

# Baptist and Reflector

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NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Over parsonage exemption

### Court rules in favor of Nashville churches

**By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor**  
NASHVILLE — A Davidson County chancery court judge has dismissed a lawsuit involving several Nashville Association churches.

Last December, Nashville's Metropolitan government filed a lawsuit seeking "a claritory judgment" regarding the taxability of church parsonages. The city was seeking to tax 141 tax-exempt properties which the city claimed were not used for charitable or religious purposes.

About 20 Nashville Baptist churches were among those cited.

In the lawsuit, Metro government challenged the constitutionality of a 1984 state law which said church parsonages should be tax-exempted as "property used purely and exclusively for religious purposes."

State law allows each church to claim an exemption for only one residence as a parsonage.

Metro Tax Assessor Jim Ed Clary claimed the purpose of parsonages is residential and that they are not used "purely and solely" for religious purposes. Clary told the Baptist and Reflector in January that parsonages are built to "provide a service which every individual must have" and noted that residents of church parsonages receive the same government services, such as fire and police protection, at no cost that their neighbors have to pay for through property taxes.

In a memorandum released by Chancery Court Judge Irvin H. Kilcrease Jr., he wrote that state law "does not create a per se property tax exemption for parsonages nor does this statute foreclose inquiry as to the actual use of parsonages."

Kilcrease also observed that "tax exemptions in favor of religious, scientific, literary, and educational institutions are liberally construed, rather than strictly."

The Davidson County judge also noted "a parsonage is the home of a full time regular minister of a local church.

"The 'purely and exclusively' use test for property to be tax exempt is met where the use is 'directly incidental to or an integral part of' one of the recognized purposes of an exempt institution," the memorandum said.

Kilcrease concluded it "was the intent of the Legislature to exempt from property tax parsonages used 'purely and exclusively' for religious purposes . . ."

Attorney Bob Taylor, who  
(See page 5)



**HEAD OF RICHLAND** — Closing session of Grainger Association met Oct. 20 at Head of Richland Church. Horace Jones was host pastor. From left, David Tydings, director of missions, makes a last minute program check with moderator Gary Marshall, pastor of Calvary Church, and Terry Greenlee, associational music director. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

## Church puts money where heart is

**By Jim Burton**

FOREST, Va. (BP) — Tucked away in the rolling hills of south central Virginia, North Bedford Church sits picture-perfect along a curve in state Highway 644. With bright red doors, the clean white-framed structure radiates warmth to passersby of this oak-shaded rural church.

When Charles Stinson became its bivocational interim pastor 18 years ago, North Bedford Church was just another rural Southern Baptist congregation tightly knit by family ties. The personable Stinson quickly became a part of the family.

But through the years, the church's growing commitment to missions has made it a leading Southern Baptist church in per capita giving. In 1988-89, North Bedford gave 58 percent of its receipts to missions, including \$18,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and \$15,800 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for some missions. More than \$7000 was contributed during the recent World Hunger Day emphasis. Average Sun-

day morning attendance is 70.

"Small churches have a tendency to think small," said Stinson, a former tool and die worker. "They don't realize that they can do some things like send out a mission team or give a significant amount of money to missions.

Because they don't think they can do it and nobody has ever told them they can do it, they never do."

When Stinson arrived, the church had virtually quit supporting the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and the missions offerings, he said.

After evaluating its stewardship, Stinson said, North Bedford decided that if it were going to be a Southern Baptist church, it should act like one. The church began tithing ten percent of undesignated funds to the Cooperative Program. In addition, \$400 was budgeted for both the home and foreign missions offerings.

Eventually the \$400 cap was removed on the special offerings, and Cooperative Program giving grew to 15 percent of undesignated gifts.

"When we took the cap off, people who wanted to give to missions could give, and if they didn't want to give, they didn't have to," said Stinson, who now serves the church full time.

*A healthy regional economy, anchored by nearby Lynchburg, has blessed many North Bedford Church members. But Stinson credits the church's missions stewardship to two other factors — missions involvement and church renewal.*

Ten years ago, North Bedford's Baptist Men organization made first short-

term missions trip to Ohio. Working alongside volunteers from Texas and Ohio, North Bedford's men met other men who were spending their vacations doing missions.

And they learned firsthand about the work of home missionaries.

The volunteer spirit quickly brought results back home. Desperate for more space, Baptist Men tackled a volunteer construction project that eventually doubled the church's worship and education space and added a fellowship hall and kitchen.

"By the time we built it and occupied it, we had raised enough money to pay for it," said Stinson.

North Bedford's Baptist Men group functions as a mission-action unit. It is  
(See page 5)

## To government officials

### Czech Baptists send reminders

PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovakian Baptists held their annual Conference Oct. 13-14. Among other items on the busy agenda expedited by the 110-120 delegates from 29 Baptist churches, the Conference expressed reflections concerning the wording of the new constitution which the Czech-Slovak government is currently framing.

The delegates formally approved a document containing a number of "reminders" which they will pass on to government officials who are involved in the constitutional reforms. The wide array of issues included the following concerns:

- to guarantee equal rights among all churches; (apparently an indication that larger bodies occasionally have great privileges);
- to abolish discrimination in the treatment of Baptist children in public schools;
- to create the possibility for

alternative forms of military service;

- to abolish capital punishment. (Baptists gave approval to the statement already put forward on this issue by the Evangelical Church of Brethren).

Three matters received special attention by the delegates:

- Baptists in Czechoslovakia are opposed to the present liberal laws which grant virtually unlimited abortion rights, approving nonetheless sex-education in the public schools.

- Baptists want believers to have the right to be admitted to teachers' universities (pedagogical institutes); it is currently impossible for Christians to become trained teachers.

- Baptists want to have access to radio and television broadcasting in Czechoslovakia. (At the present time such access is excluded.)

## An inside look

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**Editorials****What to do on the way to the Knoxville convention**

The October 25 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* should be of high interest to most Tennessee Baptists, certainly to those who will be messengers or visitors to the Annual Meeting in Knoxville.

The sessions at Central Church, Bearden, on November 14-16 bring Tennessee Baptists together in their 115th yearly meeting. We have been reporting, acting on business matters, fellowshiping, praying and praising, and discussing our goals under the Lordship of Christ in this manner for more than a century.

That October 25 issue has in it a four-page "pull-out" section, prepared by the staff primarily for those Baptists interested in the annual meeting. Pull it out — keep it.

A schedule of main events of the Knoxville convention is contained in that paper. The schedule tells the reader who does what, when they do it, and what the themes are.

A study of that schedule will provide background for the messenger, enabling him/her to be in the proper place at the proper time. Of course, most messengers will be attending all sessions, and saving breaktimes and other hours for visits to the exhibit area and bookstore.

There will be enough meetings to keep everyone busy, occupied, and interested.

The *Baptist and Reflector* of October 11 underscores the importance of business por-

tions of the annual meeting. In that paper are names of all nominees on the report of the Committee on Boards — for the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Tennessee Baptist Childrens' Homes, Belmont College, Carson-Newman College, Union University, Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, the three Health Care Systems, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, and the Committee on Committees.

There is a report from the Committee on Committees for nominees to nine important committees of the convention. The Executive Board's report on the 1989-90 TBC Cooperative Program budget recommendations also is in the October 11 issue of the paper.

Armed with these reports, schedules, and recommendations, messengers will be prepared to listen with understanding, participate in discussions, and vote with wisdom and conviction.

Most of us make proper plans, study maps, and determine the route prior to making a significant journey. The convention itself is a kind of journey. When we meet as a body with elective power, we should be able to discuss with discernment the matters before us. We then move forward step by step — on a journey forward. There is always the possibility of moving backward — or side-stepping urgent decisions. These two are journeys, though they be in the wrong direction.

Reading the *Baptist and Reflector* is a way to gain vital information. It is a supplement to our work within the local church, the association, and the convention. As it supplements, it informs, inspires, and educates.

These two special issues of the paper were planned with the messengers in mind. We suggest convention messengers take with them these schedules, reports, and recommendations. Without editorial comment, these pages contain helpful convention materials, worthy of study and prayer.

The president's message, by Calvin Metcalf, and the Convention Sermon by Leonard Markham, will be in the November 15 issue.

The *Baptist and Reflector* also prepares the messenger for the convention in another way.

As the paper is read from week to week, potential messengers gain information about programs, plans, and events within the Tennessee Baptist Convention. They read about churches from across the state. They are more able to understand as they gather facts week by week.

The upcoming November 14-16 convention, with its adjunct meetings and luncheons, form a link in the chain of cooperation throughout the year. It is a time of excitement — and concern. — WFA

**What happened at Southwestern? What does it mean?**

Southern Baptists generally are very protective of agencies, institutions, seminaries, and other entities that bear the Southern Baptist name, and which they support.

There is particularly keen interest in the six seminaries. Each has a distinct profile, but they are alike in that they are the primary theological education institutions for ministers of Southern Baptist churches.

News that preceded the recent fall meeting of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth was unsettling. There were rumors, reports, misunderstandings, accusations — you name it.

Southwestern is the largest theological seminary in the world. It has long been known

***'The trustees and the president need to be believed that a spirit of reconciliation did take place.'***

as conservative, with deep loyalty to the Baptist Faith and Message principles, and commitment to the Bible.

The trustees' chairman mailed a long memorandum to all trustees prior to the October 17 meeting, suggesting an executive session during the regular meeting to discuss the "whole problem of political activity" by Southwestern's president, Russell H. Dilday Jr.

Lines were drawn, sides were chosen. In light of the August attempt to dismiss or censure Sunday School Board president, Lloyd Elder, the idea of a closed meeting suggested to some that Dilday might be "in the same

boat."

After a five-hour closed meeting, a brief statement was issued, stressing that trustees and president would "cease and desist from making any statements, or writings, or engaging in any activities that could reasonably be interpreted as being intentionally political in nature."

What does this mean? What happened?

Since the meeting was held in Fort Worth, and since staff members of the (Texas) Baptist Standard were present (except for the closed session), we quote Editor Presnell Wood's answer:

"It means President Dilday was not dismissed nor censured. This is good. He has done an outstanding job in leading Southwestern Seminary, and it is good that the positive work of the seminary was not disrupted by firing the president or silencing him.

"It means there is a tremendous interest in the work of Southwestern. Those who waited in vigil throughout the day while the closed session was in progress did so out of concern for President Dilday but also for the seminary.

"It means Baptists do not respond well to pressure. The letter from an Atlanta attorney to the trustees threatening litigation if Dilday was dismissed was counter-productive to reconciliation.

"It means the trustees and the president need to be believed that a spirit of reconciliation did take place. Why not? Hundreds were praying or had prayed about the meeting. Can we not believe God did intervene?

"It means all of the problems have not been solved. Deciding what can be 'reasonably interpreted' as to what is 'intentionally political' may be easier to adopt than to live out.

"It means there was no quake or upheaval in Baptist work at Southwestern Seminary. To some this may have been disappointing, but most find it reason for rejoicing.

"It means questions about Baptist business conducted behind closed doors are not answered. Executive sessions still raise more questions than they answer.

"What happened at the meeting of the trustees of Southwestern Seminary? While those outside the closed doors do not have the privilege of knowing all that went on, most Baptists will take heart in that there were some signs of hope on the part of both the president and trustees. It may not be all Baptists want to or need to know, but it helps to at least have some hope." We agree. — WFA

**Baptist and Reflector**

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Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor	Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Lonnie Wilkey, Associate Editor	Barbara Cox, Administrative Secretary
Connie Davis, Assistant Editor	Rita Gambill, Production Assistant
Connie Umstead, News Assistant	Susie Edwards, Church Pages

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# O'Brien appointment draws protest; Parks responds

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND (BP) — The appointment of William R. O'Brien as a top special assistant to the president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board drew protest in a letter from 28 of the board's 89 trustees in October.

FMB President R. Keith Parks disagreed strongly with contents of the letter in a point-by-point written response to all 89 trustees Oct. 24.

News of the confidential letter broke after the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch heard rumors about the letter, confirmed its existence from two trustees and published a story Oct. 21.

"I feel I must respond to all trustees point by point because the letter signed by 28 of you is now public and because I am personally offended by what it implies about me and my character," Parks wrote to the trustees.

The letter to Parks, sent to him by trustee Bob Claytor of Rome, Ga., on behalf of the signers, listed five areas of disagreement with Parks' decision regarding O'Brien. Parks named O'Brien to the post after O'Brien requested to step down from the board's executive vice presidency when his wife, Dellanna O'Brien, accepted the executive directorship of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. The O'Briens, former missionaries to Indonesia, now live in Birmingham, Ala.

The letter, received by Parks Oct. 16, said the signers disagreed with O'Brien's selection on grounds it (1) has the "appearance of cronyism" and makes an exception not available to other employees; (2) has "the appearance of linkage of two separate national organizations, the FMB and

the WMU, "which should operate independently; (3) is not cost effective in light of board emphasis on budgetary cuts; (4) makes it difficult for O'Brien to supervise employees from out of town; and (5) puts a person (O'Brien) with "open identification with the moderate faction in the Southern Baptist Convention" in a role the 28 trustees find objectionable.

"His role as liaison to other denominations and our agencies would not be our choice," the letter said.

Claytor, pastor of Fellowship Church in Rome, Ga., said the 28 trustees had no intention of questioning Parks' integrity or character but wanted to correspond with him privately to express an opinion.

"We highly support Dr. Parks," Claytor said. "It (O'Brien's appointment) is his shot to call. We feel like it was not a wise thing to do."

Parks' said he was "astounded" the 28 trustees felt the need to send the letter after receiving advance information on the selection and hearing a full discussion of it in several settings during a trustee meeting Oct. 9-11 in Richmond. Claytor said some trustees "didn't have an opportunity to respond in an appropriate setting" and chose to write Parks rather than deal with it publicly at the trustee meeting.

Claytor said questioning of O'Brien's role had nothing to do with any political effort against Parks or O'Brien, despite the letter's fifth point about O'Brien's identification with denominational moderates.

"It would be dead wrong (for anyone) to say we're trying to get Dr. Parks or Dr. O'Brien," Claytor said. "There's no linkage, no broad pattern"

concerned," he says.

Harbin annually has met with students on five seminary campuses, getting to know them and their needs, and building relationships for Tennessee churches.

Much of his work has been counseling, he says. The other facets include meeting with committees, sharing resumes, and visiting the seminaries.

He has served 13 interim pastorates during his tenure and currently is interim pastor at First Church, Centerville.

Harbin says he is appalled at the number of forced terminations of ministers in the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1988, he says, a survey showed 116 ministers terminated each week.

He is married to the former Marilyn Blanton of New Albany, Ind. They have two sons, Bill and Ben.

Harbin has served many positions in denominational work, including the TBC Executive Board and trustee of East Tennessee Baptist Hospital. He has been a field supervisor for the doctor of ministry program of Southern Seminary since 1975.

He has authored two books, blazing a trail with *When a Pastor Search Committee Comes ... or Doesn't*, the only book dealing with the subject. The other book is *After the Pastor Leaves ... When Another Comes*.

The Harbins will continue to live at 809 Fountain Court, Brentwood. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals, interim pastorates, and Bible studies.

connected to political activities at any other SBC agency, he said. "It was our looking at a decision he made and disagreeing with it" because of how it might be perceived by Southern Baptists.

"Bill O'Brien's open identification is with the cause of foreign missions," Parks responded in his letter to trustees. "On occasion, he and I and others are accused of political statements when we are speaking against something we believe negatively impacts missions but happens to have the endorsement of one political faction."

Noting his awareness of "accusations of political identity" made about O'Brien, Parks declared: "If this board ever reaches the point where 'perceived' Baptist political identity is viewed as a primary qualification for any staff position or for appointment as a missionary, we will greatly

damage and probably destroy the weakened cords of cooperation that barely manage to hold us together. Thus far, this has not been a qualification and we have a mixture of both political viewpoints on staff and among missionaries. It must remain so if we remain the cohesive force of Southern Baptists."

Contacted for his reaction, O'Brien said he and Parks have taken and will continue to take steps to avoid the appearance of cronyism and conflict of interest and to make certain they practice good budgetary and administrative approaches.

On the political issue, O'Brien said, "I get shot at from the left and the right when I comment on priorities of the Kingdom of God. My commitment is to missions and, as the Psalmist says in Psalms 141, my eyes are fixed on the Sovereign Lord."

## HMB assists rural churches

ATLANTA (BP) — With an appeal from Larry Lewis to evangelize America "from the cities to the silos," trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board endorsed a new plan to assist three-fourths of the denomination's associations in strategy planning.

At their fall meeting, trustees approved changing the name of the rural-urban missions department to the town and country missions department. HMB President Lewis said the name change signals a new approach in helping Baptist associations in areas with populations of less than 50,000 people.

In other action, the board elected Margrette Stevenson as vice president in charge of the services section, responded to motions referred from the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, adopted a \$76.8 million budget for 1990, further refined the agency's organizational structure and

## TV evangelists rank low: opinion poll

Public opinion of television evangelists is at an alltime low, according to another Gallup Poll.

A large majority of the American public now believes television evangelists are untrustworthy in dealing with money, do not have a special relationship with God and are uncaring, dishonest and insincere.

Of the people surveyed, 79 percent said television evangelists cannot be trusted with money given them by donors. That number contrasts with only 36 percent who agreed with that position in 1980.

During the same nine-year period, the number of people who said they believe television evangelists have a special relationship with God decreased from 47 percent to 23 percent.

The number of people who would describe TV evangelists as honest, sincere and caring also decreased dramatically during that time.

But survey responses did not reveal a lower evaluation of organized religion as a whole. Three in ten Americans said they have a "great deal" of confidence in organized religion, 22 percent have "quite a lot" of confidence, 26 percent have "some" confidence and 20 percent have "very little" or no confidence.

approved 19 people for missionary service.

In addition to the town and country name change, the HMB associational missions division will launch a new Town and Country Thrust that will do for smaller associations what Metro Thrust has done for metropolitan associations, Lewis said.

Town and Country Thrust will be a joint strategy planning process between the board, state conventions, and district associations.

In his speech to trustees, Lewis also clarified the board's approach to bivocational ministries. At the last full meeting of trustees, the position of national consultant for bivocational ministries was among 28 positions deleted in a cost-cutting move.

"Some have assumed that this was an indication that bivocational ministries is being pushed back or is a low priority," Lewis said. "I want to say as forcefully as I can that is not the case."

Stevenson, who currently is associate vice president of the services section, will replace Robert Bingham, the current section vice president who will retire Dec. 31.

She is the first woman elected a vice president of the board.

## Harbin announces December retirement

J. William Harbin, the only Church-Ministers Information Department director in Tennessee Baptist Convention history, retires Dec. 31.

Harbin, a South Carolina native, came to the TBC in 1976 after 30 years as a pastor in South Carolina, Mississippi, and Tennessee. His last pastorate was with First Church, Maryville, where he served 16 years.

Harbin is a graduate of Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and has three degrees from Southern Seminary — B. D., Th. M., and Ph. D., the last coming in 1952.

Harbin says he looked at his position early on as an opportunity to serve churches and ministers in Tennessee. "In these 13 and a half years I have followed the guidelines — never to recommend, interpret, or evaluate," he says. "Our office has followed the highest ethical procedures."

"I am still thrilled in talking with committees and ministers," he says, "and I believe that each needs more knowledge of the other, more investigation, and desire to follow the Holy Spirit's leadership. Quick courtships bring quick divorces."

Harbin says the most difficult part of his work was meeting with churches in conflict. "That requires much prayer, patience, and trust from all parties



HARBIN

## Joggers' Jubilee set during TBC meeting

*It's not a race — but the Second Annual Tennessee Baptist Joggers' Jubilee offers opportunity for fun, exercise, and fellowship.*

*Messengers attending the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Knoxville Nov. 14-16, who are interested in good health through exercise, are invited to participate.*

*The "run" is scheduled for 6:30 a.m. Nov. 15 at the upper west parking lot at Central Church, Bearden, on Deane Hill Drive. Prizes will be awarded to all participants. Walkers, runners, joggers are invited to choose their own pace and distance.*

*The Joggers' Jubilee is sponsored by the Baptist and Reflector. Shirts can be purchased. Inquire by telephone or mail.*

# Our Readers Write

## Faith and trust

As a first year seminary student I have been concerned with the current discussions concerning the "problems" at our seminaries.

I am a West Tennessee conservative. No doubt I have been taught numerous ideas contrary to my own understandings. I find it refreshing that I do not have to agree with these ideas. I am excited to be given the opportunity by my professors to express my views, some of which are contrary to their own teachings. Perhaps the most important lesson in my brief seminary career is that although we may have many disagreements on doctrinal and theological issues, we share one common ground — Jesus Christ.

I bear a personal witness to the love of Christ in the lives of my professors. I expected to be shunned because of my conservatism, but they loved me all the more. They have not told me what I have to believe. I have been taught to believe for my own reasons, not for the presuppositions I grew up with. Through the love and teachings of my professors I have developed a wonderful new understanding and relationship with my brothers and sisters in the ministry, especially those with whom I disagree.

I feel it is important that we as Southern Baptists express our trust and faith in our seminary professors, staffs, and administrations. And if for some

reason one steps too far away from our basic Christian beliefs, let us, the seminary family, take care of the situation. God still uses our seminaries. Let's not stand in His way.

Mark W. Mangrum  
Midwestern Baptist Seminary  
5103 N. Oak Tway, #3  
Kansas City, Mo. 64118

## Let people decide

Many Southern Baptists declare that "the majority of those in the Southern Baptist Convention Vatican do not care what the people in the pews think or have to say concerning the various matters facing our convention." In the face of such statements I have contended, both privately and publicly, that such was not the case until recently.

With the recent decision of the SBC Executive Committee to rescind its proposal for a Religious Liberty Commission in Washington without allowing our people the opportunity to decide this matter caused me to wonder if perhaps I might be mistaken.

Also, several months ago I mailed correspondence to the director of the SBC Christian Life Commission concerning abortion on demand and to date I have yet to receive even a courteous acknowledgement of receipt of that correspondence. What is of great concern to me is how many others have similar experiences across our convention.

Such actions by the SBC Executive Committee and instances where our agencies and boards fail to give even a courteous acknowledgment of receipt to correspondence serves to verify accusations of unconcern as voiced by many in the rank and file of our SBC.

While in positions of personnel management and supervisor of operations I established standard operating procedures which require that every piece of correspondence be answered, even if it was just a secretarial note acknowledging receipt.

I have maintained this procedure into the ministry and recommend it to everyone in SBC leadership.

I am much encouraged by SBC President Jerry Vine's request to the SBC Executive Committee to allow Southern Baptists to determine the convention's relationship to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (Baptist and Reflector, 9-27-89). I join him in support of that request and also the call for publication of the facts so that our people can understand them which will enhance their making the best choice in this matter. May that choice be the one which will bring the greatest honor and Glory to God in and through Jesus Christ.

J. L. Miller  
130 Porter Road  
Dickson 37055

**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.**

## Questions Vestal

Daniel Vestal's highly politicized, costly but unsuccessful campaign to lead the SBC in 1988 — endorsed and aided by SBA, SBC Today, moderates, liberals, the new centrist movement, and like the Baptist Press — evidently didn't diminish his appetite for a more aggressive campaign for New Orleans.

His goal to depoliticize and bring unity to the convention is inconsistent with his 1988 unprecedented means of paid commercials, TV prime time, "whistle stop" speaking trips, campaign fund raising, taped sermons to over 36,000 churches (pastors) with like number of letters.

We don't question his honesty, integri-

ty, convention loyalty, or motive. We trust it's not soft rhetoric with hardcore anti-conservative stance. However, remembering his 1988 criticism of conservatives stating, "We've lost control, lost trust, lost our freedom, forced to conform, etc.," adding, "I didn't seek this nomination . . ."

His early announcement does afford ample time for campaign organization, state managers, fund raising, prime advertising time, and other amenities conducive to a successful race.

If this is to become the "tenor of the times" for future SBC elections perhaps the convention should consider adopting "matching funds" policy as does the national political elections.

I subscribe to Dr. R. Paul Caudill's 1988 statement asking for "convention affairs to be governed by Christocracy (Christ power) rather than democracy (people power)."

W. T. Barner  
3655 Rhodes #4  
Memphis 38111

## Request for Tennessee Baptists

Recently I was involved in a conversation with a former pastor from Memphis. I enjoyed our discussion and appreciated his openness. He stated that one of the concerns of conservatives (or inerrantists if you prefer that term) is to have parity with moderates in the Southern Baptist Convention. I have often heard and read of that request. Through the committee and board appointments over the last several years that parity has been achieved.

In order to maintain this balance, I am appealing to the president of our convention to demonstrate his leadership toward that purpose. In my letter to him, I am requesting that he use his authority to see that conservatives and moderates are appointed to the various SBC committees and boards on a one to one basis. I am also appealing to Tennessee Baptists as concerned Christians and members of Southern Baptist churches to write to him making that same request. Just a one sentence letter will be adequate. His address is: Jerry Vines, First Baptist Church, 124 W. Ashley Street, Jacksonville, Fla. 32202.

So that I may know how many other concerned Christians share my feelings, I would like a copy of each letter. I would also be interested to know whether the writer identifies as a conservative, a moderate, or neither.

Greg Sharpe  
710 Cynthia Drive  
Jefferson City 37760



**MISSIONARY SPEAKS** — McMinn-Meigs Association met Oct. 23-24 at Sanford Church, First Church, Athens; and Brookhill Church, Etowah. From left, at Brookhill closing session, new moderator Kenneth Elkins, pastor of Antioch; Ted Davis, director of missions; Bea Gardner, clerk and treasurer; Ron Roy, Uruguay missionary who spoke on missions; and Ed Wood, pastor of East Niota.

— Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allan

## Nolachucky Association taps James Williams

James C. Williams Jr., was elected director of missions of Nolachucky Association during its annual meeting Oct. 18 at Pleasant View Church, Talbott.

Williams, pastor, Bethel Church, Morristown, will begin Dec. 1. Glenn A. Toomey, current DOM, will retire Dec. 31.

The native of Virginia has served as pastor of a church in Indiana.

In Tennessee he served Fairview Church, Mohawk, and Tusculum Church, Greeneville.

Williams is a graduate of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also taught school and worked in a building supply store.

He and his wife, Judy, a schoolteacher, have two children, Stephen and Michael.



WILLIAMS

## Chorale plans tour

For the first time since 1976, the Tennessee Baptist Chorale will be on tour across the state Nov. 9-14.

The chorale, made up of 94 church music workers, will perform on the following schedule: Nov. 9 — Highland Heights Church, Memphis; Nov. 10 — West Jackson Church, Jackson; Nov. 11 — Forest Hills Church, Nashville, and First Church, McMinnville; Nov. 12 — Brainerd Hills Church, Chattanooga, and Central Church, Knoxville; Nov. 13 — First Church, Jefferson City; and Nov. 14 — Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville.

Each concert will include a brass ensemble. The chorale is directed by Julian Suggs, Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Music Department director.

## Funnyside up

If your outgo exceeds your income, then your upkeep will be your downfall.

\*\*\*  
What many people are looking for is less to do, more time to do it in, and more pay for not getting it done.

\*\*\*  
A golfing pastor, badly beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse depressed.

"Cheer up," said his opponent.

"Remember, you win eventually.

You'll be burying me someday."

"Yes," said the pastor. "But even then it will be your hole."

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

**PulpitEARS**  
Curtis Bra Blotz

SOME REMEMBER THAT THE GREAT CHURCH MUSICIAN HINES SINGS WAS A TALENTED MINISTERS. MUTUAL FRIENDS LEVIE HELLS ONCE INTRODUCED HIM...



AND NOW, BRO. HINES SINGS WILL COME AND WHISPER THE GOSPEL

SEND YOUR TRUE EMBARRASSING INCIDENTS TO COLGUS DILLARD, 2314 N. GILSON, GARLAND TX 75044. THIS IS A SHARONWEE CARTOON. SEND \$1 IF YOU REPRINT IT. REPRINT MUST BEAR THIS NOTICE

# Ethiopian rebels advancing; Baptists move to capitol

By Craig Bird

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP)— Rebel troops reportedly have launched a major attack on one of the main supply routes to the Ethiopian capitol of Addis Ababa, and some of the heaviest fighting apparently has occurred around former Southern Baptist feeding stations at Rabel and Shil Afaf. U.S. embassy officials said they do not think Americans are in danger in Addis Ababa but told all American citizens to gather there and be prepared to evacuate if necessary. The U.S. State Department advised Americans abroad to avoid traveling to

Ethiopia "due to political unrest" and warned Americans there not to travel outside of Addis Ababa.

All Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers had arrived in the Ethiopian capitol by Oct. 19. Several had to drive long distances over mountain roads. The helicopter belonging to the Southern Baptist organization could not be used because of the danger of flying into a combat zone.

News reports said rebels from the Tigren People's Liberation Front were within 150 miles of Addis Ababa. The organization is not participating in former President Jimmy Carter's cur-

rent peace negotiations between the Ethiopian government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

Heavy fighting was reported around Were Ilu, about 11 miles from Rabel and 17 miles from Shil Afaf. Both of those locations became familiar to Southern Baptists during the 1984-87 Ethiopian drought, when they helped feed hundreds of thousands of people there and at several other feeding stations. After the drought, Southern Baptist missionaries began concentrating on long-term development such as water wells and agriculture.

At the time fighting began, no Southern Baptist or Ethiopian development workers were at Shil Afaf, but Southern Baptist volunteer Barbara Steer and five Ethiopian development team members were at Gundu Meskel, south of the combat area. They drove two days to reach Addis Ababa.

At Alem Ketema, a four-hour drive from the capitol, they linked up with Southern Baptist missionary Jeff Pearson, journeymen Sandy Shell and Burt Rudolph and four Ethiopian team members who had driven in from Meragna, and volunteers Gregg and Amy Freese, who were working at Alem Ketema. The caravan to Addis Ababa included 35 people. The trucks passed through three army/police roadblocks but were allowed to proceed without difficulty.

Other Southern Baptist workers already in Addis when the fighting began included missionaries Paul and Hannah Gay and their three children,

Howard and Belinda Rhodes, David and Debbie Brownfield and John and Mary Lou Lawrence; volunteers Jewel and Jeanne Franks; and journeyman George Tupper, of Memphis, Tenn.

One Ethiopian team member remained at Rabel. He did not leave with the others and government officials have refused to let anyone leave the area since.

Officials at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., have been in contact by phone with the Ethiopian missionaries.

Rumors of rebel activity around Dese, the regional capital of Welo, began circulating about Oct. 15. News services have speculated for months that rebel forces would attempt to cut the road between the major Ethiopian port of Assab and Addis Ababa.

## Church puts money where . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the only missions organization in the church. For each of the past ten years, the Baptist Men group has participated in a volunteer church-building project, usually specializing in electrical work. As the men gained experience, their numbers grew, and the church's giving increased.

New mission trip volunteers want to go on other trips," said Dan White, a lifelong North Bedford member. "Most people have the fear that they are not capable of doing anything. Everybody can do something if they just go," he noted.

North Bedford's missions involvement expanded recently to disaster relief when three men joined Strawberry Baptist Association's cleanup efforts in Lancaster, S.C., following Hurricane Hugo. In addition, the church raised about \$2000 for South Carolina Baptist disaster relief.

Active in all phases of Strawberry Association, Virginia's oldest, North Bedford sponsored two women in an associational partnership-evangelism project to Tanzania. About 329 decisions were made for Jesus Christ, according to Stinson.

That the church's stewardship is a natural outgrowth of involvement, he said: "There's nothing exciting about a pie chart that says X number of dollars goes one place and this goes somewhere else. When you go and see where your money is going and see the needs that are there and you are constantly confronted with these things, people will give."

## Court rules in favor . . .

(Continued from page 1)

represented several of the Nashville churches, said he was "delighted" that the judge upheld the constitutionality of the 1984 statute.

He noted the decision, had it gone against the Nashville churches, would have impacted churches across Tennessee.

Taylor predicted "a lot of tax assessors" across the state were awaiting the outcome of this decision.

Kenneth Castleberry, pastor of Dalewood Church, also expressed pleasure with the ruling. "That's what we have hoped for," he said.

Castleberry and other Nashville pastors contended that church parsonages have always been considered a part of the church's total ministry to the community and should be treated as other church property and not be taxed.

He also noted churches perform "benevolent services to the community

Several years after its missions involvement began, the church held a Lay Renewal Weekend. A program emphasis of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board, the church renewal journey is designed to help church members examine their relationship with God while discovering their spiritual giftedness. The church renewal journey served as a time of affirmation within North Bedford Church, Stinson said.

"The response to the renewal was extremely good," he reported. "It really generated a lot of enthusiasm among our people and got them involved in some things that they'd never been involved in before."

Stinson had never been a pastor prior to his tenure at North Bedford. With encouragement from Lloyd Jackson, Virginia's Baptist Brotherhood director, Stinson had become a Baptist Men's trainer in central Virginia. The public-speaking opportunities associated with the job helped him discover his abilities to communicate to groups. It also brought back his calling, first sensed as a 16-year-old, to the pastorate.

Stinson served the church part time four years before leaving his secular job. He credits his own church involvement as a layman as the key to establishing relationships with his congregation.

"I just sort of became another one of them," recalled Stinson. "There wasn't a separation between me as a pastor and the laity. There never has been."

that offsets the property tax we would pay."

And while Taylor said the churches "have won round one," the possibility exists that Metro government will appeal the ruling.

Tax Assessor Clary told a reporter from The Tennessean, Nashville's morning newspaper, that he "was not ready to throw in the towel."

He said he would have to get advice from Metro's legal department about whether to appeal Kilcrease's decision.

Castleberry said the Nashville churches have spent several thousand dollars in legal fees and would like to avert further legal activity.

"I would hope that Metro attorneys will review it (Kilcrease's ruling) and say, 'Let's stop it right here.'"

Taylor added that whether Metro government appeals for a Tennessee Supreme Court decision "remains to be seen."

## One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I haven't seen Frank Ling for several years, but I know the agony he felt in June when the communist government of China squelched the voice of freedom rising from students and other citizens in June.

For years he had hoped and prayed for religious liberty and other keystones of freedom to envelop his native land. Southern Baptists had sent missionaries to the Chinese mainland for a hundred years until shortly after World War II. That's when communist insurgents overthrew the government and installed the totalitarian way of "governing."

Frank is a product of Southern Baptist missions, as was his father. He learned about Christ from Baptist missionaries and his family. He was taught about Christian love, salvation, mercy, and grace. He became a Christian.

When communists took over in 1948, Ling's desire was to get out. He was recognized quickly by the new government as a "troublemaker." As students began to demonstrate, he led in confrontations with communist-backed youth.

Born in Hankow, Frank Ling grew up, one of six children, in a home of educated parents. His father became a prominent educator in China after gaining his Ph. D. in the United States.

Ling's devotion to freedom and Christianity caused problems. The new government did not know exactly what to do with him — but the leaders certainly did not want him around.

When communist forces broke through Nationalist government lines

and took Shanghai, Ling knew he was a marked man. Escape was difficult.

But he remembered a friend who was an officer in the Nationalist air force. Ling was not the only native Chinese who wanted to get away from the communist takeover, but he was one of the few who made it.

His friend arranged for him to get on the last plane out of beleaguered Shanghai — and he ended up months later in the United States. He eventually graduated from New Orleans Seminary

— thinking he would go back to his homeland and preach the Gospel, because "the communist government would be overthrown by the people."

He stayed in South Carolina as a pastor, married a local girl, raised a family. He has never made it back to stay, but he did make a visit.

His father was ostracized and persecuted because of his strong witness for Christianity and education. He died a broken man.

Bereft of natural family, separated by thousands of miles from his native land, Ling nonetheless knows he is at home. He feels it, as does his family.

Where else but in America could an Oriental pastor successfully lead a Carolina church? Where else indeed? Is not that what missions is all about? In Frank Ling's life, the missions story is coming full circle.



ALLEN

At UT-Martin

## BSU celebrates 50th year

University of Tennessee at Martin's Baptist Student Union observed its 50th year of campus ministry Sept. 23 with a reception and banquet in tribute to the people who made it work.

The BSU was designed as a connecting link between students, church and college. "It is a Christ-centered organization of students by students for students as a demonstration of concern of local Baptist churches for their

college students," said Adam Hall, BSU director since 1971.

One hundred people attended the reception, including Joe Black Hayes, the college football coach who started the Martin BSU in 1939. Others in attendance included past and present BSU members and their families and friends.

The event was open to the public. Memorabilia on display included many photos, newspaper articles, and college yearbooks.

A banquet was later held in the Clement Hall lobby. Following that, several shared their experiences at the BSU and told about how much it has meant to them.

Black described the BSU's origins, saying he had no idea it would be this successful.

"To me, it was a time of remembering experiences and people of bygone days and to celebrate what the Baptist Student Union meant to me as a student and director," Hall said. — Robert Jimerson, UT-Martin

## West Tennessee pastors to meet

The West Tennessee Pastors' Conference will meet Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. at Union University.

The host associations are Big Hat-chie and Carroll-Benton.

David Irby, chairman of the religion department at Union, will speak. Music will be led by Jerry Winfield, pastor of First Church, Bolivar.

Max Walker, pastor of First Church, Selmer, is president of the West Tennessee Pastors' Conference.

## Tennesseans graduate from NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS — Three students with Tennessee ties are among recent graduates of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Receiving master of divinity degrees were Donald R. Kleeb, Roger D.

Perkins, and Steve D. Vaughan.

Kleeb is a native of Mohawk where he attended Fairview Church. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Young of Farragut.

Perkins, of Eudora, Miss., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Perkins of Cov-



KLEEB



PERKINS



VAUGHAN

ington. He has a degree from Christian Brothers College, Memphis.

Vaughan, a native of Nashville, is the son of Dorothy Vaughan of Hermitage. Vaughan's home church is Madison Heights in Madison.



**COTEY ELECTED** — Concord Association elected officers Oct. 23 at Miracle Church in LaVergne. From left, Brenda Hopper, First Church, Smyrna, clerk; Jim Powers, director of missions; Eugene Cotey, pastor, First Church, Murfreesboro, moderator; and Randy Sledge, pastor, Riverdale Chapel, vice moderator. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

## First Church, Franklin, hosts marriage festival

A weekend marriage festival is planned at First Church, Franklin, Nov. 10-11.

Some of the subjects covered during the weekend festival include "Making Love Beyond the Bedroom," "The Twilight Zone in Marriage: Parenting Teens," and "Never Waste a Good Conflict." Others are "We Know Opposites Attract. But This is Ridiculous," "Communicating the Language of Love," "The Hurrier We Go, the Behinder We Get," and "Sex is More Than a Four Letter Word."

Jim Keith, pastor of the First Church, Richardson, Texas, will serve as keynote speaker for the event which is open to the entire community.

Leading workshops are Otis An-

draws, clinical chaplain, Youth Development Center and Christian family counselor, and Deige Andrews; Gary Hauk, family ministry department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Brenda Hauk; Jimmy Hester, family ministry department, BSSB, and Kim Hester; Randy Lanford, youth discipleship training section, BSSB, and Susan Lanford, family ministry department, BSSB; Gerald Stow, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, and Barbara Stow; Phil Waugh, family ministry department, BSSB, and Cindy Waugh.

The retreat will cost \$20 per couple. Child care is provided for children birth through five years. Registration for the festival/retreat can be made by calling (615) 794-2812.

## Orvind Dangeau announces retirement plans

Orvind M. Dangeau, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department, will retire Dec. 31.

Dangeau, 67, joined the TBC staff in 1976 after serving as pastor in the state for 20 years at First Church, Somerville, and First Church, McKenzie.

A native of Arkansas, Dangeau has served on a variety of denominational boards and committees. He is a former trustee of Union University and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Dangeau is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., Union University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



DANGEAU

During Dangeau's 13 years with the convention he has assisted numerous churches and associations with stewardship development programs. In recent years he has assisted about ten churches raise between \$4 and \$5 million through Challenge To Build, a program designed to help churches raise money for building programs.

"We have had quite a bit of success over these years in missions giving," Dangeau said, noting that the TBC's budget has increased from about \$8 million in 1976 to more than \$27 million for this year.

"I'm deeply appreciative of the opportunity of service I've had in the Tennessee Baptist Convention over these years," he said.

Dangeau plans to keep active in retirement, noting he will be available for interim work, financial consulting with churches, capital fundraising, and stewardship revivals.

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Did you see the attempt to launch the satellite by private industry? It was an attempt by private industry to compete with the government in this work. The rocket had been tested, and the payload was in place, but it failed. There was an obvious problem in the power source. The rocket never left the launch pad.

As I watched this failure, it occurred to me that this is an illustration of our programs. We put good and tested programs into place, the mission we have is worthwhile, but on launch day it all comes to naught. Why? There is a problem in our power source.

You remember the word of the prophet, "It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord of Hosts." The mission we have to accomplish can be accomplished only in the power of the Holy Spirit. Yet, we rarely ever hear the Holy Spirit acknowledged in our planning, nor is



LOWRIE

proper time set aside to make sure that our relationship with Him is such that He will be able to work through us. Rather, plans are made as though everything depended on us.

God revealed to me the person and work of the Holy Spirit while I was a young pastor in this state. He allowed me to become personally aware of the inadequacy of my life, efforts, and programs. But when I became convinced that I was not able, He made me aware of an infilling that would empower. After some time of searching and prayer, I was able to begin trusting God for the power that He had promised. Indeed He was faithful to His promise, and He still is.

I want us to openly acknowledge our need to the Lord, and to ask of Him the fullness of His Holy Spirit for our lives and our work. We must be content with nothing less. My heart is thirsty for a fresh demonstration of His presence and adequacy among us. His power will be known only as we ask and expect. Luke 11:13 is His promise to us. If we ask, He will give the power and manifestation of the Holy Spirit.



**COPPER BASIN PASTORS** — Pastors at Copper Basin Association's afternoon session Oct. 19 at Coletown Church included, from left, David Brown, Mine City Church, vice moderator; Mark Deakins, Zion Hill Church, moderator; Weldon Davis, Pleasant Hill Church; Jim Worthey, former pastor, Maple Grove Church; and Al Patterson, director of missions.

# Associations conduct business, elect officers

Tennessee's 68 Baptist associations began gathering Aug. 16 and concluded their meetings Oct. 28. The one- and two-day sessions constitute an annual meeting for most associations while some meet biannually. Additional reports will appear in upcoming issues.

## Big Emory Association

DOM J. William Bargiol

Newly elected officers are Billy Edmonds, pastor, Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield, moderator; Tom Mooty, pastor, First Church, Wartburg, assistant moderator; George Wadlington, minister of music, South Harriman Church, Harriman, treasurer; and Herbert Lee, pastor, First Church, Sunbright, clerk.

## Bledsoe Association

DOM J.C. Lewis

Events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the association included a message by former DOM Nat McKinney of Carthage; historical reflections by Richard Patton, pastor, First Church, Portland, and chairman of the anniversary committee; historical poster contest won by First Church, Gallatin, first place; Immanuel Church, Portland, second; and First Church, Lafayette, third; and music by the Ole Time Music Band.

Of the association's 28 churches, 26 were represented at the meeting.

Officers were re-elected and follow: moderator Phil Dougan, pastor, Madison Creek Church, Goodlettsville; vice moderator J. C. Bigbee, pastor, Oak Street Mission, Portland; treasurer Jack Goodwin, pastor, Indian Hills Church, Gallatin; and clerk Norene Dougan, member, Madison Creek Church.

## Campbell County Association

DOM Ralph Cordell

Officers were re-elected and are moderator Don Reynolds, pastor, Glade Springs Church, LaFollette; vice moderator Robert Stephens, music director, Indiana Avenue Church, LaFollette; and treasurer/clerk Nila Sellers, member, Indian Creek Church, Jacksboro.

## Copper Basin Association

DOM Al Patterson

Officers follow: moderator Mark Deakins, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Turtletown; vice moderator David Brown, pastor, Mine City Church, Ducktown; treasurer Glen Hughes, member, Zion Hill Church; and clerk Vernon Kennedy, member, Bethlehem Church, Copperhill.

## Carroll-Benton Association

DOM James Humphreys Jr.

Humphreys announced his retirement effective at the end of 1989. Eastview Church, Huntingdon, of which Stan Smith is pastor, was admitted under the watchcare program for one year. A mission development program was approved.

Officers were re-elected and are Ken Zike, pastor, Missionary Grove Church, Camden, moderator; Leon Edwards, pastor, First Church, Bruceton, vice moderator; Al Hilliard, member, Eastview Church, treasurer; and Lillian Rice, member, Prospect Church, Hollow Rock, clerk.

## Dyer Association

DOM Joe T. Naylor

A committee was appointed to study feasibility of building homes for



**LOUDON COUNTY OFFICERS** — Leaders of the annual meeting of Loudon County Association were, from left, Director of Missions Raymond Atwood, John Burselson, pastor, Dixie Lee Church, Lenoir City, moderator; Jimmy Riner, pastor, Corinth Church, Loudon, newly elected moderator; and Gene Russell, pastor, Union Ford Creek Church, Loudon, new vice moderator.

— Photo by Connie Davis

retarded adults and messengers voted to oppose the liquor-by-the-drink referendum in Dyersburg on Nov. 7.

New officers are Stan Anderson, pastor, Westside Church, Halls, moderator; Rick O'Bryan, pastor, Roellen Church, Dyersburg, vice moderator; Larry Fowlkes, member, Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes, treasurer; and Cathy Cavness, member, Mt. Vernon Church, Halls, clerk.

## Gibson County Association

DOM Ken Sparkman

J. D. Nowell, member of First Church, Trenton, was honored for 20 years of service as treasurer and was re-elected to serve his 21st.

Minutes were dedicated to the memory of Marilyn Tyree, Woman's Missionary Union leader, and in honor of Gerald Arnold, Brotherhood leader, in recognition of the Year of the Laity, and W. B. Oakley and J. O. Smothers, retired pastors.

In addition to Nowell, new officers are Greg McFadden, pastor, Salem Church, Trenton, moderator; Trevis Oley Jr., pastor, First Church, Trenton, assistant moderator; and Virginia Stephens, member, West Side Church, Trenton, clerk.

## Hamilton County Association

DOM David Al Myers

The association adopted resolutions encouraging churches to emphasize sanctity of life and oppose abortion on demand.

Calvin Metcalf, Tennessee Baptist Convention president and pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; was a guest speaker. Nineteen exhibits on associational and state programs were viewed.

Officers include moderator Richard Blalock, pastor, Apison Church, Chattanooga; vice moderator James Hutchings, pastor, New Bethel Church, Chattanooga; treasurer Arthur Bruner, member, White Oak Church, Chattanooga; and clerk Becky Witt, associational secretary.

## Haywood Association

DOM Charles Pratt

Tennessee Baptist Childrens Homes and Tennessee Baptist Convention Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department honored the association for 100 percent participation in both areas.

Messengers voted to send Pratt on a

missions trip in the Philippines.

Officers are Eddie Mallonee, pastor, Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville, moderator; Gary Aslin, pastor, Antioch Church, Brownsville, vice moderator; Mrs. J. C. Williams, associational secretary, treasurer/clerk; Dewey Jones, member, Holly Grove Church, Bells, assistant treasurer; and Hubert Lovelace, member, Allen Church, Brownsville, historian.

## Holston Valley Association

DOM Charles D. Earl

The association honored E. B. Noe for his work as Church Training director for 26 years.

New officers are moderator Brian Courtney, pastor, First Church, Sneedville; vice moderator John C. Compton, pastor, Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel; and treasurer/clerk Linda D. Williams, member, Choptack Church, Rogersville.

## Jefferson County Association

DOM Jerry E. DeZearn

Officers were re-elected and include moderator Kenneth Richey, pastor, First Church, White Pine; associate moderator Jerry Mantooth, pastor, First Church, New Market; treasurer Dale Gentry, member, Emmanuel Church, Jefferson City, and clerk Kathleen Lockhart, member, Flat Gap Church, New Market.

## Lawrence County Association

DOM Bob M. Polk

Total offerings of churches increased 11 percent. A new black congregation, Greater Tabernacle Mission, was recognized.

Moderator Chris Gowen, pastor, Park Grove Church, Etheridge, was re-elected and Mike Tucker, pastor, St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, was elected vice moderator.

## Midland Association

DOM Glenn F. Ford

Officers were re-elected and follow: moderator Carl Asbury, pastor, Old Beverly Church, Knoxville, vice moderator Archie Elliott, pastor, Mt. Zion Church, Knoxville; treasurer Robert Mynatt, member, Union Church, Knoxville; and clerk Jean Miller, member, Mt. Zion Church.

## New Salem Association

DOM Emery O. Farmer

Vice moderator Johnny Young, who

has resigned as pastor of First Church, Gordonsville, to serve a church in Stone Association, was honored for several years of service.

Officers except vice moderator, which will be elected at a future meeting, were re-elected and include James G. Williams, pastor, Hickman Church, Hickman, moderator; Hilda Ford, member, First Church, Carthage, treasurer; and Ludie Napier, member, Rome Church, Lebanon, clerk.

## Nolachucky Association

DOM Glenn A. Toomey

Toomey was elected Director of Missions Emeritus on his retirement at the end of 1989 and James C. Williams Jr., pastor, Bethel Church, Morristown, was elected to that position.

New officers are Benny Keck, pastor, Buffalo Trail Church, Morristown, moderator; Terry Bunch, pastor, Highland Church, Whitesburg, vice moderator; Joyce Bruce Vile, associational secretary, treasurer/clerk; Barbara Whitt, member, Grace Church, Morristown, assistant clerk; Joe Swann, member, Morningside Church, Morristown, assistant treasurer.

## Polk Association

DOM W. L. Shipman

A. Frank Curbow, moderator for the past two years and the first layman in that role, was honored. Also Jack Tullock, associational music director for ten years, was honored.

New officers are Paul Snyder, member, First Church, Benton, moderator; Kinzel Hooker, pastor, Shiloh Church, Coeoe, assistant moderator; Evelyn Guy, member, First Church, Benton, treasurer/assistant clerk; and Judy Rogers, member, Zion Church, Benton, clerk/assistant treasurer.

## Robertson County Association

DOM Frank Evans

To note the 75th anniversary of the association, activities were held at Springfield's civic auditorium including exhibits by churches and convention programs and music.

A church was voted into membership: Temple Church, White House, where John Fairless is pastor.

Officers were re-elected and are moderator Ray Stonecypher, pastor, North Springfield Church, Springfield; vice moderator Glynn Copeland, pastor, Barren Plains Church, Springfield; treasurer/clerk Jo Nelle James, member, Flewellyn Church, Springfield; and assistant treasurer/clerk Thomas Ray Cooper, member, North Springfield Church.

## Salem Association

DOM Thurman Seber

Association voted to build a new office and conference building.

Officers include Thomas Baines, pastor, Calvary Church, Smithville, moderator; Darrel Whaley, pastor, Burt Church, Woodbury, vice moderator; Ed Edwards, member, West Main Church, Alexandria, treasurer; and Bobby Zumbro, pastor, First Church, Woodbury, clerk.

# Brotherhood Commission trustees approve coed program

MEMPHIS (BP)— Southern Baptists' first coeducational missions education/action program for youth was approved at the October meeting of the denomination's Brotherhood Commission.

Targeted for youth from age 15 through high school seniors, the new program is called World Changers — Southern Baptist youth making a difference. It consists of ten training sessions, typically led by a local church's youth leadership, and culminates in a nine-day missions project.

"If we are going to function in today's culture, we have to function in a coeducational environment," said Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith.

"Involving Baptist teenagers in a project of the magnitude of World

Changers can help shape a world view out of which comes a heightened receptivity to ongoing missions education and participation," said Dellanna O'Brien, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union president, from her office in Birmingham, Ala.

"The future of our missions endeavors is the involvement of our young people," said Billy Summerlin, Brotherhood trustee chairman from Gadsden, Ala. "If we miss them, we've missed a great opportunity for our future missions movement."

Trustees approved a new staff position, special projects coordinator for the children and youth division. Mike Day, former editor of High School Baptist Young Men's curriculum, will fill that position and develop the World Changers program.

World Changers will be piloted next summer with churches in Tennessee's Shelby Baptist Association, where the Brotherhood Commission is located, Day said. Two hundred youth are expected to participate in a summer project tentatively slated for Appalachia.

Brotherhood officials said World Changers is designed to enhance existing High School Baptist Young Men, Pioneer Royal Ambassador and Acteen programs by providing an option for

cooperative missions involvement.

World Changers also is designed for churches without a youth missions education program that wish to provide missions involvement experience.

A third target group cited by Day is "non-traditional" Brotherhood audiences. Black and ethnic leaders reportedly have endorsed World Changers as the "kind of combination" needed for their youth, he said.

In other business, trustees heard reports on a year-long financial turnaround and disaster response.

Smith reported to the trustees that the Brotherhood Commission's "year of austerity" left the agency in the black Sept. 30, the last day of the fiscal year. A year ago, the commission had an estimated \$110,000 deficit following the introduction of two new programs

and the production of more than 30 new publications.

The commission's income statement shows a net gain of \$287,477.12 for the year. The commission currently is operating on a budget of \$3,132,788.

In 1988-89, the Brotherhood Commission faced the challenge of two hurricanes — Gilbert and Hugo — in its disaster relief program. Working with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, 570 Brotherhood-recruited volunteers went to Jamaica to rebuild churches following Hurricane Gilbert. Brotherhood trustee John Baxley of St. Augustine, Fla., was the on-site coordinator.

More recently, volunteers from 11 states fed 350,312 meals in South Carolina following Hurricane Hugo.

## Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

### Religion: More than skin deep

"But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God," — Romans 2:29.

The rite of circumcision was given as a sign of the covenant of promise made to Abraham and his seed (Genesis 17:10-14). By the first century it was thought by some Jews to be necessary for salvation. The Judaizers (Christian Jews with a Pharisaical background, Acts 15:1, 5) insisted that for Gentiles to be saved they must become Jews (be circumcised and keep the Mosaic law), and then believe in Jesus. See Galatians and Acts 15. Romans and Galatians were written at the same time. Indeed, Galatians may be called a mini-Romans. They cover the same field,

only Romans is longer and more logical.

In Romans 2:25-29 Paul argues that for Jews who do not keep the Mosaic law, circumcision has no meaning (v. 25). Gentiles who keep God's law, but have not been circumcised, are more "Jews" in the true sense of the word (vv. 26-28). Being Jews or people of God is not outward but inward. It is circumcision of the heart and spirit, not of the outward letter.

"Praise" may refer to the root Hebrew of "Jew." "Jew" means a man of Judah. In the Old Testament this name is associated with the Hebrew yadah which means "praise" (Genesis 29:35; 49:8).

So being a Jew is more than skin-deep. It is of the heart. The same may be said of Christians. Christians are not those who have submitted themselves to certain rites such as baptism. It calls for a life-changing confession and commitment of the heart to Jesus Christ.



HOBBS

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# TenneScene

Cross the state from Goodfield through Burnt Church, on to Overall ...

## Churches ...

A new addition of classrooms and a fellowship hall has been constructed at Morrisetts Chapel, Whitesburg.

Members of Central Church, Hixson, dedicated their new Faith Building Sept. 24.

The New Kingdom Clown Troupe at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, will hold a Christian Clown Seminar Nov. 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Clowns will demonstrate how to start a clown ministry by using clown makeup, special costumes, balloon animals, and juggling. The cost is \$10, which includes lunch and a snack. The seminar is open to people of all ages.

Bellevue Church, Nashville, will celebrate its 17th anniversary Nov. 5 with a potluck dinner following the morning worship.

## Leadership ...

First Church, Hixson, recently called Jimmy Arms as staff evangelist. He served two years in Malawi with the Foreign Mission Board. Russell Washburn recently celebrated his fourth anniversary as minister of education at First Church.

Dan Hyde has accepted a call from College Heights Church, Gallatin, to serve as associate pastor with responsibilities in the youth ministry. Dan and his wife, Kelley, are from Marietta, Ga. He is a graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jack Tullock was honored Oct. 8 for his 10th year anniversary as minister of music at Wetmore Church, Delano.

Gerry Gallimore was recently called as pastor to Hodges Chapel, Palmersville.

First Church, Chattanooga, called Mary Jayne Allen as minister with adults. The title for staff member Jack Kay was changed to associate pastor: music and senior adults.

Eulis Scoggins was called as pastor to Antioch Church, McDonald.

State Line Church, Laurel Bloomery, called Derl McCloud as interim pastor effective Aug. 28.

Immanuel Church, McEwen, called Thomas Drake as associate pastor.

Nathan Tucker was called to Blairland Church, Loudon, as associate to the pastor/minister of youth and outreach, effective Sept. 10. He was formerly minister of youth and music at Mack's Grove Church, Dresden.

Alamo Church, Rives, called Kenneth Williams as pastor.

## Ordinations ...

Cleveland Wyatt was ordained as deacon Oct. 15 at Georgian Hills Church, Memphis.

First Church, Knoxville, ordained several deacons Oct. 1. They are Hal Atwater, Jim Damewood, Wanda Edmondson, Jim Goodloe, Gene Hale, Suzie Hall, Mary Hutson, Paul Ivie Jr., and Fred Markham.

Allen McCroskey was ordained as deacon at Saturn Drive Church, Nashville.

Two Rivers Church, Nashville, ordained Brent Lamb to the ministry Oct. 29.

Dwight Corbin was ordained as deacon at Buchanan Church, Buchanan.

## Missions ...

First Church, Hendersonville, traveled to Adirondack Association in New York during the summer to help Powerhouse Chapel, Cranberry Lake, with Vacation Bible School and construction.

## Revivals ...

Lascassas Church, Lascassas, recently held revival with evangelist Ron Meyer, director of evangelism for Illinois Baptists. Warren Wrather, Murfreesboro, led music. There were three additions to the church.

Immanuel Church, Nashville, will hold revival Nov. 5-8 with evangelist Ken Chafin, pastor of Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky. Julian Suggs, director of the Church Music Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will lead music.

Roy Graves will lead revival Nov. 5-10 at Boiling Springs Church, Baxter.

East Ridge Church, Chattanooga, will hold revival Nov. 5-9 with evangelist Charles Hyder. L. C. Campbell will lead music.

Beulah Association reported several revivals held recently. Churches and leaders follow: Antioch Church, Hornbeak, James Kinsey; Blessed Hope Church, Troy, Bill George; First Church, Troy, Laverne Butler and Barry Keathley; and Walnut Log Church, Union City, Jimmy Yarbrough.

Good Hope Church, Adamsville, held revival Oct. 1-4. Charlie Cooper, Rieni, Miss., led the services.

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**DOM HONORED** — Bill McLwain, right, director of missions for Fayette Association, recently received the 1989 Outstanding Director of Missions award, presented by John Adams, vice president for religious affairs at Union University. The award is presented annually by Union to a selected director of missions in recognition of his contribution to his denomination, state convention, association, and Christian education.

David Walker, pastor of Alamo City Church, San Antonio, Texas, led revival Oct. 1-4 at Red Bank Church, Chattanooga. Bill Appling led music.

Walter Taylor recently spoke at revival at Grove Hill Church, Knoxville.

Gray M. Allison spoke at revival Oct. 1-4 at Calvary Church, Lenoir City.

Sharon Church, Knoxville, held revival Oct. 1-5 with speaker George Williams and music director Peter Ambrose.

Cletus Duke led revival Oct. 1-6 at First Church, Decaturville.

Stevens Street Church, Cookeville, held revival Sept. 24-29 with evangelist Walter Ayers. Joe Morgan led music.

Oscar Roan, former professional football player for the Los Angeles Rams and the Cleveland Browns, will be the evangelist for the Shelby County Correctional Center Prison Crusade Nov. 10-12. Roan, now a corrections officer for the Dallas County Jail, is a frequent speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The meeting is sponsored by the Shelby Baptist Criminal Justice Fellowship.

Approximately 75 counselors are needed for the crusade. Training sessions on prison counseling and unique aspects of prison rules will be held at Ridgeway Church, Memphis, Nov. 2 and Nov. 4. Interested persons should contact Bill O'Rork, chairman of the prison fellowship, at (901) 363-8613 or 388-3436 for additional information.

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# Dealing with misunderstanding about Christ's return

By Deryl G. Watson, director of missions; Hardeman County Association

## Introduction

The Thessalonian Christians were in danger of losing sight of Christ as a present reality. They were still confused about the return of Christ, even though Paul had already addressed the matter. Many believed Christ had already returned (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-2, 8-10, 12-18). This lesson further emphasizes matters about Christ's return in answer to the confusion on the part of the Thessalonian Christians.



WATSON

The man of sin's opposition to God (2:3-10)

The man of sin was not identified by Paul. The Thessalonian Christians had access to information to help them understand the words of Paul. We do not have that information. Many Bible scholars have placed this Scripture alongside other Scriptures and concluded that this person is the Antichrist, particularly because of the Antichrist's relationship to Christ's second coming.

The term falling away here means to stand away from. After this falling away, the man of sin will be revealed. It is significant that the word sin here means lawlessness, a total disregard of moral law. Humanity shall be fully aware of his existence. Paul says there will thus be a falling away, a rebellion,

and this son of perdition will appear.

Paul made it clear from the use of the word perdition that the destiny of this man of sin is sealed. He will perish. The most popular candidate for this man of sin is the Antichrist, because of his relationship to the second coming of Christ.

Paul's description of this person continued. The man of sin is one who opposes God, and exalts himself against God. He is characterized as being against every other so called god or object of worship (v. 4). He is thus worse than the worst sinner.

We are introduced to a new figure in verse 6. The man of sin is restrained until the correct time, God's time. We are reminded that the mystery of iniquity is already in existence and this man of sin will appear immediately prior to the return of Christ. Since he is totally lawless, all similarity of law and order will disappear.

The power of Christ is set forth (v. 8). Paul did not say "when," but that Christ will triumph.

The simplicity and power of Christ is shown. He will not bring armament against this lawless one. He will simply destroy him by the breath of His mouth and His appearance. Paul knew and we know that the world operates under a system of law and order. By destroying law and order the man of sin, will set himself against God. Christ will triumph against this power

which will destroy all order. "What a powerful Lord we serve."

The man of sin will also have a "coming." This will be under Satan's operation or "working." This working is the norm of Satan, lying, deception, error, and the result, eternal destruction. This will be seen in the power, signs, and lying wonders of the man of sin. His miracles will be like the miracles of the ancient Egyptian magicians. Those that perish accept the miracles of the man of sin as genuine.

**BIBLE BOOK SERIES**  
November 5 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13, 15  
Focal Passages: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13, 15

They will perish forever as a result of following this person. They chose the way of Satan, and they could have chosen Jesus. Because of their choice, they will perish.

Rejectors of truth to experience delusion (2:11-12)

The phrase for this cause points back to verse 10 where they chose the man of sin and not Christ. For this reason, God gave them up. Paul regarded God as totally sovereign. The passage in Romans 1:24, 26, and 28, helps us understand this action of God. God gave them up because they rejected Him again and again. This question cannot be answered this side of eterni-

ty, and when we reach heaven it will no longer be of significance to the Christian.

Paul commends and challenges true believers (2:13, 15)

It is as if Paul breathed a sigh of relief and then commended the Thessalonian Christians because they chose God because He chose them for salvation. The term chosen here has special significance in that the emphasis is on selecting by the act of taking rather than by showing preference or favor; God does not choose people for condemnation. God chooses people for salvation, sanctification, and glorification. Sanctification is the ongoing process of Christian growth through the power of the Holy Spirit. A true evidence of salvation is sanctification in the life of the saved person.

As saved people, they are to stand fast in those words and deeds of Jesus which have been passed down to them. They are also to rely on the epistle Paul has written to them (v. 15).

Paul reminded us in this lesson to be careful about our perceptions of the second coming of Christ. Our ideas and thoughts must be directed by the Scripture. While certain world events and circumstances are predicted by the Scripture, care must be taken to not set time limits on God and the second coming of Christ. God wants people to be saved, however, unbelievers in reality choose against Him and ultimately choose Satan.

# The Redeeming Lamb

By Charles E. Gibbs Jr., pastor; Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville

In the book of Revelation, the first three chapters deal with conditions in churches on earth. In chapter 4, the scene changes to worship activities around the throne of God in heaven.

John saw an open door in heaven. A voice like a trumpet said, "Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter."



GIBBS

John saw the throne of God. The one who sat upon the throne looked like jasper and sardine stones. The jasper stone was pure white and symbolized the holiness of God. The sardine stone was deep red and represented a picture of God's redemptive nature. There was a rainbow around the throne. In Genesis 9:12-17, we find that God gave the rainbow as a sign of living hope. The rainbow was like an emerald, which was green and a symbol of hope and mercy.

Around the throne were 24 elders. I believe that 24 indicates the total of Old Testament patriarchs and New Testament apostles. They represented all of God's people in worshipping God. Their white garments symbolized their freedom and the crowns of gold their victory over the enemy.

Lightning, thunder, and voices came from the throne, which meant judgment was coming.

"The seven spirits of God" is a reference to the Holy Spirit.

In the midst of the throne were four beasts. They were like a lion, a calf,

the face of a man, and a flying eagle. All of creation shall be redeemed, not just man. All are attracted to God and worship Him.

In chapter 5, we find the Redeeming Lamb. The lamb is a dominating theme of the Bible. A favorite hymn sung today is "Just As I Am."

"Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee

O, Lamb of God, I come! I Come!"

What makes Christianity different from all other religions? It is that God came down and became the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. The Lord Jesus Christ built His kingdom, not on our blood, but on His own precious blood. The central force in this world is not power, knowledge, or wisdom, but a Lamb of God loving us enough to die for us. Other religions say so. Christianity says it is done.

There are four pictures of the Lamb in the Word of God. Genesis 22:7 "where is the Lamb?" Exodus 12:13 "when I see the blood, I will pass over you!" John 1:29 "behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

All attention then focused on the one who has a book written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. The strong angel said, "who is worthy to open the book?" This book deals with the redemption of God's created universe and everything in it.

This sealed scroll recalls the ancient Jewish custom of the kinsman-redeemer, Ruth 4. Under the law, when an owner of property allowed

another to take possession of it, a sort of mortgage deed was given to the original property owner. This was a sealed scroll which stated that at some future date, a representative kinsman could reclaim that property if the purchase price was met. The landowner's representative had to be a legal kinsman and be worthy of the right to purchase this property when he paid the purchase price. Then and only then, could he break the seals on the scroll.

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November 5 Lesson  
Basic Passages: Revelation 4:1 to 5:14  
Focal Passage: Revelation 5:1-12

Satan has cursed God's world. The world does not rightfully belong to him. Some day God will redeem this world and cast Satan into Hell. The story of how this will be done was revealed in the seven sealed books.

The angel searched the entire universe. No man in heaven, in earth, or under the earth was able to open the book.

By sin all men have forfeited any worthiness to open this scroll. Men through the centuries have tried to regain paradise, only to fail time after time.

The angel wept much because, unless someone was found worthy, there would be no redemption. It meant that death, sin, and hell would reign forever.

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One of the elders said, "weep not; behold the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book." The title deed is in the hand of God. Only Jesus has paid the purchase price. He has purchased all things by His death on calvary.

The Lamb that stands in the midst of the throne is the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus took the book, the four beasts and 24 elders fell down before the Lamb saying, "thou art worthy to take the book . . . for thou was slain and has redeemed us to God by Thy blood . . . And thou hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth."

Angels say, "worthy is the Lamb." Every creature says, "blessing, honor, glory, and power be unto the Lord forever and forever."

Let us all fall on our knees and worship the Lamb of God who saved us by His blood.

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# The work of missions

By Mattie Carroll Mullins, layperson; Gray Church, Gray

The motive of missions is given to us clearly in Matthew 9:35-38.

Jesus went about the cities and villages teaching, preaching, and healing. He ministered to all kinds of needs among the people. We are told that Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion. He saw the helpless and troubled and immediately began to do whatever was necessary to meet their needs.

This shows that a deep love for people is necessary before one can do mission work. Jesus compared these people to a field of grain which was ready to be harvested and needed laborers to work. He gave the example to the disciples and encouraged them



MULLINS

to be willing workers in harvesting souls for Jesus Christ. This is a clear direction for us to share the Gospel and lead people to salvation through Jesus Christ.

After dedicated Christians hear God's call to missions, they must follow as Barnabas and Saul (Paul) did when they were called and set apart for a special work. Acts 13:2-3, and 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 tells us how these mission-minded churches supported those sent out through prayer, fasting, and commitment.

Third John 5-8 tells us how we are to be partners in missions.

Several years ago when Tennessee Baptists entered into a partnership missions program with Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), West Africa, my husband and I went as volunteers. Upon completion of our thirty days, Claude and Jewell Jennings traveled with us across the continent of Africa to visit my brother who is a missionary in Jinga, Uganda, East Africa. Every day was filled with visiting mission points;

distributing Gospel tracts, clothing, and seeds; sorting out hundreds of books to be used in schools; and participating in activities planned and implemented by our foreign missionaries.

One day we journeyed over rough, treacherous dirt roads to attend an all day Baptist Woman's meeting and pastor's conference. As we drove into the narrow pathway, toward the open-sided lean-to church building, we were astonished beyond words. About 100 African women were lined up in single file on one side, and about 100 African

teachers, missionaries, and men and women of God from Tennessee. We knew then we were "doing missions."

We spent the day with these African nationals praying, listening, preaching, teaching, eating, and hearing reports of their work in mission points that covered a 300-mile area. We shared ways to reach their people for Jesus Christ. We were amazed to hear their concern about people in our homeland who had not come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jewell Jennings, former Tennessee WMU president, speaking through an interpreter, told them what Baptist women in Tennessee were committed to doing in their individual lives, churches, and associations. She challenged these African women to be laborers together for Christ.

We knew we were the missionaries they had anticipated meeting.

There are many ways we can work in world missions. We must communicate God's message to all mankind — by caring for people; by praying; by sending missionaries; by going ourselves; by providing resources; and by giving financial support.

Which of these tasks will you participate in? Will you follow Jesus' example to the disciples in teaching, preaching, and caring? Will you be committed to praying for missions — first for more missionaries, and then for their safety and effectiveness? Will you pray for the reception of the Gospel and for new churches in every state of our homeland and around the world? Will you follow the Holy Spirit's leadership to work for missions?

## LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

November 5 Lesson

Basic Passages: Matthew 9:35-38;

Acts 13:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2;

3 John 5-8

Focal Passages: Matthew 9:35-38;

Acts 13:2-3; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2;

3 John 5-8

men were lined up single file on the other side, clapping and singing to the top of their lungs. Dozens of African children ran in all directions, making the same sounds of merriment. As they all saw the landrover approaching, they added much dancing, shouting, and beating of drums. We began to hear Swahili phrases which my brother immediately interpreted to us as "The missionaries are here."

At first we thought they were welcoming and greeting my brother and sister-in-law, but as they continued with additional remarks which meant, "Bwana Carroll's sister and friends have come from America," we realized they were expecting all of us.

As the meeting began, the interpreter over and over welcomed the

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## TENNESSEE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

### ANNUAL MEETING

November 13, 1989  
Central Baptist Church,  
Fountain City (Knoxville)



Bob Burroughs  
Musician



Pat Stooksbury  
Costa Rica

That Every Tongue  
Shall Confess

SESSIONS: 10:00 a.m.,  
1:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.



Esther Burroughs  
Home Mission Board



Paula Settle  
Togo

### HIGHLIGHTS:

Missionaries  
Introduction of new  
officers  
Acteens Studiact  
Recognition  
Introduction of  
Acteens Panelists



Carter Davis  
Windward Islands



Bill Black  
Gatlinburg

Bylaw changes of the  
organization will be con-  
sidered during the morning  
business session.

PRESIDING:  
Carol Pharris, president



Charlotte Davis  
Windward Islands

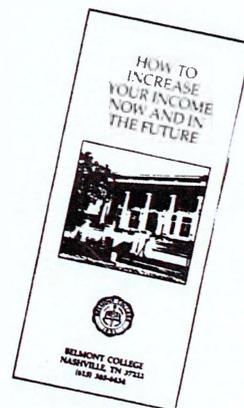


Cindy Black  
Gatlinburg

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**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Four children die in Seoul church fire**

SEOUL, South Korea — Four children died and about a dozen more were in critical condition following a fire Oct. 16 that destroyed a kindergarten facility at a Baptist church in Seoul, South Korea.

When the fire broke out during lunchtime, 33 children were at the Seoul Memorial Baptist Church kindergarten, said missionary Virgil Cooper, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in South Korea.

One child died before arriving at a hospital and three died later, Cooper said. Twenty-nine others were being treated at pediatric and burn wards in four hospitals. The kindergarten was housed on the third floor of a three-story educational building at the church. The church kindergarten program was uninsured, Cooper said.

Officials suspect the fire might have been electrical in origin or the result of children playing with matches. The wife of David Han, the church's pastor, directs the kindergarten program and could be detained and tried because of the Oriental custom of holding someone responsible for a tragedy, Cooper said.

"They really need our prayer ... for the Lord's wisdom and guidance. In this hour it's real dark for these folks," he said. "It could mean the demise of the church, although I don't think it will."

Should the church withstand the financial pressure from possible lawsuits, it still must cope with adverse publicity because of the incident, Cooper said.

Pastor Han is a former president of the Korea Baptist Convention. The church attracts up to 1500 people each week during six Sunday services, Cooper said. It was established in the early 1950s by Southern Baptists' first missionaries to South Korea, John and Jewell Abernathy, with help from American military chaplains who served in the Korean War.

**Baptist pastor killed in eastern Uganda**

SOROTI, Uganda — War, rebel activity, and church growth continue side by side in eastern Uganda, and a Baptist pastor is among the recent victims. The bullet-riddled body of Ugandan pastor Joseph Ejeru, 40, was found in late July. The anti-government National Resistance Army and several rebel-bandit groups are active in the area.

Ejeru recently had moved back to his home village near the Teso District capital of Soroti. No Baptist congregations existed in the village, and he had organized two churches. He commonly stayed overnight while traveling and evangelizing in the area, so his family was not alarmed when he failed to come home one night. His body was found several days later.

"Please pray that God will give comfort to his wife and four children and leadership to the two churches," requested Harry Garvin, Southern Baptist missionary in Teso, when he reported the murder.

**West German pastor ministers to immigrants**

BRAMSCHHE, West Germany — Johann Macher begins his day's work by checking a long list of newly arrived immigrants from the Soviet Union. Macher is one of 15 full-time ministers to refugees and immigrants working with the West German Baptist Union.

On one recent day, the list showed 152 Soviet newcomers had arrived. Dozens had the word "Baptist" in the column asking church membership. Macher highlighted these names with a blue marker, loaded up a briefcase with letters of welcome, Bibles and Christian literature, and headed out on visitation rounds.

He works at the Bramsche-Hesepe Reception Center, which houses some 3000 immigrants for about a week upon their arrival in the country. It is the largest of the eight centers set up by the West German government to help immigrants. Macher helps lead daily worship services, swapping days with a Menonite worker with whom he shares an office.

A gentle man with a ready smile, he spends the morning getting acquainted with people, asking about their situations, handing out literature. Often he stops for visits in their dormitory-like rooms filled with double bunk beds. When he is not working in the camp, Macher, formerly a pastor, visits immigrant families who have settled in the Bramsche-Osnabruck area and helps them organize churches.

The Bramsche-Hesepe center is a former military base that is being expanded into a permanent center for immigrants. Its brick buildings are substantial and in good condition but offer little privacy for the families crowded in the large rooms. "They are so happy to be here, though, they never complain," Macher observed.

A native of Hungary, he understands the immigrants' feelings. He and his wife, Sophia, fled Hungary during the Soviet-crushed revolt of 1956. They went to Austria and Switzerland, where he graduated from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, before settling in West Germany.

**Hepatitis, complications claim missionary Barry Nottingham**

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Barry Nottingham, a first-term Southern Baptist missionary to Burkina Faso, died Oct. 23 of hepatitis and subsequent complications.

Nottingham, 35, had contracted the disease a week earlier. His condition deteriorated rapidly Oct. 21 and he was flown from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, to a hospital in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. He died there before medical evacuation to the United States was possible.

Nottingham, of Waco, Texas, was the father of three children. He was pastor of First Church, Bynum, Texas, from 1982 until he and his wife, the former Dana Lamb of Pasadena, Texas, were appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries in 1987. Mrs. Nottingham and the children were scheduled to fly from Abidjan to Houston Oct. 23. Nottingham's body also will be flown to the United

States after arrangements are completed.

**Moore announces retirement from First Church, Amarillo**

DALLAS (BP) — W. Winfred Moore, former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and two-time nominee for SBC president, announced he will retire at the end of this year as pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, where he has been for 30 years.

In announcing his retirement, Oct. 15, Moore, 69, told members of the church that his health is good and his "zeal and strength better than when I came." Moore said he and his wife, Elizabeth, will live somewhere in Texas but not in Amarillo.

"This is the toughest part, he said, "but the new pastor does not need the shadow of the former pastor across his path all the time." Although he is retiring from the pastorate, Moore said, he will continue to be active in Baptist General Convention of Texas and Southern Baptist Convention matters.

He resigned recently as chairman of Baptists Committed to the SBC, a group that describes itself as "mainstream centrists," but he remains on the group's executive committee. "I intend to remain active in the effort to return our convention to the place where we accept our diversity and give support to our institutions and agencies," Moore said.

Moore was educated at Lambeth College and Union University in Jackson, and George Peabody College in Nashville. He also holds the doctor of divinity degree from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, and the doctor of laws degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

**Bay area Baptists seek to shore up spiritual foundations**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Southern Baptists shaken by shock waves of the Oct. 17 "world series" earthquake are seeking to shore up unstable spiritual foundations in northern California. "Baptists are praying that the earthquake will wake Californians up to their need for God," said Larry Fisher, director of missions for East Bay Baptist Association in Oakland.

Dan Cookson, church and community ministries director for East Bay Association, challenged church members in the association to respond to the opportunities for ministry that the earthquake had provided. He pointed out the needs are not only physical, but spiritual and mental.

To help people handle the psychological stress of dealing with the trauma of the earthquake, Cookson arranged for Baptists to provide counseling services at White Oak Grove Church in Oakland. Cookson said the church and association will provide counseling not only for residents of the area but for rescue workers, police, and volunteers. The church is located just four blocks from the mile-long Cyprus section of Interstate 880 that collapsed in Oakland, killing at least 38 people. Oakland officials, who first feared more than 250 people had been killed in the tragedy, lowered the estimated number of deaths to 85.

In addition, two elderly Baptist laymen died of heart attacks brought on by stress and fear related to the earthquake. John Joel, pianist for Immanuel Church in south San Francisco, and Harry Stutte of Clinton Avenue Church in Fairfield suffered fatal heart attacks during the tremors.

Greg Summi, director of the missions ministries department for the California Southern Baptist Convention in Fresno, said the disaster has opened doors for Baptists to be involved in helping non-Christians in California grapple with spiritual questions friends and coworkers face.

The earthquake shook people spiritually, psychologically, and physically, Summi said. It has prompted them to think about the deeper questions of life. Baptists can provide comfort and counsel in times like these to help people cope with the problems of life, he said.

**Southwestern Seminary trustees elect executive vice president**

FORT WORTH, Texas — Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, elected an executive vice president and approved a plan allowing the school to proceed with construction of a new music library.

Scotty Gray, professor of church music and associate dean of the School of Church Music's academic division, was elected executive vice president. Gray, 55, has taught at Southwestern since 1966. He is a graduate of the seminary, holding the master of church music and doctor of musical arts degrees. The recommendation of seminary President Russell Dilday to elect Gray included a change in the school's bylaws eliminating the position of vice president for planning and research and replacing it with an executive vice president.

Dilday told trustees the executive vice president will "assist the president in the general operation of the seminary and in coordinating the work of the school's four institutional divisions" — academic affairs, business affairs, public affairs, and student affairs. Gray, who currently is heading Southwestern's self-study accreditation program, will assume his duties Jan. 1.

Trustees also approved a recommendation allowing an anonymous donor to set up a \$1 million trust that will provide an interest-only loan to the seminary. Income from the trust also could be donated to defray the interest cost. The money will be used to construct the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library. According to terms of the agreement, the loan will be forgiven at the donor's death.

Construction of the library is the first of a three-phase, \$5 million project for the School of Church Music. The other phases include renovation of Cowden Hall, which houses the school, and expansion of music education facilities.

**Seelig retiring from Southwestern Seminary**

FORT WORTH, Texas — John Seelig, vice president for public affairs at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will retire Jan. 31, 1990, after 30 years of service.

During his tenure at Southwestern, Seelig, who turns 65 in December, has helped raise more than \$65 million for the school while directing the seminary's public relations/development program.