends, and myths are retold, expanded upon, edited, and

elaborated. Family reunions are occasions, only too rare these days, for the generations to really see and hear each other. There is deep comfort in seeing a grandparent hold a grandchild or a great-grandchild in trembling, gnarled hands — a picture of continuity.

Food takes center stage with family recipes and family favorites spread in mouth-watering array to sate the most ravenous appetites.

Gathering of families bring to mind the family of God which is centered in the church. The church family has weekly reunions which include the whole range of old and young, the accomplished and the failed, the distinguished and the ordinary. There are shared memories; there is the greatest true story ever told; there is food — both the Lord's Supper and the food of the Word for the spirit.

This family reunion goes beyond the traditions of one's country. This family encompasses all peoples and all ages. It is this family for whom Jesus prayed not long before the cross. "I have made You known to those You gave Me out of the world. . . . They have obeyed Your Word, and now they know that everything You gave Me comes from You . . . I pray for them" (John 17:6-7 TEV).



McEWEN

Criswell College may expand

DALLAS (BP) — Members of the historic Gaston Avenue Church in Dallas, voted Aug. 13 to sell their property and facilities to First Church of Dallas for \$3 million. The purchase could be the first step in a future expansion of Criswell College and the outreach ministry of First Church into the east Dallas area, according to W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church.

Criswell stated if First Baptist Academy moved to the Gaston Avenue facility, \$1 million would have to be invested in the removal of asbestos to meet government guidelines. The feasibility of such an extensive project is being studied.

Criswell noted that a census conducted several years ago revealed 80,000 unchurched people in the area surrounding Gaston Avenue Church. The number one priority of First Church is to bring the Gospel to the ethnically diverse, non-Christian population of east Dallas, he continued.

"We are going to try to reach those people for the Lord," Criswell said, pointing out that the students in Criswell College, who currently number about 400, will be used in that evangelistic effort.

At this time, it has not been determined whether all of the Criswell College facilities eventually will be moved to the Gaston Avenue site, about two miles east of downtown Dallas, or whether some will remain at the downtown First Church location, according to Leo Bradley, vice president of administration at the Criswell College.

Criswell said leaders of First Church are praying they will be able to secure more property in the area near Gaston Avenue Church, but that there are not firm plans at this time.

The sale will be final Jan. 1, 1990. At that time, a portion of the facilities will be turned over to First Church for remodeling and refurbishing.

The decision to sell the turn-of-the-century, east Dallas landmark church building came after two decades of declining attendance and an extensive study by the congregation's planning committee.

Brotherhood to train

Six Brotherhood Regional Skill Shops will be held in September to provide training for Baptist Men, Baptist Young Men, High School Baptist Young Men, Royal Ambassador leadership, and Brotherhood associational leadership.

The schedule follows: South Central — Sept. 7 at First Church, Winchester; North Central — Sept. 12 at First Church, Sparta; Eastern — Sept. 19 at Second Church, Clinton; Central — Sept. 21 at Springfield Church, Springfield; Southeast — Sept. 25 at First Church, Athens; Northeast — Sept. 26 at Northport Church, Newport.

The conferences begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9:15 p.m. For more information, persons should contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.



NEW BSU AT DYERSBURG STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE — Participants in the ground breaking ceremony for a new BSU building are from left Charlotte Sorrell, chairman of the BSU steering committee; Joe T. Naylor, Dyer Association director of missions; Sam Reed, chairman of the BSU building committee; Karen Bowyer, president of Dyersburg State Community College; and Glynda Hall, BSU director.

Dyersburg is site of new BSU

Construction of a new Baptist Student Union building at Dyersburg State Community College, Dyersburg, has begun after a recent groundbreaking service at the campus.

By beginning a BSU at DSCC, "We are endeavoring to provide moral and spiritual leadership and make a difference in students lives as they pass through DSCC," said Joe Naylor, director of missions, Dyer Association.

A part-time BSU ministry existed at DSCC, which operated out of campus offices and meeting rooms. A full-time director, Glynda Hall, began Aug. 1.

"We will now have flexibility in developing ongoing ministries for students," said Ircel Harrison, director of the Student Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The 4500 square foot building will cost \$300,000 to build. Two-thirds of the cost will be covered by the TBC and the remainder will be provided by Dyer Association, which has already raised the needed funds. Construction is estimated to take 120 days and will be done by Brasfield Construction, Jackson.

The building will feature a multi-

purpose room for worship, dining, and fellowship; a lounge; a prayer room; offices; a kitchen; and an apartment.

The BSU building will be located near the campus student center, a good location to reach the 1800 student who attend the community college.

"The college, the president, and the local committees and association have been very cooperative in getting the BSU established. The land was declared surplus and the TBC and association were able to purchase it," Harrison said.

Naylor presided over the groundbreaking ceremony. Karen Bowyer, DSCC president welcomed guests, and Harrison; Charlotte Sorrell, chairman of the BSU steering committee; Sam Reed, chairman of the BSU building committee; and Hall spoke at the service.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Some of them came in wheel chairs. Others had to be assisted as they walked. They were gathered for the annual "Special Friends" Camp at Camp Carson.

There had been a similar camp at Camp Linden the week before. To be with them a little while is to know why they are called "special friends." The world has classified them as mentally handicapped, but they are not handicapped when it comes to love and appreciation.



LOWRIE

Henry, one of the campers, assured me that Liz Lee was a "super, super boss." My visit quickly confirmed this. Liz carries this responsibility along with her other responsibilities in the Sunday School Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Tommy Jordan from First Church, Madisonville, has become an invaluable

member of this team. His whole family shares in this week of ministry. They were assisted by a large number of staffers.

These special weeks were first engrained in the hearts of Jim and Dina McDonald. Jim directs the TBC Business Office. They saw the vision because of the needs of their special son, Tony. Isn't it a marvel how the Lord leads His people in the ministry?

If you gave to the Golden State Missions Offering last year, you were a part of this wonderful experience. The Lord made the ministry possible through your gifts. It is in the budget for this year's offering.

While at camp they studied the Bible, sang, prayed, worshiped, played, and did a lot of growing as persons. Just being with them a part of the day added to my life.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for befriending these "special friends." I know that you will do it again this year through the Golden State Missions Offering.

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Churches ...

Members of Dutch Bottom Church, Newport, will hold homecoming Sept. 3.

Bulls Gap Church, Bulls Gap, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 3. A picnic lunch will be held following the morning worship service.

Homecoming will be celebrated Sept. 10 at Island Home Church, Knoxville.

First Church, Ridgeway, will celebrate its 30th anniversary Sept. 10. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. There will be singing in the afternoon.

Mercer Church, Mercer, will hold revival Sept. 6-9 and homecoming Sept. 10. Fred Ward, pastor of First Church, Huntingdon, will speak and John Thomas, associate pastor and minister of youth/music at Liberty Grove Church, Jackson, will lead music.

First Church, Tracy City, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 10. Senior Member Ethel Dykes will be honored during the morning service. Dinner will be served.

Leadership ...

James and Sue Denney have joined the staff of the Johnson City, Tenn., Baptist Childrens Home as houseparents. James served as education and youth minister at Gladeville Church, Gladeville.

Danny Bush has been called as minister of music by Edgemore Church, Clinton.

Lascassas Church, Lascassas, called Billy Cox, Jr., as minister of youth, and Mary Lou Powers as children's coordinator.

Highland Park Church, Columbia, called Neal Myers as minister of education and youth.

Rayon City Church, Old Hickory, named Tom Ferguson as minister of

outreach, effective Aug. 1.

Also, Terry Wilkerson celebrated his first anniversary as church pastor by delivering a state of the church message. He was honored with a covered dish dinner and concert in the afternoon. There have been one hundred additions to church membership during his year as pastor.

Missions ...

Members of First Church, Knoxville, are sponsoring Toan Van Phan, a 26-year-old refugee from North Vietnam. He arrived in Knoxville July 20.

New Salem Association will hold a World Missions Conference Sept. 3-7 at the New Salem Training Center.

A 19-member youth mission team from Trinity Church, Knoxville, traveled to Conway, S.C., July 23-29 to sing in two churches and participate in a new work feasibility study by conducting Backyard Bible Clubs under the supervision of a Home Mission Board PRAXIS team from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Members of Sharon Church, Knoxville, recently voted to sponsor a Vietnamese refugee family of three. Loi Van Le and his family are expected to arrive in Knoxville the last week of September.

A mission team from First Church, Cleveland, traveled to Immanuel Church, Grand Rapids, Mich., July 29-Aug. 6 to lead in Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs.

Central Church, Chattanooga, sent ten volunteers to minister to people in Venezuela Aug. 4-15.

A mission team from First Church, Lenoir City, spent July 31-Aug. 4 in Cherokee, N.C. leading Vacation Bible School.

Ordinations ...

First Church, Cleveland, recently ordained Jeff Lovingood to the ministry. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth,

Seminary, Memphis. Prior to his appointment, Pool was pastor of First Church, Clifton.

Mrs. Pool is a native of Trenton. She considers Laneview Church there as her home church. Mrs. Pool attended Union University and Jackson State Community College.

The Pools have three children. Dwayne and Cynthia Thames will serve in Burkina Faso where he will develop a religious education program for churches. They also will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Thames is a native of Alabama, but considers Winchester his home town. He attended First Church there. He holds degrees from Belmont College, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Thames, a native of Nashville, attended Belmont College. She was a member of Woodmont Church.

The couple have two children. Both couples will go to Rockville, Va., in November for a seven-week orientation before they leave for the mission field.

Texas, and is serving a church in Ruston, La.

Joseph Mullins, was ordained as a deacon July 16 by First Church, Dandridge.

Gates Church, Gates, ordained Parker Cherry, David Demps, and Bill Myrick as deacons June 25.

Grandview Church, Nashville, ordained Billy Wilson Kemp, Jr., to the ministry July 23. He has served the church for six years as minister to youth and will enter Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, this year.

David Carr was ordained as deacon July 2 by Greenwood Church, Doyle.

West View Church, Rogersville, recently ordained Dennis Hill to the ministry.

People ...

William Graves, 78, a physician from Bristol, was named July Layman of the Month by the Holston Baptist Association for his continuous efforts to witness to his patients during office visits or house calls in the foothills of Sullivan County.

A native of Bluefield, Va., Graves is a charter member of Covenant Church, Bristol, where he serves as an elder deacon. Although he suffers from post polo syndrome, Graves continues to be active in the church and served on the board of Virginia Interment College, Bristol.

He is married to the former Gwendolyn Dawkins, and his daughter, Elizabeth is married to Tal Thompson, Holston Association director of missions.

Edison Fellers was recently honored on his 72nd birthday by Brown Springs Church, Mosheim. He has been a member and deacon for more than 50 years.

Revivals ...

Revival services will be held Sept. 14-17 at Smyrna Church, Humboldt. Jerry Milam, pastor of First Church, Gibson, will speak.

First Church, Greeneville, will hold revival Sept. 10-13. Don Smith, a pastor from Georgia, will speak and Pat Roper will lead music.

Allen Church, Brownsville, will hold revival services Sept. 13-19. Randy Wheeler, former pastor, will speak.

Antioch Church, Brownsville, held revival July 30-Aug. 2. E. B. Bowen spoke and Bennie Morrison led music.

John D. Wilton spoke at revival services held July 16-19 at Harmony Church, Whiteville. Ron Cottingham was music director.

Northport Church, Newport, will hold revival Sept. 10-13. Mike Bernard, pastor of Central Church, Athens, will speak.



VENTURING TO ISRAEL — Chris Leonard, 23, sets the table for dinner at Baptist Village near Petah Tiqva, Israel, where he has been a Baptist Student Union summer worker. The conference and camping facility is operated by Southern Baptist personnel in Israel for a wide range of evangelical church functions. A member of Silverdale Church, Chattanooga, he is a music education major at the University of Tennessee. Active in Baptist Student Union, he has been on mission trips to Michigan, Florida, New Orleans, and New York City, but the Israel assignment is his first work outside the United States. Also serving at Baptist Village this summer was Tennessean Cathy Bridgeman.

— Photo by Mike Creswell

Dyer Association reports several revivals during August. Churches and leaders are listed: Springhill Church, Dyersburg, Floyd Lammersfield; Enon Church, Halls, R. B. Owens; Bogota Church, Bogota, Bill Phipps; Miston Church, Bogota, James Branscum; Calvary Chapel, Ridgely, Dalton Tetleton; Mount Tirzah Church, Newbern, Don McCulley; Parrish Chapel, Friendship, Jimmy Bedwell; and Curve Church, Ripley, Bob Gaines.

Madison-Chester and Crockett County Associations are sponsoring the Golden Circle Area Crusade Sept. 10-17. The revival will be held on the Union University Campus, Jackson, under a tent with 3000 seating capacity. Kelly Green, Mobile, Ala., will speak and Joe Estes will lead music.

Riverdale Chapel, Murfreesboro, recently held a tent revival. D. L. Lowrie, executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention spoke and Wayne Ray directed music.

Seals called as pastor to First Church, Elizabethton

Brent Seals has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Elizabethton, effective August 13.

Seals was most recently pastor of First Church, Arlington, N.C. He also served as pastor of three other North Carolina churches, one Virginia church, and two Tennessee churches, Grand Avenue Mission and Fifth Avenue Church, both in Knoxville.

A graduate of Jefferson County High School, Seals earned a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

FMB appoints Tennessee couples



POOLS



THAMES

RICHMOND — Two Tennessee couples were among 24 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Aug. 8 at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va.

Randall and Cynthia Pool will serve in Honduras where he will start and develop churches. They also will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Pool is a native of Millington but considers Woodland Church in Jackson as his home church. He holds degrees from Union University, Jackson, and Mid-America Baptist Theological



SEALS

The people complain

By J. William Bargiol, director of missions; Big Emory Association, Harriman

Introduction

Some years back, a church worshiped in an outmoded building. A new building was erected with modern conveniences. With a thermostatically controlled central heating system the pastor thought everyone would be comfortable. Two persons complained immediately, unhappy with the temperature. One was so hot she was suffocating. The other was so cold she was freezing to death.



BARGIOL

The one that was too hot chose to sit directly over a heat vent. The one that was too cold chose to sit right in front of the entrance doors. Both would rather complain than move!

Continuous complainers (20:3-4)

The people of Israel continued their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. They were in the same condition churches get sometimes. They were moving around but they weren't really getting anywhere.

When they ran out of water, their first response was to complain again.

They blamed Moses for their predicament. It always seems comforting if I can blame someone else for

my problems. But it was the people, not Moses, who had decided not to enter Canaan. They were now suffering from their own mistake.

The people forgot that Moses had only led them where God had directed.

A costly mistake (20:11-12)

As they had done time and again Moses and Aaron sought to plead the people's cause before the Lord at the place of worship. They "fell upon their faces" before the Lord.

God responded. Moses and Aaron were instructed by God to gather the people and speak to a rock and receive water (8). On another occasion (Exodus 17:6) God had instructed Moses to strike a rock with his staff in order to receive water for the people. But this time the instruction was to speak to the rock. Both God and Moses would have been exalted if Moses had listened carefully.

Moses' failure to apply God's instruction eventually cost him entrance into the Promised Land. There is a very important lesson to be learned at

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

September 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: Numbers 19:1 to 21:35
Focal Passages: Numbers 20:3-4, 11-12; 21:5-8, 21-24a

this point. We are to interpret and apply God's Word carefully (2 Timothy 2:15).

Submissive rebels (21:5-8)

The people's frustration and despair was expressed again in 21:5. They were sick of eating nothing but manna and of wandering about. In spite of all their meanness God had protected them and provided for them. But they became so obsessed with their problems they forgot their blessings.

When I oppose God, I can expect some kind of result. The Bible says that God sent "fiery serpents" into the camp. The description apparently means that the bite of the serpent caused an intense, burning pain. The bite was fatal.

In their fears the people turned to Moses for help. They confessed their sin (7). They asked Moses to pray for them. As before, he did. They both had good practice at what they were doing!

Then the Lord gave to them an experience that extended far beyond their immediate circumstances. God told Moses to make a serpent and put it upon a pole in the midst of the camp. Anyone bitten by a snake was healed by looking upon the brass serpent.

Centuries later the Lord Jesus Christ used the serpent experience to tell of God's plan of salvation. In John 3:14-15 Jesus said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God

provides for our forgiveness and salvation through Christ.

God removes obstacles (21:21-24a)

The people of Israel bypassed Edom. Now they had to pass through Moab to reach the Dead Sea and the Jordan River valley. Moses asked Sihon, king of the Amorites, permission for safe passage. Permission was refused. Since God was directing Israel the conclusion of the battle was forgone. The Amorites were slaughtered. With victory came possession of the land between the Anon and Jabbok Rivers, in position to cross the Jordan and enter the land of Canaan. God was delivering His people!

The sad side of the story is that the new generation was no more spiritual than the old was. Even as today, each generation, yea, each person must make his own faith pilgrimage with God through Jesus Christ. "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7) applies to all!

Conclusion

When God brought Israel to the banks of the Jordan River, they were just on the front end of their divinely ordained mission. They were destined to become "people of God" in the world.

In like manner, when believers come to the Cross and receive Jesus Christ as Savior, we are in the front end of our journey. We, too, are destined to become "people of God" in the world.

In Jesus Christ, God has given to us both the challenge and the opportunity to be people of God, and to change the world.

God with Judah

By Ray Gilder, pastor; Speedway Terrace Chapel, Memphis

Ezekiel was a prophet during Judah's exile in Babylon. The main purpose of his book is to show people who God really is and how they should respond to Him. Ezekiel means "God will strengthen."

The primary thrust of the book is the presentation of his vision of the glory of the Lord. The way Ezekiel described what happened to him is expressed in several terms: the heavens were opened, he saw visions of God, the Word of the Lord came expressly unto him, the hand of the Lord was upon him and what he saw was like the glory of the Lord. Those who are called to serve God must realize the greatness of the One who called them.



GILDER

Lord was upon him and what he saw was like the glory of the Lord. Those who are called to serve God must realize the greatness of the One who called them.

Ezekiel and his fellow-captives in Babylon certainly needed a vision of the Lord in His glory. The prevailing attitude of the captives is presented in Psalms 137:1-4. Anytime people can see only their problems and the adverse circumstances in life, they need a vision of the Lord.

Stuart Briscoe stated this need clearly in his book All Things Weird and Wonderful: "To say that the vision was timely is to make a massive understatement. Ezekiel and his contemporaries desperately needed a vision of God, as do all people whose circumstances have become their obsession and whose experience has become their dominating passion. When a man's existence becomes almost totally his theme and song, society is in deep trouble . . . A vision of God is what

that society needs." We need our perspective restored.

It is only as we begin to see the Lord in His glory that we regain a proper perspective about our lives.

One of the first observations about the vision of Ezekiel is the conclusion that man is only capable of receiving partial glimpses of God at one time. Mankind has neither the language nor the ability to accurately describe God. Therefore, Ezekiel had to resort to the use of the simile. Symbolic terms dominate the first chapter of his book.

Even the use of the simile has its limitations. Ezekiel's attempt to describe the glory of God is like the man who heard Beethoven for the first time and then tried to play his Fifth Symphony on a tin whistle. There is no way any man can explain every detail of this vision.

References to the four living creatures connect Ezekiel to other prophetic books, such as, Daniel and Revelation. The underlying message of

the four faces of the living creatures seem to be that all of creation is involved in the service of the Lord.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

September 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: Ezekiel 1
Focal Passage: Ezekiel 1:4-6, 15-20, 26-28B

The wheels within wheels must speak of God's omnipresence. The rings full of eyes must speak of God's omniscience. The awesome movement of the wheels must speak of God's omnipotence.

Above everything else which Ezekiel saw was a throne and the One who sat on the throne must have been the glorified Son of God. Around the throne was a rainbow. This bow takes us back to the bow God placed in the sky after the flood. Evidently, God is saying to Ezekiel that, even in the midst of His holiness, He never ceases to be merciful.

When Ezekiel saw the vision, he fell upon his face. This is where everyone who is going to be used of God must begin.

What Ezekiel saw has a greater ex-

planation than that of a UFO. He saw something of the mystery, the ministry, and the majesty of God. He was being shown in vivid technicolor that God moves in our world through His created beings. He came to learn that serving God is both the most exhilarating and terrifying activity in which one can be involved.

As soon as God had Ezekiel's full attention, He began to speak a message to him. Ezekiel learned that God is very much involved in the lives of His people, even as captives, and that He has a purpose which He is going to accomplish.

God allowed Ezekiel to see that His glory was going to depart from Jerusalem (11:22, 23) and, then, return in the latter days (43:2-4).

In our day when no one seems interested or capable of looking beyond his own little world, we are in desperate need of a fresh vision of the glory of the Lord. This is the only thing that can restore a rational approach to life and an understanding of how it should be lived.

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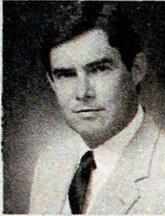
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Earning money wisely

by Phillip A. Cooley, pastor; First Church, Gallatin

On this Labor Day Weekend, we honor those who work for their living in all aspects of the job market. Our lesson Sunday is very timely. It deals with how we earn and use our money as Christians. This lesson from Proverbs will help us examine our attitude toward money. It is not a comprehensive guide for Christian finances. However, the lesson does look at our material possessions from our instructive angles. As you study this lesson, you will want to ask yourself whether you bring honor to Jesus Christ by the way you make and spend your money. 1. Proverbs 6:6-11 focuses on a basic principle of life: If you are ever going to have anything, you must work for it. While there are exceptions, this princi-



COOLEY

ple still remains true to life whether you are making money, building a reputation, or getting an education. The writer points to the ant as a wise example of industry and productivity. Because the ant works hard, she has adequate provision for the lean times of life.

In our "get rich quick" and "get something for nothing" world, people need to learn again the value of hard work. Seldom does prosperity fall in the lap of the lazy.

One word of caution. It would be wrong to judge that all poor people are lazy. And it would be unbiblical to foster a harsh and uncaring attitude toward the poor. The prophets and Jesus taught that God wants us to be merciful toward the poor.

2. Proverbs 11:1-4 sets forth four characteristics which God expects of a Christian in business. Verse 1 calls for honesty. God hates "a false balance," but loves "honest weights." We find honesty emphasized in other parts of

Scripture: Amos 8:4-6; Leviticus 19:35-36; Proverbs 20:10, 23; Micah 6:10.

Verse 2 warns against pride: "People who are proud will soon be disgraced. It is wise to be modest" (11:2, GNB). Humility here does not mean covering timidity. Humility means submitting our desires, wants, and ambitions to the will of God. Proverbs 16:18 warns: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Verse 3 speaks of integrity in business. A person of integrity is always guided by honest motives and actions. And verse 4 calls for righteousness on the part of the businessman. What does righteousness have to do in the marketplace? Proverbs says that riches will let you down on the day of your death, but righteousness will deliver you from death.

3. Proverbs 11:24-27 reminds us of another trusted principle in life: What you sow in life will determine what you reap in life. Galatians 6:7 says: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

The person who uses his money wisely and generously to help others will reap a rich reward of friendship and

respect in this life. But the person who hoards his money in a selfish and miserly fashion will reap isolation and loneliness and heartache.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
September 3 Lesson
Basic Passage: Proverbs 6:6-11;
11:1-4, 24-28; 15:16-17
Focal Passages: Proverbs 6:6-11;
11:1-4, 24-28; 15:16-17

Mark this down: The person who has learned to be generous with his material wealth usually has learned also to be generous with his love and friendship. A man that guards his wallet tightly will usually guard his heart tightly also. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6.

4. Proverbs 11:28 and 15:16-17 warn us against the dangers of materialism. "Better to be poor and fear the Lord than to be rich and in trouble" (15:16 GNB).

A proverb often reminds us of a story. Proverbs 15:17 brings to mind many stories — of lavish wedding rehearsal dinners where neither parent would speak to the other and where an otherwise joyous occasion was thereby turned into a cruel event to be suffered through. By contrast, I remember sitting down with some of the poorest people on God's earth in Venezuela and sharing abundant joy over the poverty of their meal.

Jesus warned: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). Therefore, let us heed the Lord's words: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

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(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Korean Baptists mark centennial

SEOUL, South Korea — The world is looking toward Korean Baptists becoming an international missions force, building on the strength gained in evangelizing their own country during the past 100 years. R. Keith Parks told more than 15,000 Korean Baptists packed into the Olympic Gymnasium for their Centennial Celebration.

"There are other groups in the Baptist world reaching out, but as yet there is no model among Asians. I am convinced God brought you to this moment in history to be a model for missions for the whole world," said Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "You have enough churches and enough money. . . . God has provided everything except the commitment and sacrifice," he added.

Currently nearly a quarter of the 43 million South Koreans claim to be Christians. Throughout the country, Baptist churches number approximately 1400.

The lineage of Korean Baptists dates to 1889 when Malcolm Fenwick, an independent Canadian missionary, arrived in Seoul and later established the Church of Christ in Korea. That group changed its name to Baptist when formal relationships were established with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1950.

Home missionary shot twice in Miami robbery attempt

MIAMI — Southern Baptist home missionary Peter Golinski of Atlanta was shot twice Aug. 19 in a robbery attempt as he began a family vacation in Miami. Golinski, 61, was in good condition Aug. 21 in Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital, and expects to be released in a few days. For the past eight years, Golinski has been a national ethnic missionary to Haitians.

In a telephone interview from his hospital bed, Golinski said he and his family had driven from Atlanta to Miami to board a flight for a vacation in the Bahamas. They had intended to leave their car at the home of Wilner Maxy, pastor of Emmanuel Haitian Church in suburban Miami. Maxy and his wife, Merida, were going to drive the family to the airport in her automobile, Golinski explained. The attack began as the missionary, his wife Luana, and two college-age daughters began to move luggage from their car into the Maxy's automobile.

Golinski was shot twice. One bullet passed through his right leg; the other entered three inches below his right arm and passed through his spleen and right lung before exiting his body. Doctors later told the missionary the second

bullet missed his heart by inches.

As Golinski collapsed by the car, the two men fled in a car parked nearby. Judy Maxy, daughter of the Miami pastor, called for an ambulance. Miami police, who arrived shortly after the shooting, found the large caliber handgun and the mask the gunman was wearing. The two suspects are still at large, Golinski said Aug. 21, but police have a description of their car.

Belgian evangelical school reorganizes

HEVERLEE, Belgium — The Belgian Center for Biblical Education, an evangelical school Criswell College in Dallas unsuccessfully tried to buy, has merged two programs, cut staff, resumed efforts to sell its property, and begun steps to strengthen its evangelical identity. Efforts by Criswell College President Paige Patterson to buy the financially-troubled school's property ended in June when Patterson said he could not raise enough funds to buy the facility, renovate it, and endow its operation.

The Belgian school's reorganization will reduce this year's budget deficit — earlier expected to be about \$219,000 — to about \$75,000 by next year, said Jef De Vriese, administrative director-designate. De Vriese will be general coordinator in a new administrative system replacing six separate departments with a system more akin to that of Belgian universities. An academic director has not yet been named.

The school includes a conference center, counseling center, French-language Bible institute, Dutch-language Bible institute and the Evangelical Theological Faculty, a university-level seminary accredited by the Belgian government to offer degrees. About 160 students attend the institution. Most are members of the Evangelical Free Churches or Dutch Reformed churches. Many students come from the Netherlands, and about one third of the Baptist pastors in that nation are graduates of the school, said Robert Johnson, European director of Greater Europe Mission, a U.S.-based mission organization which sponsors ten Bible schools and three seminaries in Europe, including the Belgian school.

The school is not formally affiliated with Baptists, although at least eight workers in Belgian Baptist churches and missions have attended the school. Thirteen Baptist churches and six missions or preaching points are affiliated with the Union of Baptists in Belgium.

Baptist Village in Israel to begin major expansion

PETAH TIQVA, Israel — A \$2 million expansion of the Baptist Village conference and camping center near Tel Aviv, Israel, will begin as soon as local government officials give final design approval.

A \$300,000 expansion of camping facilities will be the first of several construction phases, said Dale Thorne, director of Southern Baptist work in the Middle East. Baptist Village is a 75-acre complex operated by Southern Baptist representatives. It provides facilities for evangelical church-related conferences year-round and a summer camp for young people.

Camping capacity will be increased from 70 to about 120 campers in the first phase, said Southern Baptist representative Norm Lytle, who directs the facility.

Chinese Protestant leaders reverse stance on rebellion

By Erich Bridges

NANJING, China (BP) — Chinese Protestant leaders, in their first public statement since the June government crackdown on student protests, have "resolutely endorsed" the recent decision of the Communist Party Central Committee.

The statement, dated June 27, was released by the China Christian Council and Chinese Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee.

The Communist Party Central Committee met in late June and purged General Secretary Zhao Ziyang from party leadership, charging him with support of the turmoil created by the student protesters and attempts to split the party. The committee reaffirmed China's economic reforms and opening to the outside world, but called on the nation to "check turmoil thoroughly and quell the counterrevolutionary rebellion."

The committee's decisions echoed the policy set forth in a June 9 speech by top Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. The speech has been circulated nationwide for study and implementation.

The Protestant leaders applauded the reaffirmation of modernization and called upon Chinese Christians to study Deng's speech "in order to raise the patriotic and socialist consciousness, and together with the broad masses of the people, struggle for the construction of a strong and prosperous motherland."

In May the Christian council issued a statement of strong support for the students' demands and asked the government to enter into a dialogue

with the students. But after the June 4 crackdown in Beijing, the Protestant leaders found themselves in a difficult and dangerous position, like other Chinese who voice support for the students, observers noted.

The Protestants remained silent for more than a month, and their June 27 statement came later than similarly worded statements from Chinese Catholics, Buddhists, Daoists, and Muslims.

Protestant leader Bishop Ding Guangxun (K. H. Ting) faced a particularly precarious situation: He not only had personally backed the students' call for reforms, but had signed a petition calling for an emergency meeting of the National People's Congress Standing Committee to consider the crisis. He is a member of the standing committee. He had also become more vocal in recent months in calling on government authorities to uphold laws allowing religious freedom.

The standing committee met in Beijing for eight days ending July 6 and endorsed the Communist Party's decisions and the government crackdown. Signers of the emergency petition were severely criticized. But a number of members, including Bishop Ding, concentrated instead on public outrage over widespread corruption.

According to a Western observer with ties to Chinese Christians, Ding "had to make a difficult decision. He chose to find those emphases in Deng's speech — reaffirmation of modernization, a prosperous motherland, elimination of corruption

— that he could call on Christians to support. He obviously feels that this approach will be as beneficial as any other possible approach. It's difficult to make black and white decisions when the whole world about you is gray."

In other Chinese Christian developments:

- The Amity Foundation, a Chinese Christian-related service organization, announced it will cut back the number of foreign teachers it sponsors at Chinese universities from 85 to about 50. However, Amity Press in Nanjing is continuing to print Bibles without hindrance, according to reports.

- The foundation denied a report that Chinese police entered the Protestant seminary campus in Nanjing June 2 and beat students who participated in democracy demonstrations. Foundation officials did say, however, that an official from the government Religious Affairs Bureau talked to the students.

- Some Chinese Christians have reported that conversions to Christianity actually have increased since the crackdown, especially among students. But a June 14 government decree reportedly outlawed foreign radio broadcasts, including Christian broadcasts, and imposed fines for anyone caught listening to them.

Beirut Baptist church is hit

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — A second Baptist church has been hit by an artillery shell during the fierce shelling which continues to pound Beirut.

Bikfayah Church, located in a Christian village in the hills east of Beirut, was hit in mid-August during heavy shelling. It is unknown how badly the building was damaged, said Dale Thorne, Cyprus-based director of Southern Baptist work in the Middle East.

Thousands of Beirut citizens continue to evacuate the city during the fighting. Others have hidden for weeks in basement bomb shelters. Lebanese Baptists still in the city reported "unbelievable devastation" as shells exploded at one point "every two seconds."

"We are herded like cattle into basements and shelters," said a Baptist worker by telephone Aug. 18. "We have no gasoline or electricity. Our food is almost completely gone. We are too afraid to go out now and try to get food. Each time there is a lull in the bombing and we think it might be safe to search for food, suddenly new shelling starts with some people out on the streets. Many are killed. . . . The fear is so great.

"As Baptists we are trying to be brave and minister to our neighbors and families. It seems the world has forgotten us."

In late July, Mouseitbeh Church in Beirut was damaged severely when a shell hit its roof.