

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

CLC has 'quiet' session, plans AIDS series

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — In their annual meeting, trustees of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission unanimously elected James A. Smith as the organization's first full-time staff member based in the nation's capital.

Smith, 24, was elected assistant director of the CLC's Washington office, effective Oct. 1. He will work with members of Congress and other government leaders on legislation and other matters relating to the CLC's program assignment.

Prior to joining the CLC, Smith was director of research and communications for the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Study Committee. He is a 1987 political science graduate of Dallas Baptist University and was president of the school's Student Government Association and founder and chair of its chapter of Students for America.

Chairperson Joe Atchison of Rogers, Ark., called the Sept. 12-13 board meeting, which ended a day earlier than scheduled, "the quietest, calmest and most productive and constructive session in many years."

The commission has been involved in controversy since 1986, when former Executive Director Foy Valentine announced he was stepping down from the post. Conservative trustees complained that moderates tried to "fix" the selection of Valentine's successor and opposed the nomination of N. Larry Baker, who was elected 16-13 in January 1987.

A year later, Baker survived a 15-15 vote to fire him but resigned in the summer of 1988. Current Executive Director Richard D. Land was elected the following September on a 23-2 vote. Land told trustees in their latest

meeting the commission's recent financial difficulties have been resolved through "prudent management and wise stewardship of resources." Prior to Land's election, the agency was more than \$80,000 in the red.

The commission will end the current fiscal year Sept. 30 with all bills paid and about \$60,000 restored to its operating reserve, Land said.

A trustee committee, meanwhile, approved printing a new commission pamphlet on abortion and set the wheels in motion for final completion of a new four-part pamphlet series on AIDS.

The abortion pamphlet was written by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis and edited by CLC staff. CLC trustees approved that pamphlet with few changes, all approved by Lewis.

Trustees and CLC staff members spent more than three hours in committee meetings editing the AIDS series line by line. The majority of the changes focused on technical terminology used by the writers. Trustees such as Alma Ruth Morgan of Bartlesville, Okla., said they wanted the pamphlet to contain words "people in the pew will understand."

Publication of the abortion and AIDS pamphlets are expected by November. In other action, trustees:

- Voted unanimously to name Richard Goodgame, a physician and Southern Baptist medical missionary to Uganda, as recipient of the commission's 1990 Distinguished Service Award.

Goodgame is considered an expert on AIDS. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, earned a doctor of medicine degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore and attended



ATTENTIVE — Tennessee CLC commissioner Ben Mitchell, center, listens attentively during the recent board meeting. He is flanked by James Richards of Louisiana and Celia Minix of Virginia. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Before making the decision on Goodgame, trustees sought assurances, which they received from family and colleagues, that he is pro-life in his beliefs and practices.

- Approved a 1989-90 budget of \$1,028,508, up \$117,358 over the 1988-89 budget.

- Recommended asking the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to increase the CLC's Cooperative Program unified budget allocation by \$310,850 during fiscal 1990-91. The requested allocation is \$1,208,358, up from \$897,508.

The increase is earmarked to allow the commission to continue its work in promotion of hunger concerns, expand its Washington office, add a new person in the area of marriage and family life, increase the number of issues of its regular publication called Light and start a new ethics television program

on the ACTS network.

- Decided to give Land a "salary adjustment package" of \$10,000. The adjustment would increase his annual salary and benefits from the current \$70,971.85 to \$80,971.85.

Trustee Coy Privette of Raleigh, N.C., asked why Land was getting a raise of about 14 percent when staff members' raises for the year were only about 5 percent.

Rudolph C. Yakym Jr. of Mishawaka, Ind., responded that Land was hired when the commission had a deficit and the CLC was "in general chaos and turmoil" and that the search committee could not offer him a package "commensurate with other (Southern Baptist) agency heads, his ability and his education." Even with the raise, Land still would be the third-lowest-paid Southern Baptist executive, he said.

(See page 5)

Florida Baptists take anti-abortion vote

By Greg Warner

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — "Your voice needs to be heard," Florida Gov. Bob Martinez told more than 2200 cheering Florida Baptists, who promptly adopted a statement opposing abortion Sept. 8 and geared up for the approaching legislative battle that will determine the direction of Florida's abortion laws.

Martinez and several other abortion opponents spoke to a historic called session of the Florida Baptist State Convention Sept. 8-9 at Downtown Church in Orlando, which attracted the attention of both local and national media.

The convention's 1708 messengers adopted the consensus statement on

abortion, which included plans for a strategy of ministry to women with problem pregnancies and which called for "legislation that will achieve the dramatic saving and nurturing of human life."

The statement is targeted at state legislators, who will gather in Tallahassee Oct. 10-13 at Martinez's request to consider more restrictive abortion laws. The statement denounces the "casual attitudes about abortion" contained in current laws. It does not take a specific stand on Martinez's proposals, but insists "the right of human life must be protected by the state."

In order to minimize divisiveness, Florida leaders said, the statement

does not deal with which, if any, exceptions to abortion are morally permissible. It 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."

After adopting the statement Friday night, 1092 messengers and visitors spent Saturday morning in workshops learning how to influence state legislators.

The special session — only the third in Florida Baptist history and the first dealing with a moral issue — took on more of the character of a pro-life rally than a Baptist convention. Participants cheered speeches denouncing abortion and moaned when a handful of messengers voiced opposition.

The three-hour opening session, which opened with the national an-

(See page 5)

First, Sevierville has 200th birthday

First Church, Sevierville, is celebrating its 200th anniversary on Sept. 24 — and everyone is invited.

That is the word from Pastor Joe R. Wren. "We want everyone to share in this bicentennial celebration with us," Wren said.

The church is combining the 200th anniversary with a homecoming event. Located at 317 Parkway in Sevierville, the church begins the celebration day with Sunday School at 9:30, followed by D. L. Lowrie's sermon at 10:45. Lowrie is executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The church cornerstone will be laid at noon. Dedication of the family life/educational building will be held at noon also.

A picnic lunch is scheduled at 12:30 p.m.

Winding up the observance of the bicentennial is a historical pageant, "God of Our Fathers," which is scheduled for 7:30.

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**Dawn breaks through the darkest gloom**

Despite confirmation that many cruel and wicked events are taking place in diverse geographical locations around the world, good things are happening in many places.

The disregard for personal freedom in China as an enforced national policy is a sardonic blow to citizens who felt the fresh air of liberty earlier in the summer. The smashing of new beginnings is a mockery of justice.

Outlaws and brigands continue to control Lebanon, once one of the most beautiful nations in the Middle East. Places in Africa, Central, and South America, are also constantly in armed struggle. Ireland is raising generations who know only killing (death) as a way of life. Our own land is staggering under evil influences — narcotics, alcohol, and abuse of power and people.

But there are good things happening, some which astound us:

- Baptist pastor Janos Viczian has been elected as a member of the Hungarian parliament. "We had difficulties during the last 40 years," he said, "we lost several hundred members. The Word of God never lost the power. Jesus Christ lives in Hungary. The church did not die out."

- More than 25,000 people responded to

evangelist Billy Graham's invitation to receive Christ in a one-day crusade in Budapest, Hungary, in July. During a week-long European Baptist Federation Congress, Matayas Szuros, a national leader, said Baptists there are helping to make the structure of a new society, now that the Stalinist authoritarian system is "bankrupt."

Szuros said that in a century of pain and humiliation, "let there be shouting that Baptists are the spokesmen for Christian love and forgiveness for the benefit of nations and for peace of people and nations . . . for righteousness . . . for defense of human rights." He is president of the Hungarian National Assembly.

- According to the American Bible Society, there are 102 countries now involved in Scripture translation, with a total of 605 language translations underway.

- Poland's government, under pressure, allowed elections earlier this year — and the Solidarity Party won the majority of positions. Though the Communist Party is still in power, the new leaders largely are responsive to freedom for the people. The parliament has approved the first government in the Eastern bloc not led by Communists.

- The Soviet Union also is experiencing some reform. Words like "glasnost" and

"perestroika" are taking on significance since opposition groups were allowed to participate in elections. Many candidates ousted Communists, and one, Boris Yeltsin, has visited President George Bush.

- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, it has been learned, was baptized by his Christian parents when he was a child. His wife also has been baptized, and his mother is an Orthodox believer who still attends church services regularly. "I think it is quite normal," he said in answering a question.

- More than 15,000 East Germans have been allowed by Hungarian officials to cross into Austria on their way to freedom in West Germany. Others continuing to line up for the surprising offer by Hungary, despite protests from East Germany's Communist government. This is the first time an East Bloc nation has broken an agreement with another bloc nation.

Our recent editorial about the spiritual awakening that is growing around the world as the Holy Spirit of God moves in the hearts and lives of believers, finds strength in all these unexpected actions. They are bright lights in a sometimes dark world.

But God speaks, and the powers tremble. That's not surprising, not if we are tuned in. — WFA

News sources, learning to read and trust

Occasionally we hear from readers who wrongly attribute news stories to the Baptist and Reflector staff.

While we do not print disclaimers weekly as a matter of course, neither do we accept authorship for all that appears in the paper. Often we tell readers who are disgruntled with something that we printed — that we don't like it either.

It is true. There are news stories that are disagreeable to us — just as they are to readers. However, they are news — and every subscriber has the right to read Baptist news in the Baptist state paper before they read it or hear about it from secular sources (which sometimes play havoc with propriety and dignity.)

We believe readers have the right to know the source of the news. During any given week, the staff of the Baptist and Reflector is working diligently toward presenting an attractive, well-prepared, interesting, and enlightening news package to our readers.

There are eight of us, and four are well-equipped, trained, and experienced journalists. The role of the support staff is vital, and that group is as interested and dedicated as are the journalists in presenting a professional and well-intentioned newspaper to our readers.

When one of our journalists writes a story, the name will appear, unless it is a short item. Much of our news comes from Baptist Press, the news-gathering arm of the Executive Committee, SBC. Again, those writers are given bylines (credits) denoting authorship. There are three on that staff — but BP uses writers from agencies, commissions, institutions, colleges, state papers, and occasionally from the secular press. When this is done, BP names the proper news source.

Baptist Press takes many undeserved jabs. The fact is that Baptist Press works for the state papers — and therefore, for all Southern Baptists. The BP staff is experienced — with a strong sense of loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention. Often BP is criticized simply

because the reader did not like the news; therefore the writer is harrassed.

The "strange" names that appear at times at the top of a news story belong to journalists who have written the item. And while we do not always agree with events depicted in stories, we believe that overwhelming and convincing evidence proves that BP is a steady and reliable news source. We also believe their writers to be honest and fair. Remember, if the news hurts, none of these news sources invented the news.

We continue to strive to produce a flawless paper. Until that happens, we give you the best we can, week by week. We want readers to know that we always either know the writer or we have confidence in the agency or board where the writer is employed.

We are all in this together. The truth does indeed set us free from pettiness, rumor-mongering, distrust, and the uncooperative spirit. — WFA

ACTS network stable, trustees told during RTVC meeting

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Members of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 11-12, were told the number of households able to receive programs of the ACTS television network remains stable in the face of predictions to the contrary.

The commission also adopted a \$7.75 million operating budget for 1989-90.

Mickey Castleberry, chairman of the commission's affiliate relations committee, said that previously some people had predicted ACTS would suffer a major decline in number of network households if the network was not sold to outside interests.

The predictions, he said, were not accurate. He announced there had been a net increase of ten cable systems affiliated with ACTS. With 9.1 million households, ACTS has "a

potential viewing audience in excess of 23 million persons," said Castleberry, a pastor from Montgomery, Ala.

Michael Hamlet, chairman of the commission and chairman of the search committee seeking a new president for the agency, told trustees the committee is developing a "profile of the kind of person needed to fill the office." He asked trustees for their prayers as the committee does its work, and said the search "will move carefully and methodically."

He distributed a profile questionnaire to the board to provide guidance to the committee.

Jimmy R. Allen resigned as president of the commission in June after more than nine years in office. His successor is to be nominated by a five-member search committee, which includes Harold Brundige, a Martin, Tenn., attorney.

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Foreign Missions appointments in four-year downward spiral

By Eric Miller

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Appointments of new Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are in a four-year downward spiral, raising questions about whether the denomination can reach its goal of having 5000 missionaries overseas by the year 2000.

Missionary appointments topped 400 for the first time in 1982, with 406, and reached an all-time high of 429 in 1985. But they leveled off at 411 in 1986 and 407 in 1987, and dropped to 358 last year.

To stay on track for the goal, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board needs to appoint 376 missionaries in 1989. But only 300 new missionaries are expected to get overseas jobs this year, said Lloyd Atkinson, director of the board's personnel selection department.

Foreign Mission Board staff members — and missionaries themselves — are trying to reverse the downward trend through more face-to-face contacts with potential missionaries, board leaders said.

So far, 235 new missionaries have been appointed in 1989, about ten fewer than this time last year, Atkinson noted. The October and December missionary appointment services are the only ones remaining in 1989.

The number of missionary appointments must average 480 annually from now until the year 2000 for Southern Baptists to reach their Bold Mission Thrust global evangelism goal of 5000 missionaries in 125 countries, said researcher Jim Slack, a missionary to the Philippines currently working as scholar-in-residence at the board.

To meet that average, the board must appoint at least 394 new missionaries next year, reach the 500 mark by 1995 and surpass 600 annual appointments by the year 2000. These figures are based on an annual net growth rate that allows for projected

Home missions goal exceeded by offering

ATLANTA (BP) — Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering have exceeded the 1989 budget for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and continue to outpace inflation.

During the September meeting of the agency's executive committee, HMB Executive Vice President Bob Banks reported that \$31,449,145 had been received through Sept. 8, which surpassed the projected budget of \$31 million.

The gifts represent an increase of \$2,151,352, or 7.34 percent more than received for the same eight-month period in 1988. Banks also said the total is 80.63 percent of the national goal of \$39 million and is 95.7 percent of the \$32.8 million the agency expects to receive this year.

In other business, board members approved a record \$1 million loan to First Church of Coral Park, Fla. in approving the amount, trustees made an exception to the \$750,000 limit which usually governs such transactions, explained church loans committee chairman Robert Latham from Indianapolis.

The growing Hispanic congregation is located in a suburb of Miami and has an annual budget of \$375,000, Latham said.

missionary retirements, completions of service, resignations, and deaths.

"I'm not on red alert yet," Slack said. Southern Baptists are now supporting 3797 foreign missionaries in 116 countries, which is almost 200 more than necessary to stay on target for Bold Mission Thrust, he explained.

"I feel like we can reach Bold Mission Thrust," Slack said. An encouraging statistic, he explained, is that the percentage of loss of missionaries through death and resignation is lower in the 1980s than in the 1970s. That may be due to improved living conditions in many countries and more advanced medical care for missionaries, he said.

But net growth in the total mission force is slowing down. It dropped from 4.68 percent in 1978 to 0.73 percent in 1988. Slack said, and "we don't feel good about anything that slows down — not when we're trying to win a lost world to Christ."

"We track the appointment figures on an ongoing basis here at the board, and we always find some variation from year to year," said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel.

"However, our concerns grew as the numbers of candidates presenting themselves for appointment decreased in a more dramatic fashion in the early part of this year."



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS — Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro, presents a scholarship check to Fred Kendall II, center, and Carroll Owen, administrative staff, Belmont College. The Florence Esther Mathis scholarship was established in 1986 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Mathis' daughter who had planned to attend Belmont. The scholarship is for music students.

Mission board staff members said some factors resulting in fewer appointments include: fewer college and seminary graduates, and thus fewer missionary applicants, as the post-World War II baby boom generation gets older; the Southern Baptist Convention theological controversy, which is resulting in misinformation about missions: more hard-to-fill, highly specialized jobs on the mission field, including those in restricted-access countries; and recent downturns in financial support for missions, resulting in tighter mission budgets overseas and less money for housing and other costs related to supporting

new missionaries.

The missionary force usually shows a net annual growth of about 100, but "we are 63 missionaries less than we were the first of the year," board President R. Keith Parks told trustees during their Aug. 7-9 meeting.

Parks later said the actual figure concerned him less than the fact that "this may be symptomatic of Southern Baptists' commitment to reach a lost world — a weakening in commitment."

"Right at the point where we need to make a strong push to share the Gospel with the world, the key ingredient of the number of missionaries is faltering."

Woman's Missionary Union's O'Brien brings 'new vision' to post

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

BIRMINGHAM — New Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said her lack of involvement at the state and national levels of WMU will not be a hindrance to her work during her first news conference since taking over the helm of WMU Sept. 1.

O'Brien told members of the Southern Baptist Press Association Sept. 16 that she brings "a GA concept" and what others have described as "a new vision" to the post.

"Woman's Missionary Union has been a very important part of my life since I was a little girl," O'Brien said, noting she learned to pray for missionaries and give financial support through her church's Girls in Action program.

In addition, O'Brien said she benefited from prayers and financial support when she served as a foreign missionary in Indonesia.

When questioned about the reactions of those who have been actively involved in state and national WMU to her selection, O'Brien said: "The response I've gotten is I'll be able to bring a new vision to what can be done in Woman's Missionary Union."

O'Brien added that "everything I've done in my life has been connected with missions and education.

"That is essential for Woman's Missionary Union."

In a brief opening statement before answering questions, O'Brien acknowledged she is taking over the leadership of WMU at "the most critical time for WMU and all of us in the Southern Baptist Convention."

She added, however, she also is

coming in at a time when WMU is "strong and meeting the needs of women throughout the SBC."

O'Brien said she plans no immediate changes for WMU and that the focus will continue to be on missions.

O'Brien observed she sees "a generation gap" in churches among membership. "There is a gap of women my age (57) and younger. We need to seek ways to involve them," she added.

During a question and answer session, O'Brien touched on a variety of issues.

• Ordination

Observing that both the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign mission boards have policies which say ordination is not a factor in appointments, O'Brien affirmed ordination is not an issue at WMU.

She noted that the boards "are still appointing women as missionaries. Ordination is a problem we face in the United States. ... Overseas it is not an issue."

O'Brien stressed "ordination is a function of the local church." When questioned about her view of women's ordination, O'Brien said, "It is important for me not to inject personal views because I represent Woman's Missionary Union," adding that when as executive director she "must go against personal convictions, then I would leave."

• WMU agency status

"My strong conviction is WMU should remain an auxiliary," O'Brien said, observing they would continue to cooperate and work with SBC agencies.

• Alternative publications

When questioned about a movement among some churches to order

materials from non-WMU sources. O'Brien said: "When you have a product and others want to imitate that product, that is a compliment."

Acknowledging that circulation of some publications has decreased, O'Brien added it is important to examine the materials published. "If there is a gap in what we do, we must address that gap. If not, we must continue what we're doing and do it well," she said.

• Controversy

O'Brien said that "in response to controversial issues" she will attempt to do "what is in the best interests of Woman's Missionary Union."

She stressed that stand does not reflect a "lack of courage." O'Brien admitted, however, that it's "hard to draw a line on what missions is," adding that controversies in the convention "can impinge on our functioning well as WMU. ... We need to find ways of working together. ... We have women from all persuasions in WMU. ..."

• Greg and Katrina Pennington

In reference to the action of the Foreign Mission Board to deny appointment to Greg and Katrina Pennington of Oklahoma after the board received a letter requesting denial from an association, O'Brien said, "I understand it (the board's action) had nothing to do with ordination."

She called the incident "unfortunate" and noted that if similar cases repeat over time, the problem may need to be addressed.

O'Brien stressed that WMU is committed to getting "qualified, called missionaries to the field." — *Connie Davis, assistant editor, contributed to this article*

Our Readers Write

Thankful for teachers

Having graduated from Belmont in May of this year and now having been on my first church field as pastor since that time. I have had time to reflect and practice what I was taught at Belmont. I am overwhelmed many times each week by what being in the ministry brings my way. Yet, whenever a new challenge arises I have found that I am able to reach back into my memory and retrieve some tool of knowledge the Holy Spirit implanted in me from my studies at Belmont.

For this reason I thank each of my religion professors: Dr. Tullock for giving to me the keys to unlock the basics of the Hebrew language, Dr. Logan for his presentation of how God spoke to the

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.

Israelite people, Dr. Byrd for his patience in my study of Greek, Dr. Curtis for guidance in hospital visitation and the secrets of prayer, Dr. Simpler for his love of church history, Dr. Cutrer for his love and guidance, Dr. Owen for the practical concerns of ministry, and to Marty Bell for his friendship. May God bless each of you in the same measure that you blessed me. My cup runneth over.

Chuck Everett, pastor
Green Hill Church
6309 Burnt Knob Rd.
Murfreesboro 37129

Hunger video available

A recent Baptist Press article reported the downward trend in giving to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Offering. The Christian Life Commission of the Missouri Baptist Convention is concerned about this decline in giving, and we call attention to a video resource that can help reverse this trend.

Approximately one year ago, the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention produced a videotape entitled, "What Shall We Do in a Hungry World?" This video powerfully portrays the plight of the 280,000 children around the world that die every week due to chronic hunger. Additionally, the video increases awareness of what Southern Baptists are already doing about hunger through the relief and development work of our missionaries, and it motivates those in our churches to do even more by outlining a five-point plan for action.

The production and distribution of this

video resource to every Baptist association in the convention was made possible through the generosity of a group of Baptist laymen. Most of our churches are unaware that such a valuable resource is available free of charge at their associational office for use in their world hunger emphases.

World Hunger Day is set on the convention calendar in October.

Christian Life Commission
Missouri Baptist Convention
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Measure of gratitude

In this day of controversy and criticism, I want to express appreciation for two of the many areas for which we as Tennessee Baptists should be grateful.

First, for Carson-Newman College and its wonderful administration and faculty. The more I get to know these Christ-like people and their families, the more I thank God. In their faithful churchmanship, their dealings with students, their love for the Bible and missions, and in their daily walk I see Jesus proclaimed.

Also, I'd like to thank the Baptist and Reflector staff for fair and accurate handling of the news. As I've come to know these fine servants of Christ personally, I once again feel we're unusually blessed to have the calibre and dedication of these who are giving their best to the Master.

Tennessee Baptists, may we not only support state missions with our gifts and prayers, but let's also let God-called people know we love them, appreciate them, and are behind them all the way.

Diane Owen Jordan
Rt. 2, Box 719
Talbot 37877

WMU's Catherine Allen takes Samford post

BIRMINGHAM — Catherine B.

Allen, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, will become executive director of the Sesquicentennial Commission of Samford University.

Allen will join Samford October 15 after 25 years with WMU, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since 1983, Allen has headed WMU's Mission Services System.

Subject — preachers

Mrs. Bessie Buckner's letter in the Aug. 30 Baptist and Reflector says she has taught adult Sunday School almost 50 years and has not yet found any Scripture that forbids women to preach.

I call to attention 1 Corinthians 14:34, "Let your women keep silence in the churches, for it is not permitted unto them to speak: but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."

Also, Philippians 1:1, "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops (men) and deacons (men)."

Also, 1 Timothy 3:1, "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work, a bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife," etc. (How can a woman be a husband?) And verse 5, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

Also, verse 11, "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

May God bless you all.

Rev. G. E. Snell
5062 Fleetwood Cove
Walls, Miss. 38680

SEBTS taps Tennessean

Paul T. Brock, a native of Memphis and 1974 graduate of Union University, has been named director of public relations/communications for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Brock began the new work on Sept. 5. He has been director of public relations for Colorado Christian University, Denver, and replaces Rodney Byard who resigned in 1988.

He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. He was on the staff at the SBC Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, and later at the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond.

Brock was public relations director for Colorado Baptist University when it merged with Colorado Christian College.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

There was (or is) someone called Murphy who compiled some "truths" which the world calls Murphy's Laws.

Everyone has probably heard of at least one of Murphy's laws. The most famous says that "if anything can go wrong, invariably it will."

I suppose many people have wondered who Murphy was. And they may have been curious about his maxims. Did he make them up? Was he writing of certain experiences? Was he just a good observer of life?

A New York management consulting firm has put together 17 more laws attributed to Murphy.

Additional Murphy's laws: Nothing is ever as simple as it first appears.

Every activity takes more time than you have.

It's easier to make a commitment than it is to get out of it.

Whatever you set out to do, something else must be done first.

By making something absolutely clear, someone will be confused.

I've been thinking about Murphy, and I believe I can add some laws to his collection:

When you're searching for a location and someone tells you how to get there, adding that "you can't miss it," you certainly will miss it.

That stiff neck or pain in the back will disappear when the doctor asks, "What seems to be the trouble?"

On the way to the repair center, the car may sputter and clank, but it runs smoothly when the mechanic raises the hood.

When the team owner says he's about to renew the coach's contract, he really means he's going to fire him.

When your teenager voluntarily prepares the meal, takes out the trash, and finds the newspaper for dad, he or she is sick, has wrecked the car, wants to stay out late, or has made a bad grade on an important test.

The dog or cat that is labeled "very gentle and good with children" always bites or scratches without provocation.

The alumnus who tells the basketball coach about the prospect who is seven feet tall, can dunk the ball with either hand, and blocks 20 shots a game, always disappears when the coach learns the prospect is six feet tall and very clumsy.

The man who constantly criticizes a church committee or the deacons becomes strangely docile and cooperative when elected to the group.

If you break the speed limit to get to the next traffic light quickly, it will change to red just as you arrive.

People who talk about what's wrong with the church usually are what's wrong with the church.

If you tinker with something long enough, you'll mess it up.

And finally, writers who seem to know everything, rarely know anything!

When Jesus says His offer of salvation is free to all who come, it really is. Murphy has collected some strange "laws," but Christians know that hard-to-believe invitation of Christ's is true. The offer does still stand.



ALLEN

Philippines volunteers share Gospel

We arrived in Manila July 27 — at 8 p.m. We had a good night's rest after the long flight.

We participated in an orientation program the next day, but soon left the capital city and headed north, an 11-hour drive to the town of Cauayan, population 65,000. It was a beautiful drive through mountains and rice fields.

We stayed with Dan Wood, missionary, who had been trying to prepare for us for about three weeks. The two teams — Jack Belcher, Shelby Lord, and Gaynelle Rayer; and Raymond Atwood, Honey Atwood, and Leon White — all agreed it was very hot.

Four churches were scheduled for revival services, but since they had not had much time to prepare, we helped plan the activities. Jack Belcher and I arranged some preaching places. The local pastor helped us get permission to preach at the military academy and the local coliseum.

We had three services during the week and several people were saved and joined the Baptist church there. We went with a pastor to the

village where his relatives lived, and held services there. We rode in the back of a truck for an hour. We were surprised to find more than 200 people gathered to hear the Gospel when we arrived. Several people made decisions.

The working people in that area were in the rice paddies all day and did not get through until about 7 p.m. They came to the services under trees where we had strung up lights. The people were friendly and appreciative of our efforts to preach the Gospel.

Jack Belcher, Leon White, and I jugged about four miles in the mornings, on a nearby runway whose only customer was a single airplane. After breakfast we walked or rode into town to meet with the pastor and people. Professions of faith were made by 252 persons.

We were the only team in the Northern Luzon area. Overall the experience was great — but we fought the insects constantly and tried to avoid the cobras. — Raymond C. Atwood, director of missions, Loudon County Association

Parks announces FMB shifts, O'Brien tapped for new post

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will shift some key home office staff and functions "to focus more sharply on crucial needs in world missions," President R. Keith Parks announced Sept. 13.

Parks described the moves as a "fine-tuning process which will achieve more effective use of funds and people in high-priority areas." He said the process, based on an internal study by board staff, would free him and other key administrators to spend more time on creative thinking, strategic planning, and leadership.

He projected the "fine-tuning" likely will result in reduction of 21 staff positions — about five percent of the board's home office staff — by the end of 1990. "We will utilize vacancies, attrition, and transfers within staff to achieve most of the reductions," he said.

"Strategic planning for top priorities motivated the proposed changes, not budget concerns," Parks said. "When everything is in place we hope to do an

even better job of using Southern Baptist resources effectively in the task of reaching the world for Christ."

Parks said he will propose that the office of the executive vice president assume direction of day-to-day operations of the board, which has an annual budget of about \$168 million, oversees some 3800 missionaries in 116 countries and employs about 450 home office personnel. Top administrators would report to the executive vice president but have access to Parks.

Parks will recommend a candidate for election by the board trustees as the new executive vice president.

The board's current executive vice president, William R. O'Brien, asked to be relieved of the post when his wife, Dellanna, was named executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. The O'Briens have moved to Birmingham, where she assumed her new job Sept. 1.

Parks asked O'Brien, who steps down as executive vice president Dec. 31, to become a top special assistant to

the president Jan. 1, 1990. "The expanded role of executive vice president would require a day-to-day presence in Richmond," Parks said. "But since Bill O'Brien's new role requires a lot of travel, I feel he will be effective even though he lives in Birmingham.

O'Brien will continue to participate in the board's global strategy group. He also will continue to supervise denominational relations and serve as a liaison worldwide with other evangelical Christians in the board's effort to spark world evangelization. He will assume supervision of public relations responsibilities related to denominational affairs.

Johnni Johnson Scofield, a special assistant to the president, earlier requested retirement Dec. 31 after 39 years of service. The board will shift her responsibilities in missionary education, Southern Baptist inter-agency relationships and special projects to other staff members.

The board's internal shifts grew out of a study conducted by a staff com-

mittee which Parks charged with the responsibility of finding more effective use of board resources. It followed a similar study Parks asked overseas missionaries to do in relation to their work.

Parks said details are not yet complete, but the preliminary plan calls for streamlining functions, shifting funds and functions between offices, and a stronger role for regional vice presidents in management of overseas affairs.

The changes include shifting coordination of missionary budgets and policies from the current office of mission management and personnel to the regional office group, headed by regional vice presidents. That group also includes area directors who oversee foreign mission work in nine geographic areas.

The current office of communications and public relations will be designated as the office of communications, with the shift of denomination-related public relations to O'Brien's new office.

Florida Baptists take anti-abortion vote . . .

(Continued from page 1)

them, was punctuated by frequent calls to political activism.

"We must not let Satan silence us because we might be misunderstood," said convention President Bill Billingsley of Hollywood, whose call for the special convention was criticized as thrusting Florida Baptists into dangerous political waters. Billingsley said such "political ramifications" must not prevent Florida Baptists from saying "what is in our heart."

"We have an obligation to allow the word of God to be heard in a secular world," Billingsley, pastor of Sheridan Hills Church, told messengers as they began consideration of his recommendation, which affirms that "human life . . . begins at conception" and calls for a tightening of Florida's abortion laws.

"We have taken a stand," Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, told messengers after they adopted the recommendation. "Now let's take action for those who can't take a stand."

Welch and others urged Florida Baptists to write their state legislators and

to join other anti-abortionists who are staging a demonstration in Tallahassee Oct. 9, on the eve of the special legislative session.

About 50 anti-abortion demonstrators lined the steps of the church before and during the Sept. 8 session, some offering words of encouragement and appreciation to messengers entering the building.

Pro-choice supporters, who had threatened to demonstrate at the church, instead scheduled a rally at an Orlando airport as Martinez arrived.

Security was tight at the church during the 15-minute speech by Martinez, who has been followed in recent weeks by pro-choice demonstrators.

Martinez told Florida Baptists that, because of his concern for unborn babies, "I felt it was time for Florida to look at its laws dealing with abortion." Messengers then rose to their feet in applause.

Martinez said his proposed legislation represents "what we believe can be done" to tighten the state's abortion laws. The proposal, which will be

debated by state lawmakers in October, would prohibit the use of state funds to perform or promote abortions and would restrict abortions of babies old enough to survive outside the womb.

In addition to opposing abortion, the recommendation creates a 15-member committee that will plan a strategy for Florida Baptists to implement more homes for unwed mothers, adoption services, foster-care services, crisis-pregnancy centers and education in Christian sexuality.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told messengers and visitors to sound a clarion call against all actions that assault human life.

Land was keynote speaker for the special session which also featured addresses by Orlando evangelist David Ring and John Sullivan, executive

director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

"Death has invaded the nursery (and) the old folks home," Land said.

"We must oppose the barbaric, lethal combination of technical expertise and spiritual ignorance, which would deny that there is a spirit in man that is not in the animal kingdom and would abort and experiment on the preborn, harvest fetal tissue, allow death into the nursery for our mentally and physically handicapped infants, and encourage euthanasia in our hospitals and retirement homes.

"Let us understand that abortion is a titanic battle in a far larger war over the sacredness of life."

Land said he is against abortion on demand "because I am a Christian. That doesn't mean pro-choice persons are not Christian, but it does mean they are inconsistent."

CLC has 'quiet' session . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Morgan noted the CLC gave Land his original salary because the commission was "trying to set a new precedent for agency heads."

Atchison affirmed both arguments but added that the search committee "wanted to consider a raise when they could, because of the salary cut he took to come."

James Paul Wood of Atlanta noted the increase is an adjustment intended to correct a base salary that was started too low. "From here on we would anticipate more consistent raises across the board," he said.

Provided a "relocation reimbursement" to help ease the financial strain on new employees who move to

- Voted to release publicly the salary and benefits of the executive director but to release only a total of all money spent for other staff positions, along with the number of positions.

- Approved changes in the commission's salary review policy and retirement plan.

- Approved location and topic for the CLC annual seminar in 1991, to be in Fort Worth, Texas, March 25-27, with a theme of "Stewardship and the Environment: The Biblical Path Between Idolatry and Irresponsibility." Commissioners cautioned the staff not to include components of the meeting that might be controversial concerning

Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

Twofold nature of the Gospel

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed . . . For the wrath of God is revealed." — Romans 1:17-18

The Gospel reveals both God's righteousness and wrath. In Romans "righteousness" denotes, not God's attribute, but His activity whereby He declares us to be righteous. The Greek *dikaiosisne* belongs to a family



HOBBS

of nouns ending in *eta* (long "e"). It expresses something that is not necessarily true, but which one chooses to regard as true. We are not righteous, with our own righteousness

The Greek has two words for wrath. *Thumos* was used of the rapid burning of dry grass which is of short duration. It is used of a localized wrath of God which soon subsides. This is the wrath which destroyed Sodom. A few miles away Lot and his daughters were safe.

The other word is *orge*. It denotes God's abiding, universal opposition to evil. It was used by John the Baptist in Matthew 3:7. The picture is that of a desert fire from which snakes and other desert creatures sought to escape. Since the fire or wrath is everywhere, where will they flee for safety? Only to where the fire has already burned.

The wrathful place from the Bible is a picture of the wrath of God which is everywhere, where will they flee for safety? Only to where the fire has already burned.

Abortion alternatives needed, worth funding, Floridians say

JACKSONVILLE (BP) — Florida Baptists want their state convention to help women with unwanted pregnancies. And they are willing to spend money given to missions to see that it is done.

That's the indication from a survey of Florida Baptists conducted by the Florida Baptist Witness, newsmagazine of the state convention.

Survey respondents were asked to rate six pregnancy-related services as either very important, somewhat important, or of little importance. All six services were considered very important by at least two-thirds of people surveyed.

Highest on the list was counseling for unwed pregnant girls and women, which was considered very important by 89.3 percent of respondents.

Adoption services, which were considered very important by 86.0 percent, placed second. A curriculum of Christian education in sexuality, sometimes

controversial among Baptists, received a 83.4 percent.

Crisis-pregnancy centers ranked fourth with 73.3 percent. Maternity homes were fifth, 72.6 percent. And post-abortion counseling placed sixth, 68.7 percent.

Most of those services already are offered, at least on a limited basis, by Florida Baptist Family Ministries and its subsidiary, the Florida Baptist Children's Homes. Richard Phillips, executive director of Family Ministries, said the survey indicates the agency "might be headed in the right direction" with its pregnancy-related services.

Survey respondents were asked if the six services would best be provided by local churches or the state convention and its agencies, such as Family Ministries.

About two-thirds said the state convention should provide adoption services, 69.7 percent; and maternity

homes, 67.1 percent. More than half, 57.0 percent, wanted the convention to provide crisis-pregnancy centers.

Opinion was more divided over counseling services, however. While 45.9 percent thought counseling for unwed pregnant women would best be handled by state convention agencies, 36.2 percent it be done by local churches. While 44.0 percent would assign post-abortion counseling to churches, 33.6 percent said local churches could handle that assignment best.

Local churches were the preferred provider for only one of the services —

On alcohol

Land calls for increased excise taxes

WASHINGTON (BP) — In order to curb drunk driving and to reduce the nation's budget deficit, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has called upon Congress to increase federal excise taxes on alcoholic beverages.

"Higher prices brought about by an increase in excise taxes on alcoholic beverages would prevent or delay underage, illegal drinking, and reduce heavy consumption," Richard D. Land, executive director of the commission, said in a letter to members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

"The end result would be a significant reduction in the more than 24,000 fatalities and 500,000 injuries each year from alcohol-related traffic crashes.

"Increased excise taxes on beer, wine and distilled spirits could provide up to \$20.6 billion in new revenue, far beyond the present \$5.7 billion in revenue. Such new revenue could go a long way toward balancing the federal

government's expenditure on alcohol-related programs."

Federal excise taxes on beer and wine have not been increased since 1951, costing the government over the years as much as \$100 billion in revenue, he said.

Messengers to both the 1989 and 1987 Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings adopted resolutions that expressed support increased taxes on alcoholic beverages.

Raising the federal excise tax could be the most significant governmental option available for a long-term effect on the problem of impaired driving, said Robert Parham, the CLC's associate director for alcohol concerns.

"The enormous influence of the booze merchants in the halls of Congress makes the effort to establish good safety, healthy and economic policy through higher taxes on alcohol most difficult, he said.

A study by the Center for Science in the Public Interest found that between 1985 and 1988 the alcoholic beverage industry gave more than \$4 million in speaking fees and political action committee contributions to members of Congress, Parham pointed out. Eighty-five percent of the members of the Senate Finance Committee and 93 percent of the members of the House Ways and Means Committee received money from the alcoholic beverage industry. Both committees have jurisdiction over taxation.

"An outpouring of letters and phone calls to the White House and Congress expressing support for higher taxes on beer, wine and distilled spirits is critical to counterbalance the contributions made by the booze industry," Parham said.



TENURE RECOGNITIONS — Employees honored at the Sept. 8 TBC Executive Board meeting are, from left, first row, Martha Norris, executive office, five years; Renate Wilson, program services, 20 years; Ruth Lillard, business office, 20 years; Irene Turner, BSU director, Nashville, ten years; back row, Jarvis Hearn, telecommunications, 20 years; Barbara Owen, public relations, 15 years; Pat Porter, church-ministers information, 15 years; Garland Petty, program services, five years; and James Moore, BSU director, Chattanooga, ten years.

— Photo by Connie Davis

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

According to a Christian Science Monitor report, "When a hot-line number of New Jersey's Council on Compulsive Gambling was posted on lottery machines statewide, one early caller was a 15-year-old boy who said he had been spending about \$35 a week on tickets for two years. He was referred to a local Chapter of Gamblers Anonymous.



LOWRIE

One study reveals that 96 percent of the persons treated for compulsive gambling later in life began their gambling before the age of 14.

Another study revealed that 91 percent of high school students in an eastern state have participated in some form of gambling. You would not be surprised that this state is using gambling to try to support itself.

Evidence indicates that gambling is as addictive as alcohol and drugs, and that our youth are being caught up in the craze.

The local church needs to do more

than just provide activities for its youth. We must equip them and their families to cope with the temptations that our society is thrusting upon them. We must also support others who are battling the problem.

Thank God for the United Tennessee League. It continues to work with schools across our state to provide positive education on drug and alcohol danger. Wayman Jones and his staff work tirelessly. They also help battle gambling forces in the legislature and locally.

As you give to the Golden State Missions Offering, you will help with this task. A significant part of the operating budget is provided by this offering.

Does the price seem too high? Actually hospital costs that result from one automobile accident caused by a drinking driver or someone high on drugs, could be more than their total budget. Surely we can spend something to prevent that kind of human tragedy.

Let me encourage you to give your gift to the Golden State Mission Offering this Lord's Day.

Health care group sets October meeting

The Tennessee Baptist Health Care Fellowship will hold its annual meeting Oct. 6-7 at Woodmont Church in Nashville.

The program begins Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and concludes the following day at noon.

Featured during the two-day meeting will be Rick Goodgame, an internist and Southern Baptist missionary to Uganda, who will address the problem of AIDS.

For additional information, contact Dewey Dunn (615) 383-8499 or Woodmont Church (615) 297-5303.

Funnyside up

These funny errors were picked out of orders of worship:

"O, Rest in the Lord"
"Blest Be the Tie that Blinds"
Sermon: "The Most Hated King in Israel;" Invitation hymn: "Only Trust Him."
Sermon: "Gossip;" Invitation hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story."

Policeman: "Little boy, why do you keep running around the block?"
Little boy: "I'm running away from home and I'm not allowed to cross the street."

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

Pulpit TEARS
With Bra
BLTZ

AT THE BROADCAST
OF THEIR MORNING
SERVICE, REV. H. R.
HORNE, TRINITY CHURCH
INDEPENDENCE, MO. SAID...



... AND WE INVITE THE AUDIO
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POSTAGE. RETURN MUST BEAR THIS NOTICE.

TenneScene

... Starting at Solo in the west, zip through Sawdust, and eastward to Seven Islands ...

Churches ...

Pomona Church, Dickson, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 24. Singing will follow an add-a-dish dinner in the afternoon.

East Commerce Church, Lewisburg, will celebrate its 30th anniversary Sept. 24. Festivities will include special music, a pot luck luncheon, and a homemade ice cream fellowship.

The congregation of **Lucy Church, Millington**, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 24. Joey Rosas will preach.

First Church, Pigeon Forge, will hold a 75th anniversary celebration Oct. 1. A book featuring the history of the church, *Faith of Our Fathers Living Still*, will be available to purchase that day.

Members of **First Church, Sevierville**, will hold homecoming Sept. 24. D. L. Lowrie will be guest speaker.

Mike Adams, pastor of **First Church, Linden**, recently initiated a sign language class at his church. The class was begun by Floyd and Faye Hinson, assisted by Jarvis Hearn of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and had 20 students the first day.

Oak Hill Church, Leoma, will hold a 75th anniversary celebration Sept. 24.

Pastor Randall Harris reported that lightning recently struck the steeple of **West Shiloh Church, Stantonville**, causing a fire inside the steeple which burned through the ceiling of the vestibule. The church bell fell from the steeple and cracked.

People ...

Mrs. **Emogene Tosh Robertson**, wife of retired director of missions **Fulton Robertson**, died in Bolivar, recently. A native of Texas, she met her husband when he was a Baylor University student. He served as pastor of several Tennessee churches, and was DOM for Hardeman County Association for 25 years before retiring in 1985.

Teulen Brown was honored Aug. 27 by **Brown Springs Church, Mosheim**, for her 90th birthday Sept. 1. She has been a member of the church for 78 years and served as organist and in **Woman's Missionary Union**.



INNER CITY TRIP — Scott Parker, left center, and Leigha Witt of First Church, Oliver Springs, were among 28 members, including 18 youth, from the church who recently participated on a mission trip to serve at the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, La. The Oliver Springs group worked with inner city youth and also senior adults. Mark Umbehagen, minister of youth and education at Oliver Springs, led the mission team. It was the church's second trip to work at the Baptist Friendship House.

Leadership ...

Larry Ashburn has been called as pastor to **Woodcliff Church, Monterey**, in the Stone Association.

Lockeland Church, Nashville, called Mark Caruth as minister of education and music.

Mitch Dunn, minister of youth at **Cherry Road Church, Memphis**, for seven years, has resigned to accept the same position at **First Church, Moss Bluff, La.**

Jane Griz recently joined the staff of **South Knoxville Church, Knoxville**, as part-time minister of education. She is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Wade Carver, retired pastor and a member of **Lucy Church, Millington**, recently led worship services in South Africa. He will also travel to England to lead services Oct. 3-17.

Bill Irvin, pastor of **Lucy Church, Millington**, is speaking at the Sunday School Enrollment Training Clinic in Atlanta, which began Sept. 18 and will conclude Sept. 22.

Gists Creek Church, Sevierville, called Greg Jones as interim pastor.

Jim Burchette has been called to **First Church, Bruceton**, as interim youth minister.

New Hope Church, McKenzie, called King Thetford as interim pastor.

Ridgeway Church, Memphis, called Webb Williams as associate pastor and minister of education.

Beech Springs Church, Kodak, called Gordon Greenwell as interim pastor.

Ordinations ...

Valley View Church, Sevierville, ordained Jack McFalls as deacon Sept. 3.

Ray White, Robert Matthews, and J. D. Jacobs were ordained as deacons Aug. 20 by **North Sweetwater Church, Sweetwater**.

Valley Road Church, Athens, recently ordained Raymond Casteel to the ministry. He was called as associate pastor of **Five Point Church, Decatur**.

First Church, Bradford, ordained Bob McCartney to the ministry Aug. 27.

First Church, Bethel Springs, will ordain Frank Hardy, David Rudd, and Timmy Trnum as deacons Sept. 24.

Rosedale Church, Nashville, ordained Paul Pugh as deacon Sept. 17.

Missions ...

Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro, has voted to begin a Korean Mission beginning Dec. 10.

The Korean Mission of **Belmont Heights Church, Nashville**, is negotiating to purchase church property and planning to constitute a church.

Randy Davis, a member of **Parkway Church, Cleveland**, spent a week in Mexico this summer as a mission volunteer working on a church building.

Lester Turner, a member of **Fredonia Church, Crossville**, traveled to Hettinger, N.D. in July to do electrical and plumbing work on the Hettinger Mission.

A youth group from **Oak Hill Church, Crossville**, went to Fellowship Church, **Handsburg, Ind.**, Aug. 13-17 on a work mission trip. The volunteers painted the church auditorium.

Revivals ...

Fairview Church, Obion, will hold revival Sept. 21-24. Pastor Kent Cook will lead the services and David Fowlkes will lead music.

Gil Lain will speak at revival Oct. 4-8 at **First Church, Englewood**. Rick Eubanks will direct music.

Lookout Valley Church, Chattanooga, will conclude revival Sept. 20. Lamar Moore is speaking and Frank Stiles is leading music.

First Church, Middleton, will hold revival services Sept. 25-29 with Don Savell, Philadelphia, Miss., speaking and James Pulliam leading music.

Dan Kong, Honolulu, Hawaii, will lead revival Sept. 24-27 at **Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville**. John Joiner, the new minister of music at the church, will lead music.

Mill Creek Church, Monterey, will hold revival Sept. 24-30. Mark Fuqua will lead the services.

Rosedale Church, Nashville, will hold revival Sept. 24-27. Don Frensey, pastor of **Poquoson Church, Poquoson, Va.**, will be evangelist, and Dan Johnson will be music director.

East Ridge Church, Chattanooga, will hold revival for the deaf Sept. 22-24. Carter Bearden will be guest speaker.

Tom Madden will speak at revival at **Eastland Church, Nashville**, Sept. 24-28. Glenn Walls will lead music.

First Church, Union City, will hold revival Sept. 24-27. Jon Cawley will lead services and Ty Lovette will lead music.



TENNESSEE DOM HONORED — Carl Duck, director of missions for Nashville Association, receives a plaque from Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis during the National Convocation on the Baptist Association at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. Duck was honored by the HMB's associational missions division as an "Outstanding Director of Missions" for the year. During the nine years of Duck's leadership, the association has grown from 125 churches to 143 churches, with plans to start 50 more.

Riverside Association reports several upcoming revivals. Churches, revival dates, and leaders follow: **First Church, Allardt**, Sept. 25-30, Terry Geren; **Allons Church, Allons**, Nov. 12-19, Thurman Seber; **First Church, Celina**, Oct. 22-25, David Hall and Dan Farris; **Fellowship Church, Allons**, Oct. 8-13, Lester Maples; **First Church, Livingston**, Oct. 22-28, Terry Geren; and **Memorial Church, Livingston**, Oct. 1-4, Thurman Seber. In addition, **Hangin' Limb Church, Monterey**, held revival Sept. 10-16.

Moody Adams will speak at two services at **First Church, Sparta**, Sept. 26-27. His topics will be teenage devil worship and the rise of satanism.

Holly Grove Church, Bells held revival July 30-Aug. 2. Ronnie Wilburn led the service.

Three churches in the Weakley County Association recently held revivals. Churches and leaders follow: **Bible Union Church, Martin**, Charles Pratt; **New Salem Church, Dukedom**, Mel Mason; and **Oak Grove Church, Martin**, Bob Copeland.

Revival was recently held at three Western District Association churches. Churches and leaders follow: **Bethlehem Church, Henry**, Bob Copeland; **First Church, Big Sandy**, Eddie Mallonee; and **Buchanan Church, Buchanan**, William Carey.

First Church, Obion, recently held revival with Phil Glisson, Memphis, serving as evangelist. There were seven professions of faith and 17 rededications.

Indian Creek Association reports three revivals recently held at churches in the association. Churches and leaders follow: **Bethlehem Church, West Point**, Harold King; **Cedar Grove Church, Iron City**, Conrad Darnell; and **Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro**, Cecil Gilliland.

Cottonwood Heights Church, Memphis, began revival Sept. 18 and will end Sept. 22. Ed Walter, professor at Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, is guest evangelist. Dale Walker is conducting the music.



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
Executive Director/Treasurer
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

TBCH Works to Keep Families Together

There is an explosion of needs with children and families across our state. Never before has a generation of children witnessed such violent and immoral behavior in their homes.

Recently in Nashville, a four-year-old child watched as his father gunned down an intruder and was also killed in the process. The child ran to his mother screaming, "My daddy is dead, my daddy is dead".

Children that are orphaned, abused, abandoned or neglected are often removed from their homes. However, in many cases, with some professional help, families could remain intact.

That is why a year ago Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes began a pilot program called "Family Preservation".

In the last 12 months we have witnessed some wonderful things taking place in the

families we are helping. Our goal is to have six such projects going throughout the state.

Pray for TBCH as we seek to discover the resources that will enable us to provide this type of ministry to the families of Tennessee. We must do everything in our power to restore and maintain the basic unit of society — "the family".

Family Preservation Worker Reflects on First Year

One year ago, Lana Murray joined the staff of TBCH. She had a very special mission — to serve as the family service worker for the agency's innovative new family preservation program.

The program was designed to work with families who are in imminent danger of losing custody of their children. The goal — to help these families remedy their problems and keep the home intact.

In the past year, Murray has worked with 11 families (a total of 42 family members).

The educational level of the fathers involved ranged from ninth grade to college graduate; for mothers the range was eleventh grade to college graduate.

The economic level of the families ranged from lower stratum to upper middle income.

These families were referred for assistance by a wide variety of sources, including immediate family members, pastors and therapists.

The most common problem facing these families was a child or children considered "unruly" who threatened to leave home or had already left home.

Statistics indicate that Murray spent an average of 4 - 18 hours per week for ten weeks with each family. "Committing this kind of time to these families means that I can only work with two families at a time," Murray said. "But the fact that we are willing and able to do this means a great deal to them."

Prior to participation in the family preservation program, these families received service from 11 resources, ranging from pastors and teachers to state government agencies such as the Department of Human Services.

The family preservation program involved 46 resources in meeting the needs of the families. "Family preservation is not just a single program. A large part of my job is networking all the people and programs who are available to provide assistance to families in crisis," Murray said.



Lana Murray, family service worker with TBCH, shares experiences with a middle Tennessee family.

Ten of the eleven families served by the program were Baptist, the remaining family worshipped with a Jehovah's Witness congregation.

"Our experience during the last year taught us several things," Murray said. "One, that problems with children and family relationships strike families across a broad socioeconomic range. In simple words, it truly can happen to any family and is nothing to be ashamed of. The only shame is in recognizing a problem and not getting help."

"Many parents feel frustrated by a lack of parental authority, and children whose attitude is 'I don't need you'. Many children feel

misunderstood, neglected or over-supervised. The key is to get help in solving these kinds of problems before the situation becomes critical.

"One of the most surprising things I learned is that although many of these families have church relationships they were not comfortable turning to other families in their church for comfort or assistance.

"They might go to the pastor, who certainly provides help, but it seems to me that we all need to do a better job of being sensitive to families in our own congregation who might be helped tremendously by the simple comfort of a friend willing to listen."

"I spend a lot of time in my role as coun-

selor doing just that — listening — and am often struck by how easy it is to not be sensitive to the needs of those closest to us and our families. There needs to be a better balance between professional and personal support available to families.

"One of our goals is to help provide that balance by assisting churches in identifying resources available to families in crisis.

"It has been a challenging year. Family preservation is a process. We obviously can't solve all the problems of any family in a couple of months. We are trying to give them the skills, resources and confidence to make their family relationships work."



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A ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Southern Seminary faculty request Penningtons' appointment

LOUISVILLE (BP)— Faculty members at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have called on Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees to pursue the appointment of missionary candidates Greg and Katrina Pennington of Oklahoma.

In an open letter to FMB trustees, faculty members at the Louisville, Ky., school expressed their "profound sorrow" that the Penningtons, graduates

of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., were denied appointment as missionaries. The faculty approved the letter at its first meeting of the school year.

An FMB trustee subcommittee refused in June to recommend the couple for missionary appointment, charging the Penningtons, staff members at Northwest Church, Ardmore, Okla., acted inappropriately in their pursuit of ordination. The ordination had stirred controversy in Enon Baptist Association which a month prior to the Penningtons' ordination voted to

automatically exclude from membership any church that ordains women.

At a meeting in early August, the trustee subcommittee issued a statement indicating it could reopen discussion on the Pennington case. The statement, approved unanimously by the entire trustee board, denied that Mrs. Pennington's ordination or pressure from Enon Association had affected the earlier vote.

The letter from Southern Seminary's faculty, however, urged FMB trustees to "be responsive to the candidates' congregation and not to a local association." Appointing the Penningtons, it added, would "affirm Southern Baptists' commitment to the authority of Scripture and the lordship of Christ."

The letter reaffirmed the faculty's "calling" to prepare both women and men for ministry and renewed their commitment to "the church's mission to take the Gospel to all nations and

peoples." It also urged Southern Baptists "to avoid raising any artificial barriers which would keep spiritually qualified, God-ordained individuals from carrying the Gospel to the world."

The faculty affirmed the "New Testament understanding that God calls women as well as men to ministry" and noted that "women have served with distinction in God's mission in the world."

Woodland Church calls H. B. Smith as pastor

Woodland Church, Woodbury, called H.B. Smith as full-time pastor. Smith, who has been semi-retired for three years, has been supply preaching.

Ordained in 1947, Smith has served in many Tennessee churches, including Bethel Hill Church, McMinnville, where he served 32 years.

His other pastorates were Shiloh Church, Woodbury; Providence Church, McMinnville; Barren Fork Church, McMinnville; Mount Carmel Church, Christiana; Chandler Church, Mt. Juliet; Cooper Chapel Church, Liberty; and First Church, Campaign.

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Entering Canaan

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

On most do-it-yourself assembly projects, many of us fail because we do not read the instructions carefully or correctly. I remember opening a carton and beginning the assembly process. When I opened the bag with all the little parts enclosed, a large-print poster greeted me with the words,

"Honestly now, have you read the instructions?" Honestly, I hadn't!

In the lesson passage for this week, God was giving to Israel final instructions for entering and claiming the Promised Land. For their sake, they needed to pay careful attention. Anytime we read and study God's Word, we need to pay careful attention to His instructions.

God's instructions to Israel (33:51-56)

God was ready to guide His chosen people into the Promised Land. Through Moses, God gave to the people His final instructions prior to their crossing over the Jordan River into Canaan. The instructions included a promise, directions, and a warning.

The promise was that God had already given to them the land (33:53b). There was no doubt but that God was going to lead the people across the Jordan River. Once on the west bank of the river, they would begin the conquest of the land that would continue until Solomon's time.

God's directions were to the point and demanding. Some might call them

exceedingly cruel. However, God knew what He was doing and the people would have served themselves well to have obeyed God's instructions without wavering.

The people of Israel were told to drive out all the inhabitants of the land and to destroy everything that related to their way of pagan worship (33:52). Such action was not to demonstrate God's cruelty, but was intended to protect Israel from the influence of idolatry.

Even today, God's people need to be protected from the influences of evil. Not many of us can stand successfully against all the wiles of the devil.

God further instructed the people as to how to divide the land. Every family was to be treated as fairly and impartially as possible (33:54) God is always interested in fairness.

God spoke a warning to the people (33:55-56). Failure to drive out all the people who were presently living in the land would result in great sorrow for Israel. The Canaanites were pagan idol worshippers. Any of them left in the midst of Israel would become sources of religious conflict. In one sense the invasion of Israel was God's judgment upon the pagan Canaanites. If Israel failed to carry out God's instructions, the Canaanites would become God's judgment upon Israel. That is exactly what happened.

A place of refuge (35:10-12)

Israel was not famous for large prisons! People who were unquestionably guilty of gross crimes were quickly killed. Those who committed lesser crimes were forced to make

restitution to their victims.

But sometimes crimes are committed by accident or without intent. People may be killed unintentionally. God provided a specific way of dealing with one who might kill another person by accident.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

September 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: Numbers 31:1 to 36:13
Focal Passages: Numbers 33:51-56; 35:10-12, 25-27

Six cities of refuge were appointed. Three cities were located on either side of the Jordan River. If a person killed another accidentally he was to flee to the nearest city of refuge. The accused was then to be given a trial. If the people decided he was indeed guilty of intentional murder he would be executed. If, on the other hand, the people decided the killing was by accident, the slayer was allowed to return to the city of refuge and live without fear of harm.

In the Old Testament the emphasis was on justice, sometimes tempered with mercy. In the New Testament the emphasis is on forgiveness which is the ultimate end of mercy. The full and complete forgiveness of our sin in and through Jesus Christ is the ultimate expression of God's mercy.

Protection forsaken (35:25-27)

In some ways, even God's mercy doesn't override man's stupidity. Some of the terrible diseases of today are the direct result of people's choosing to ignore God's laws of morality. In the text, the slayer is given a place of safety in the city of refuge. However,

he has a choice. He can stay in the city and enjoy its protection. Or he can leave the city and take his chances.

If the slayer leaves the city of refuge and the kinsman of his victim finds him on the outside, the kinsman is free to kill him. The slayer ventured outside God's promised protection at his own risk.

In the New Testament we are told that God will not leave us nor forsake us and that He will not let anything befall us that we cannot handle with His help. However, He does not assure us that if we get drunk and drive our car down the interstate that He will stack enough angels in front of the concrete bridge abutment to cushion the impact and keep the crash from killing us.

Conclusion

God gave to Israel instructions which included promises, directions, and warnings. He also made provisions for their mistakes. But God left to them the responsibility for carrying out His instructions. Israel had to live with the consequences of their actions.

He has promised to each the forgiveness of sin if we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. In the Bible He has given specific instructions about how to be saved. He has also warned about the consequence of rejecting His plan and promise of salvation.

God has also told us in the Bible how He expects saved people to live. We are warned of the dangers and consequences of ignoring His instructions.

Like Israel, we have to make our choices and live with the consequences.

God is merciful and forgiving. But He also may let us reap the harvest of our own deliberate planting!

God gives new life

By Ray Gilder, pastor; Speedway Terrace Chapel, Memphis

The vision of the valley of dry bones is the most familiar text in the entire book of Ezekiel. Countless pastors have used Ezekiel 37 to describe their local congregations. However, respect for a basic principle of Biblical interpretation demands that the primary interpretation of a passage be presented first. Then applications and observations can be made.

Ezekiel 37 deals with the regathering of the nation Israel, her return to her homeland, and the realization of new life among her people. The

previous chapter contains several promises from the Lord of bringing Israel back to her native land and with a brand new lease on life. The response to these promises by those in exile at Babylon is found in verse 11, "Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost." Therefore, God gives Ezekiel this vision to reveal to Israel what He plans to do with them.

When God carried Ezekiel out to the valley of bones, He caused the prophet to observe them carefully. He noticed there were many bones, all very dry. Bigness is not always the main concern for a preacher. Ezekiel had a large audience but not a live audience. It is easier to preach to a houseful than to a handful. Also, it is just as common to find dryness in the people

in the pew as it is in the preacher in the pulpit.

The question God presented to Ezekiel in verse 3 has been repeated many times by those observing the spiritual deadness of local communities and congregations. God asked Ezekiel "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel's answer has been handed down through the years. The modern paraphrase is "The Lord only knows."

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

September 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Focal Passage: Ezekiel 37:3-14

God's chosen means of bringing restoration to Israel was preaching. He did not even have Ezekiel take a course in human anatomy. He just told him to preach to the dry bones. This must have taken great faith and courage for Ezekiel. It is to his credit that he did what God told him to do.

It is popular in modern times to be critical of preachers and preaching in general. Those outside the community of faith consider preaching as foolishness. A study of human history indicates that more needed changes have come through the preaching of men like Simon Peter, Paul, Martin Luther, John Wesley, and George Whitefield than through any other means.

The response to the preaching of Ezekiel was phenomenal. This is one service where many moves were

made. Ezekiel's congregation went from being a valley of dry bones to a valley of skeletons. Then, it progressed to the point of being a valley of corpses. Finally, it became a valley containing a very great army.

Before the corpses came to life, Ezekiel was commanded to call on the Spirit of God to enter them. Wind, breath, and spirit are all translated from the same Hebrew word, and seem to refer to the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is as mysterious, refreshing, and mighty as the wind. It is as essential to spiritual life as breath is to physical life. Activity is not enough. Only the coming of the Spirit of God in power can bring life to a dead congregation.

In order for the army of Israel to stand up, each one had to use an important part of the anatomy — the backbone. Often people wish things would improve but they never take a stand like the Spirit of God is prompting them to take. It is more important

to have a backbone than it is to have a wishbone.

In verses 11-14, God fully explains the true meaning of the vision. Israel is the valley of dry bones. God is going to bring them back together and place them in the land where they really belong.

God wants Israel to know in advance that it was His idea and that He will do the work. His purpose is to inspire hope in a better day and faith in the living God.

Israel has yet to realize the full benefits of these promises. Although she has returned to her homeland, she has gathered in unbelief. One day soon, God is going to give new life to Israel through the power of His Spirit.

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Using speech wisely

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

As children, many of us learned the rhyme: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." Yet, even as children, we knew that the rhyme was not true. Words can and do hurt. On the other hand, wise words can also heal and bless. Proverbs 12:18 says: "Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal" (GNB). And Proverbs 15:4 says: "Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit" (GNB).



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The selected proverbs in Sunday's lesson focus on the power of words. In speaking about the power of God's Word, the Bible says: "It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11b, NIV). Human words are full of power too. In the New Testament, James 3:1-12 sheds marvelous insight

on this subject.

Our words reveal a lot about ourselves. People can judge something about our character by the way we talk. Others can sense by our words whether our lives are governed by integrity, gentleness, faithfulness, or by anger, insincerity, evil. Proverbs 12:6 says: "The words of wicked men are murderous, but the words of the righteous rescue those who are threatened" (GNB). We may try to hide what is in our heart by insincere and hypocritical talk, but "everyone will see what we are really like eventually" (see Proverbs 26:23-26).

Our speech — good and evil — carries with it consequences, and we must accept those consequences. The writer of the Adult Life and Work Lesson Annual (Convention Press, 1988) identifies some consequences of our speech. (1) Harmful speech results in injustice. Proverbs 12:17 refers to the proceedings of the courtroom. The writer says: "When you tell the truth, justice is done, but lies lead to injustice" (12:17 GNB).

(2) Harmful speech can incite destructive anger. We are not only

responsible for what we say, but for how we say it. Proverbs 15:1 says: "A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up" (GNB).

(3) Also, harmful speech can break up good friendships. Gossip especially is dangerous. "Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and break up friendships" (Proverbs 16:28 GNB). All of us can think of friendships that have been broken up because of careless or malicious speech.

Words do heal as well as hurt. The Bible says that "wisely spoken words can heal" and "kind words bring life." With our words we can bless, strengthen, encourage, and forgive. Many broken relationships have been restored by someone saying sincerely, "I'm sorry," and "I forgive you." Furthermore, wise speech establishes truth in our lives. The person who knows how to use speech wisely can be counted on to tell the truth in whatever circumstance.

Proverbs 18:21 sums up this lesson: "What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words" (GNB).

Many Christians use language in a careless and shameful manner. This lesson will help us consider again how we use our speech. Does our speech bring honor to God? Does it build others up or tear them down?

Many Christian testimonies have been undermined by careless use of speech. Let us make Psalm 19:14 our personal prayer every morning: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" (NIV).

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

September 24 Lesson

Basic Passage: Proverbs 18:20-21; 12:6, 17-19; 15:1-4; 16:27-28; and 26:23-26
Focal Passages: Proverbs 18:20-21; 12:6, 17-19; 15:1-4; 16:27-28; and 26:23-26

(4) Finally, we must answer to God for our speech. Jesus warned: "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken" (Matthew 12:36 NIV).

On the other hand, wise speech produces some positive consequences.



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Survey: DOMs favor some input on missionary appointments

By Mark Wingfield

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)— Nearly three-fourths of associational directors of missions believe Southern Baptist mission boards should "solicit and abide by" recommendations of the association in some missionary appointments.

That finding was among the results of a survey conducted by Baptist Press during the National Convocation on the Baptist Association at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in late August. The convocation's 1137 participants included 633 associational directors of missions from across the nation.

A total of 171 directors of missions responded to the voluntary survey, which included four questions. Not all respondents answered all four questions.

The first two questions dealt with the relationship between associations and national SBC agencies.

A total of 70.3 percent responded positively to the question, "Should the home and foreign mission boards solicit and abide by recommendations of the association concerning appointment of missionaries who are members of churches in that association?"

Out of 155 responses, 53.5 percent, or 83 people, answered "in certain cases." Another 16.8 percent, or 26 people, answered "always."

Only 46 respondents, or 29.7 percent, said agencies should "never" solicit and abide by the recommendations of associations on missionary appointments.

But on a similar question stated in terms of polity, the directors of missions nearly reversed themselves. A total of 72 percent said associations should have little or no influence in the decision-making of national agencies.

To the question, "To what extent should Baptist associations influence the decisions of national SBC agencies?" 131 responses indicated:

- 18 percent, or 23 respondents, believe "associations and national agencies should operate with complete autonomy";

- 54 percent, or 71 respondents, believe "national agencies should take note of the opinions of associations but should make final decisions independently, based upon the opinion of the convention as a whole";

- 22 percent, or 29 respondents, said "national agencies should pay strict attention to the resolutions adopted by associations, especially in areas where the association has special knowledge and expertise";

- Only six percent, or eight respondents, said "national agencies should be required to follow the advice of local associations in certain cases."

The two questions have a direct bearing on a recent controversial decision of a trustee committee of the Foreign Mission Board. After receiving critical letters from Oklahoma's Enon Baptist Association, the committee overruled the recommendation of FMB staff and declined to appoint Greg and Katrina Pennington as missionaries.

The Penningtons both serve on a church staff in Enon association. Mrs.

Pennington was ordained to the ministry by that church despite protests from the association.

However Charles Chaney, vice president of the HMB's extension section, cautioned that the directors of missions could have responded to the survey with something different in mind.

"A lot of this is coming out of feeling rather than thought," Chaney said, explaining that associational directors of missions feel frustrated by a perceived lack of consideration from national agencies on many issues, especially programming.

Also, the directors of missions could have been reacting to appointment of trustees more than appointment of missionaries, he said. The affirmation of Baptist polity but the desire for more input could reflect a frustration at "wondering who is in control" because of the denomination's current controversy.

In a space on the survey form for additional comments, some respondents explained they are tired of seeing individuals who do not participate in associational missions appointed trustees of SBC boards and agencies. "We have men and women named to boards who are not active in their associations and whose churches give very little to the Cooperative Program," one director of missions wrote.

Answers to another question on the survey indicate directors of missions do not favor associations having direct input in the selection of state convention board and committee members.

Out of 158 respondents, 64 percent, or 101 people, answered "no" to the question, "Should nominees for state convention boards and committees be determined by majority vote of associations, which would send the trustees as their representatives?"

The remaining 36 percent, or 57 respondents, answered "yes."

Although most state conventions currently do not receive direct input from associations on nomination of board members, some do. In Mississippi, for example, the state board is composed of one person from each county, nominated by the corresponding association. In Kentucky, each association nominates two candidates from which the state board selects one.

The survey also revealed a majority of associational directors of missions (164 of those who replied) believe partnership missions projects have boosted giving to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified finance plan.

Stephen Coleman called to East View Church

After serving as interim pastor at East View Church, Etowah, Stephen Coleman was called to join the staff as bivocational pastor.

Coleman previously served as minister of music at Cambria Church, Etowah, and Mt. Verd Church, Athens.

Ordained in June by East View Church, Coleman completed two years of coursework at Chattanooga State.

He and his wife, Judy, have two children.

Tennessee DOMs give input at national convocation

RIDGECREST, N.C. — With input from 84 Tennesseans, participants in the National Convocation on the Baptist Association declared that associations face a bright future as they become full partners in missions.

The Tennessee Baptists were among 1137 participants in the six-day meeting of associational directors of missions, state convention leaders, and national program leaders at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Tal Thompson, director of missions for Holston Association, said he sees the association becoming "the deliverer of program services to the churches and moving away from being just the public relations arm of national SBC agencies.

"We no longer fill just a delivery role but are helping to determine what should be delivered," he added.

Walter Taylor, director of missions for Knox County Association, echoed

the sentiments of most participants when he said the value of the director is found in his role to shape mission strategy "and not to serve as a PR man to promote programs for all the agencies."

Nashville Director of Missions Carl Duck, a plenary speaker for the convocation, said "this is the best time for the association in the history of Southern Baptists. We are no longer seeing the association as just a local entity but as a mission field and missionary base."

Herbert Higdon, director of missions for Madison-Chester and Crockett County Associations, said that the association will continue to be the catalyst for new church starts — and growth for the denomination.

"Both the foreign and home mission boards have acknowledged that the

motivation for future growth of the denomination will come from the association. If we reach our Bold Mission Thrust goals, it will partly be due to the association's role in challenging its churches to greater missions involvement."

Terry Robertson, a member of the convocation steering committee, said the convocation was purposely planned to allow input from Tennessee Baptists in consultation with directors of missions from across the nation. Robertson is director of missions for Frontier Baptist Association in Buffalo, N.Y.

"I think it's significant that we came together for a meeting with no definite agenda," he said, explaining that Tennessee directors of missions were encouraged to present their ideas in response groups that met each day.



ASSOCIATIONAL CONVOCATION — Tennessee representatives attending the National Convocation on the Baptist Association included (front row) Harold Smith, New Duck River; Bill McIlwain, Fayette; Paul Hall, Tennessee Baptist Convention staff; Charles Conley, Sequatchie Valley; Herbert Higdon, Madison-Chester/Crockett; William Gray, Stewart County; Carl Duck, Nashville; (second row) Ralph Cordell, Campbell County; Tommy Holtzclaw, Sullivan; Ted Davis, McMinn-Meigs; Tal Thompson, Holston; J. W. Bargial, Big Emory; (third row) Ralph Hoover, Central; J. C. Carpenter, TBC staff; Edwin Alexander, Shiloh; Glenn Toomey, Nolachucky; Walter Taylor, Knox County; Dale Smith, New River; (back row) Bennie Creel, Sweetwater; Baylon Hilliard, Duck River; Michael Pearson, Clinton; Joe Naylor, Dyer; Frank Proffitt, Sevier County; and Omer Painter, Tennessee Valley. The convocation was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to set a course for associational missions in the next decade. Registration totaled 1137, including 84 from the Tennessee Baptist Convocation.

Fellowship of blind holds retreat

Twenty-five participants attended the 7th annual Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind retreat held in August at Camp Carson, Newport.

Those who attended, some with their families, heard several speakers on spiritual awareness and finding spiritual gifts.

Alan Johnston, a financial counselor and consultant from Chattanooga, challenged the group to beware of those who place more importance on the spiritual gifts of speaking in tongues or healing over those of ministry, serving, and giving.

A highlight of the event was the development of prayer groups and study of the elements of praise,

thanksgiving, adoration, petition, confession, and intercession of prayer at a campfire service. This focus was led by Sharon Bragg of Hickory Hollow Chapel, Nashville, and Charles Couey of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, who is also Tennessee Baptist Convention consultant for the blind.

The fellowship's officers are Bruce Edwards, Black Oak Heights Church, Knoxville, president; Leroy Armstrong, Park Avenue Church, Nashville, vice president; and Mary Dettor, Graceland Church, Memphis, secretary-treasurer.

"Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" will be the theme of the 1990 retreat to meet Aug. 3-5 at Camp Linden, Linden.