

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 155/NO. 45/NOVEMBER 8, 1989

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Opposition to pornography grows; Nashville Coalition established

NASHVILLE (BP) — As a "tidal wave" of opposition to pornography sweeps across America, more than 40 major communities nationwide have eliminated obscenity and child pornography in recent years, Alan Sears, executive director of Children's Legal Foundation, said in Nashville.

"A groundswell of public support for the battle against pornography did not exist five or six years ago," Sears told more than 400 people attending a breakfast of the Chamber of Commerce. "There has been a change in attitude all across America toward pornography."

Sears, a former member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, was executive director of the Attorney General's Commission on Por-

nography that spent a year examining pornography in America.

"Pornography is the ultimate in hate literature," Sears said. "It makes human beings hate themselves because no human being can perform at the levels pornography describes. Viewers of pornography develop a warped view of reality that turns into hatred. Pornography leads men to say to themselves, 'If I can't measure up, it must be her fault.'"

Studies have indicated that the largest category of consumers of pornography are youth who are in the 12-17 age range, who acquire pornography even though they cannot legally purchase it.

Sears referred to the results of a recent study done of high school and junior high school students in Houston as evidence of how widely exposed to pornography teenagers really are:

- One hundred percent of boys surveyed had seen pornography.
- Ninety-one percent of boys and 82 percent of girls surveyed had seen pornography frequently. The average boy had looked at pornography extensively more than 16 times.
- The average age at first exposure to hard-core pornography was 13.5 years.
- Thirty-one percent of high school boys surveyed said they had tried out actions portrayed by pornography.
- Younger boys appear to be the most impressionable. The desire to "try things out" was found to be greater in younger boys.

Pornography does harm to society that goes beyond its influence on consumers, Sears said.

"One of the most famous pornographic films, 'Deep Throat,' was made at a cost of about \$35,000. It netted \$35 million in profits," he said. "The Colombo organized crime family (See page 5)

HMB has number to help volunteers

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has installed a toll-free telephone line to assist home missions volunteers and people needing volunteer assistance.

The number is (800) HMB-VOLS, or (800) 462-8657.

Calls on the toll-free line will be answered in the HMB's volunteer division office. Division Director Don Hammonds said the line was installed to allow Southern Baptists easier access to information about volunteer missions opportunities and to assist missionaries, pastors, and associational workers who want to request volunteer assistance.



DEDICATION PLANNED — A dedication service for the new Baptist Center in Brentwood will be held Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. The executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention meets Dec. 7-8 for its regularly scheduled December meeting. The Baptist Center also will be open Saturday, Dec. 9, for Tennessee Baptists and others from the Brentwood community who wish to tour the facilities. The open house will be from 1-4 p.m.

Tennessee Baptists to help rebuild S. C. homes smashed by hurricane

Approximately 300 Tennessee Baptists are expected to spend all or part of Thanksgiving week in South Carolina, helping residents there pick up the pieces from Hurricane Hugo which struck the Carolina coast and surrounding areas in late September.

Cameron Byler, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department and coordinator of Tennessee's relief efforts, said about 200 people (20 teams) already have committed to the trip.

Needs exist for approximately 100 more people who would be divided into teams of six to ten, Byler added.

The teams will be working in the Macedonia community near Moncks Corner, the same area TBC volunteers served just days after the hurricane.

Byler said volunteers will be repairing roofs, reroofing churches and

houses, and building houses for "people who lost everything."

He noted team leaders will need some knowledge of building and roofing. There is also a need for electricians, plumbers, chain saw operators, and "any willing bodies who are able to go and help."

Byler said the TBC's mobile feeding unit will be sent to prepare meals for the volunteers. Volunteers are asked to bring basic tools for reroofing and sleeping bags.

Byler, who was in South Carolina last week surveying the needs, said there are now 23 "definite" projects and expects there will be 30 or more by that week.

Individuals or churches interested in sending teams should contact Byler at (615) 371-4045 or Curtis Fowler, projects coordinator, at (615) 588-6047.

Tennessee churches join trial plan

Six Tennessee Baptist churches enrolled in the Baptist and Reflector three months free trial plan of subscriptions during October.

Joining the list of subscribers are Mt. Pisgah Church, Bradford, Billy Murphy, pastor; Fellowship Church, Mt. Juliet, Jerry Smith, pastor; Union Chapel Church, Kingston, Raymond Brown, pastor; First Church, Oneida, Philip Kazee, pastor; Mullins Station, Memphis, John T. Herring, pastor; and Blairland Church, Loudon, David Abernathy, pastor.

Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport, became a subscribing church, also last month, sending the paper to its resident families.

With these additions, circulation continues to show a steady increase. Circulation now is over 71,000.

According to Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, many churches that were introduced to specialized subscriptions plans during October associational meetings now are reviewing the Church Budget Plan (\$5.56 per family), church club plans of \$6.25 each in groups of ten or more, the free trial plan.

Several churches also are considering the Church Newsletter Page Plan — which incorporates the local church newsletter in regular editions of the paper at a minimal cost.

More information about each plan can be secured by mail.

Allen says, "We are grateful for those new readers. Our goal is to continue to report news and features with honesty, truth, and integrity."

Goal barely missed

CP giving increases over 1988

Although Tennessee Baptists contributed 6.34 percent more than last year's Cooperative Program total, the year's end report shows that gifts were 4.44 per cent below the 1989 budget goal.

According to Nov. 1, 1988-Oct. 31, 1989 figures, D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer, reported that giving amounted to \$24,157,317.66.

That total exceeds last year's \$22,716,844.03 by 6.34 percent, or \$1,440,473.63.

The CP budget goal for the Tennessee Baptist Convention was \$25,281,000. The shortfall amounts to \$1,123,682.34.

October gifts amounted to \$1,855,329.70, a gain of \$86,424.73 over October 1988.

To reach the budget goal, Tennessee Baptist Convention leaders realized October had to attain a record level. Lowrie noted that TBC churches gave unstintingly, but acknowledged that some fifth Sun-

day's offerings in October "did not reach TBC accounting offices in time to be counted in the 1988-89 budget."

This means that November gifts could be somewhat higher than last year.

The new TBC budget year began Nov. 1, and runs through next Oct. 31. "We commend our churches for unselfishly sharing with many needs through the Cooperative Program. We all recognize that we will have to be very careful as good stewards during this budget year which has just begun," Lowrie said.

"We ended the budget year in the black, and we will live within our income this year also," Lowrie added. "We feel good about the 6.34 percent increase given through the churches, which exceeded the inflation rate of about 4.5 percent."

"God is our source. He will provide what we need for what He wants us to do. We're going into the budget year with confidence, and we will be good stewards."

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennessee

Editorials

Specter of speculation rises on eve of convention

The next issue of the Baptist and Reflector will be delivered to messengers attending the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Knoxville.

That issue will come off the press Monday night, November 13, and will be mailed the next afternoon. This is the usual schedule. Condensed versions of the president's message by Calvin Metcalf and the convention sermon by Leonard Markham will be in that issue — so messengers will not receive that paper until Wednesday, November 15, a day after the messages are given in person. That is tradition — a responsible measure by the paper that allows speakers to be heard before they are read.

Already there is much excitement about convention sessions. Messengers have mentally measured distances between Central Church Bearden and surrounding hotels and restaurants. Those who plan to commute also are estimating travel mileage and times.

It is good to make plans early. No doubt consideration will be made about the weather — raincoats, sweaters, and good walking shoes are top considerations.

Also a tradition is speculation about who the new officers will be after the Wednesday afternoon's elections. And, if tradition holds true, a president will be chosen from middle Tennessee, usually, but not necessarily, a pastor.

We trust that the election of TBC officers will not become a time of political jousting. We have heard several names bandied about. The

primary thrust of our convention actions must be that which deals with the spiritual welfare for Tennessee Baptists and other citizens.

We cannot accept the theory that making the politically "right" choice for the presidency is the most important part of the program. We have allowed that to happen in the SBC — and it has caused havoc with fellowship.

We do not wish to be viewed as prophet or prognosticator, but here are some thoughts about the Knoxville convention:

- The voting for a president will be close. Nominees probably will be limited to no more than three or four, and there will be some shuffling before we arrive to a face-off between two.

- Though it would be a perfect time, following the Year of the Laity, to elect a layperson, it is not likely that one will be nominated. There are many qualified persons in this category who actively lead in Tennessee Baptist churches. But this may not be the year.

- Attendance may reach about 2000. We should have twice that many messengers — but unless there is a volatile agenda item, recent history shows that the majority of churches will not elect a full quota of messengers. It is difficult to know whether this is apathy on the part of church members — or hesitancy by pastors to get them involved. On this point, we need to support and trust each other — pastors and laity.

- This is a good time for a call to prayer. Leaders of all state conventions have been

asked by T. W. Hunt and Henry Blackaby to consider the priority of calling a Solemn Assembly to Prayer and Fasting. It is needed.

- There may be a strong statement about abortion, written along the lines of the recent Florida Baptist Convention statement. That action was dampened by a lack of legislative enthusiasm in Florida.

- Some messengers have indicated a desire for a second look at whether the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes should fully accept the offer to lease Rainbow Acres (near Knoxville). Executive Board action in September did not allow that, but gave TBAH permission to work with the Baptist group that has a home for mentally retarded adults. There probably will be a move to include Rainbow Acres in the TBC budget.

- The Executive Board also acted in September to reject the finance committee's suggestion of a one-quarter percent increase in Cooperative Program giving from Tennessee to the SBC. We have been told that a move almost certainly will be made to reinstate the one-quarter percent.

Christians have been prone to hear and believe rumors, like all people. But we believe Tennessee Baptists will rise above rumors, and will act with prayer and wisdom on important recommendations and program matters — without being influenced by rumors. We must discern the truth and act accordingly.

This can be one of our greatest hours as Tennessee Baptists continue on mission for Christ the Lord. — WFA

Church must take responsibility for corporate sins

By Mark Wingfield

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — America's ills never will be healed until the church takes responsibility for the corporate sins of the nation, Henry Blackaby told lay renewal leaders.

Blackaby, prayer and spiritual awakening leader with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, spoke at the conclusion of the National Renewal Conference in Charlotte, N.C. The conference is sponsored annually by the Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department.

Blackaby painted a picture of a nation headed for destruction. "Twenty years ago we could never have imagined that our nation would be in such chaos," he said.

"Sin is running rampant," he added, citing an inventory of ills: drugs, abortion, child abuse, society's refusal to care for its poor, AIDS, teen suicide, moral failure of pastors.

Despite that chaos, "this is a great time for a God-centered renewal," Blackaby said. He gave examples of recent meetings where renewal and revival have begun — indications of a coming spiritual awakening, he said.

However, nationwide spiritual awakening will only take place as religious leaders take responsibility for the nation's sins and lead people into repentance, Blackaby continued.

"If we as leaders do not recognize that the condition of the nation rests squarely on the condition of the church, we have misread our Bibles," he said. "As we go the people of God, so goes the nation.

"Our nation is in this condition because the church is in the condition it is. And we will not recognize it.

"The heart of what I'm trying to say is that the leadership has got to learn to have a corporate identity with the sin of the people of God."

He called on church leaders to take responsibility for the sins of the nation even if they personally were not living in sin: "You may be perfect with God, but if you're a leader, you've got to identify your life with the sins of the people. I've been in too many prayer meetings where we've prayed at the people who sinned because we think we're OK."

Instead religious leaders should be like Jesus, who took upon Himself the sins of the world even though He was without sin, he said.

"Some say, 'Even if the nation goes down, even if the convention goes

down, I know I'm walking with God.' That's an incredible betrayal of leadership."

Blackaby recalled how Moses led a sinful Hebrew nation through the wilderness for 40 years even though he did not share their disbelief.

"Are you leading an individual life?" he asked. "Where are the tears for your brother, lest he be destroyed?"

"Many people today when they see Southern Baptists going in a direction they don't like, leave Southern Baptists. I think God is going to call them into accountability for abandoning leadership."

"You may be right with God. If so, stand with the people before God and say, 'We have sinned.'"

The remedy for corporate sin is genuine repentance, Blackaby said: "We

are not good at repenting. We rededicate our lives, but we do not repent.

"Without repentance, the nation does not stand a chance.

"If Southern Baptists were to absolutely, genuinely repent as one people, it could begin the greatest spiritual awakening ever."

About 100 people attended the four-day conference, where participants heard testimonies about lay renewal and marketplace ministries.

They also participated in a Market-Share Brunch as an example of one way to do marketplace evangelism. Local Christians invited unchurched friends to attend the Saturday brunch at a local hotel. The program featured soprano Beverly Terrell and Christian humorist Van Crouch.

Telephones set for TBC meeting

Two convention office telephones, a press room telephone, and a Baptist and Reflector telephone will be in operation next week during the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville.

The convention office telephones may be used by those needing to contact messengers and visitors attending the convention. The two numbers will be (615) 588-2640 and 584-2181.

Messages telephoned to those numbers will be relayed to convention attenders.

The press room number is (615) 588-7138.

The Baptist and Reflector number is (615) 588-3197.

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor
Lonnie Wilkey, Associate Editor
Connie Davis, Assistant Editor
Connie Umstead, News Assistant

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Barbara Cox, Administrative Secretary
Rita Gambill, Production Assistant
Susie Edwards, Church Pages

Baptist and Reflector is published weekly except Christmas week by the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$6.25; church budget plan, \$5.56 when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing offices. (USPS 041-780).

Space forbids printing of resolutions, obituaries, and poetry. Advertising rates on request.

Baptist and Reflector holds membership with Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Telephone: (615) 371-2003.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ray Fowler, chairman; Calvin Harvell, vice chairman; Gary Anderson, Raymond Boston, Herschel Chevallier, Paul Durham, M. B. Howard, James Hulson, Moncrief Jordan, John D. Laid, Murray Mathis, Calvin Metcalf, Howard Olive, Jerry Oakley, James Parch, Dennis Pulley, Lon Shoopman, and Emerson Wiles Jr.

Baptists continue relief efforts to disaster victims

By Tim Yarbrough

MEMPHIS (BP) — Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers have started a limited feeding effort to assist residents displaced by the California earthquake after serving a record 350,000 meals following Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina.

A team of 11 Alabama volunteers arrived in California Oct. 24, said Eddie Pettit of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, who is coordinating California disaster efforts. The group started serving meals from Ramsey Park in Watsonville, which is located about 14 miles southeast of Santa Cruz.

Reggie Quimby, missionary in residence at the Alabama State Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department, said the group has prepared and served an average of 1100 meals daily since its arrival in the area, which is occupied mainly by Hispanic and Mexican migrant farm workers.

Alabama volunteers are serving Mexican food instead of its normal Southern-style cuisine, Quimby said: "We're serving tortillas, hot sauce, salsa, pinto beans and cooking a lot of chili con carne. It's a first for us."

Damage to downtown Watsonville, population 25,000, was extensive, he reported: "All of downtown is blocked off. It looks like a lot of it will have to be bulldozed down. A lot of houses have had their foundations knocked out from underneath them."

South Carolina efforts

In South Carolina, the Southern Baptist relief effort has entered another phase — that of reconstruction — after 13 mobile disaster units from 11 states

prepared and served a record 350,312 meals in 16 days following Hurricane Hugo, which struck the Carolina coastline in September.

Reconstruction of homes and churches is expected to start soon as the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Administration complete cases and release funding, said George Bullard, director of the missions division of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

"I really think we will see reconstruction start in the next 30 days on a limited basis," Bullard said.

The need for volunteers in the hurricane-ravaged state has been met for now, Bullard said. Volunteers from Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio, Alabama,

North Carolina, and Virginia have teams ready to start to work as soon as they are given assignments. See page one story about TBC relief efforts.

Ben Connell, South Carolina Brotherhood director, said the outpouring of assistance from states outside South Carolina has been phenomenal.

Before major repair work can begin on individual homes and churches, clearance from the Red Cross and FEMA must be secured, Bullard stressed.

"Volunteers need to be sure to work with the proper officials to make certain the cases have been closed before doing work," he explained.

More than \$500,000 has been received by the South Carolina Convention to

assist Hugo victims. Money received has come from churches, associations and individuals throughout the United States, he said. Several thousand dollars continues to be received at the convention headquarters in Columbia daily.

Money received for disaster victims is being used exclusively for food and shelter-related efforts, Bullard said.

A warehouse designed to house building materials, related supplies, furniture and appliances donated to assist in reconstruction efforts has been opened in Columbia, Bullard said.

"We need furniture and appliances in good to excellent condition ... used or new," he said. "Please, we do not need any food or clothing."

Annuity Board trustees examine gains, rising claims

DALLAS (BP) — Annuity Board trustees heard reports of growing retirement plan earnings and rising medical claims at their fall meeting in Dallas Oct. 30-31.

Buoyed by increasing contributions and rising earnings, the assets of the board have increased by more than \$1 million a day in 1989, President Darold H. Morgan told the trustees.

Treasurer Harold D. Richardson noted that while falling long-term interest rates caused a reduction in the funding rate for annuities, rising stock prices and increased bond values both worked to enhance the value of members' accounts.

Trustees in the insurance committee and in the full board meeting grappled with the continuing losses in the board's medical plans.

Heavy use of the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan by pastors, other church staff members and their families, and large doctor and hospital bills resulted in losses of \$5.1 million in the plan during the first nine months of the year, board officials noted. Losses by year end are expected to be \$6.9 million to \$7 million.

In the past three years, claims paid by Annuity Board medical plans have exceeded premiums paid by \$31 million. In recent years, adequate plan surpluses made moderate increases possible. Now, administrators are trying to equalize premiums and claims.

Trustees, a number of whom are insurance executives, discussed the national medical insurance crisis and asked the Annuity Board staff to expand its efforts to inform participants

Baptist Hospital's Stringfield cited

C. David Stringfield, president of the Baptist Health Care System, Nashville, was honored recently by the Arthritis Foundation with the first Annual Tribute Award.

Stringfield has been instrumental in the development of programs at Baptist Hospital designed to help victims of arthritis. The program was hosted by the Middle-East Tennessee Chapter of the foundation.

Program participants included Nashville Mayor Bill Boner, Barbara and Irlene Mandrell, Crystal Gayle, Roger Staubach, Tom Landry, Chet Atkins, Jerry Reed, Tom T. Hall, R. Wayne Oldham, Drs. Guy Pennington and John Lamb, and others.

Proceeds from the program go to the Arthritis Foundation.

of the dangers of canceling medical coverage.

The board has announced rate increases in the church medical plan that range from nine percent to more than 30 percent, with rates based on regional medical costs. The aggregate increase in projected premium income to match claims experience is 20 percent. The aggregate increase in the Group Comprehensive Medical Plan will be about 19 percent. The present Seminarian Comprehensive Medical Plan will merge into the Church Plan Jan. 1.

Court rejects challenge to marriage law

WASHINGTON (BP) — U.S. The Supreme Court has refused to hear a challenge to a Virginia law that regulates who may perform marriages within the state.

Roy R. Torcaso, a member of the American Humanist Association, appealed to the high court, arguing the state statute favors ordained ministers and thus violates the First Amendment.

Torcaso applied for certification to officiate at weddings in Virginia, but his application was denied. In order to be certified under Virginia law, an in-

dividual must show proof of ordination or be a state resident and post a \$500 bond.

Reporting on retirement, Treasurer Richardson noted that net earnings of \$291.4 million in nine months is the greatest dollar earnings in any Jan.-Sept. period. Equities led the earnings, with a year-to-date rate of more than 24 percent. Member contributions exceeded the same nine-month period in 1988 by 10.5 percent and totaled \$126.3 million.

Trustees approved a 1990 operating budget of \$26.2 million, an increase of six percent over 1989. The budget does not include cost-of-living adjustments in salaries for 1990.

Torcaso, who does not live in Virginia, is an "accredited humanist counselor" in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

After the Circuit Court of Prince William refused to hear his case, Torcaso appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court. He argued that as a humanist counselor he was as qualified to perform marriages as an ordained minister, but his appeal was rejected.

Elected messengers vital for TBC voting

Only qualified elected messengers are eligible to vote during sessions of the Tennessee Baptist Convention which meets Nov. 14-16 at Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville.

The TBC Credentials Committee calls attention to Article II of convention's constitution:

"The convention shall be composed of messengers from cooperating Baptist churches. Each church shall be entitled to two messengers. Each church shall also be entitled to one messenger for each 100 members or fraction thereof beyond the first 100 subject to a maximum of ten messengers from any one church. A messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is elected. The term 'cooperating Baptist church' shall be applied to such churches as contribute financially to the convention or its agencies and subscribe to and support the principles, programs, and policies of the convention."

The formula for electing messengers is thus: 100 members or less, two; 101-200, three; 201-300, four; 301-400, five; 401-500, six; 501-600, seven; 601-700, eight; 701-800, nine; more than 800 members, ten.

Ten is the maximum number of messengers that can be elected by any church, regardless of the size of the church membership.

Two-thirds of college students claim church membership, fewer attend

WASHINGTON (BP) — About two-thirds of the nation's college students claim membership in a church or synagogue, but far fewer attend worship services regularly or participate in campus religious organizations, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

Among the group of college students surveyed, 67 percent said they belong to a church or synagogue.

Female students outnumbered male students in claiming church membership by a margin of 72 percent to 62 percent.

Students in the South (76 percent) and Midwest (72 percent) are more likely to claim church membership than students in the West (49 percent) or East (64 percent).

But only 34 percent of all students surveyed said they attend religious services on a weekly basis. Of the remainder, 18 percent said they attend worship services about monthly, 25 percent said they attend a few times a year and 23 percent said

they almost never attend.

Young women (39 percent) are more likely to attend church on a regular basis than young men (30 percent), according to the poll. Lowerclassmen (36 percent) also are more likely to attend than upperclassmen (30 percent).

Students in the South (43 percent) and the Midwest (40 percent) said they attend church regularly more than students in the West (27 percent) and the East (24 percent.)

In addition, students with an A grade-point average (43 percent) are more likely to attend church weekly than students with a B average (32 percent) or C average (35 percent).

Only 12 percent of the students surveyed said they participate in a campus religious organization.

The survey was conducted among a representative national sample of undergraduate college students in October 1988 by the Gallup Organization for the Princeton Religion Research Center.

Our Readers Write

It can be done

Southern Baptists have every reason to be thankful for the outcome of the recent Southwestern Seminary trustees' meeting. It is in keeping with the action of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis. Adopting the Peace Committee's report it recommended that all political action among our brethren cease.

It can be done! It happened in the Peace Committee. And it happened between the trustees and administration of Southwestern Seminary. When Christian people with honest differences talk and pray together in faith and love, they will be led of the Lord to solve their difficulties.

Unity in diversity has always characterized Southern Baptists. It always should do so. It can be done. It must be done!

Herschel H. Hobbs
2509 N.W. 120th St.
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120

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.

Warm blanket, saving words

Yes you can! You can tell a hungry man about the Savior.

We hear many sermons about the Good Samaritan and what he did for the one who was in need of help. The Bible does not say the Samaritan witnessed to this man in any other way than his physical needs. But we can feel a sense of compassion and love for this man that extended beyond the physical.

Jesus has asked us to pray for workers to go into the harvest. If these go only to feed and give clothing and help in a physical way, then much will be missing in God's kingdom. So instead of saying we cannot tell a hungry man about the Savior why not say, "as you feed and meet the needs of the hungry man tell him about a great food and love that comes from the Lord."

I see a mental picture of a man lying on the street cold and hungry. I see a Christian going with hot soup and a blanket. As he lifts the man up and feeds him he is talking about the love of God that sent him to the rescue. He can say, "I once was like you, in great need and someone told me about Jesus and I am following Him." You wrap the blanket around him and your arms encircle him and you tell him this is the way God loves us. His love is like a warm blanket around us.

These things provide immediate comfort; the love of God is eternal.

Let us change our saying to this: While you are feeding and giving comfort to a hungry man tell him about the greater love and comfort that comes from our Lord.

Dorothy Blake
923 Beverly Dr.
Alcoa 37701

Search committees named for TBC posts

Two subcommittees of the TBC Executive Board's Convention Ministries Committee have been named to search for successors to William Harbin and Orvind Dangeau, Baptist Center staff.

Church Minister's Information director, succeeding Harbin who retires Dec. 31: Don Givens, chairman, pastor

Awareness meeting set during TBC

A special ministry awareness meeting concerning Baptist Homes for Retarded Adults will be held Nov. 15 during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Knoxville.

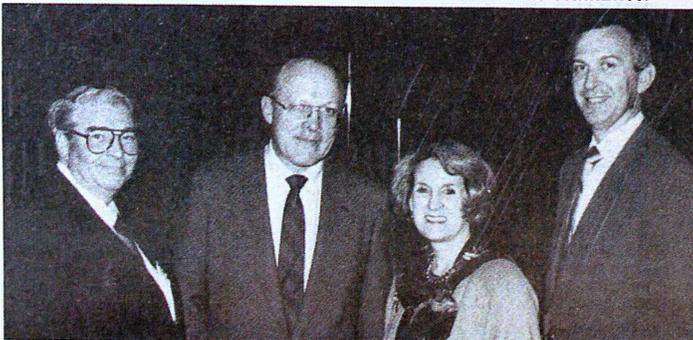
The meeting will be conducted from 1-2 p.m. in Room 220 at Central Church, Bearden.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

of St. Elmo Ave. Church, Chattanooga; James Davis, pastor, Maney Ave. Church, Murfreesboro; Mark Stinnett, pastor Prosperity Church, Auburntown; Joe Trybone, pastor, Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg; and Tim Floyd, pastor, First Church, Columbia.

Cooperative Program and Stewardship Promotion director, succeeding Dangeau who also retires Dec. 31: Ann Davenport, chairperson, McMinnville; Clint Oakley, retired pastor, Memphis; Fred Pinckard, layman, Cleveland; Leon Edwards, pastor, First Church, Bruceton; and Joe Wren, pastor, First Church, Sevierville.

Deadlines for resumes will be announced, according to Hershel Chevallier, pastor of Cumberland Church, Knoxville, chairman of the Convention Ministries Committee.



DUCK RIVER ELECTS — New officers of Duck River Association include, from left, John Blevins, pastor, Broadview Church, vice moderator; Don Dixon, pastor, Highland Church, moderator; Janet Patterson, First Church, Tullahoma, clerk; and David Wall, pastor, Center Grove Church, outgoing moderator.

— Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

SBC elections

Since the SBC presidential is heating up and we have a candidate who has announced his candidacy, (this is earlier than some candidates announce for president of the U.S.A.), here are some guidelines I hope we will adopt at our next convention.

- Candidates must announce eight months before the SBC. This assures us that the presidential and convention controversy will be fueled constantly.

- Candidates must assure the Executive Committee they have an organization that can deliver many messengers for at least the election session of the convention. This assures that the halls and exhibit areas will be seething with people for almost every session.

- Candidates must solemnly swear they aren't anybody's candidate and they abhor labels.

- Candidates and any organization that backs them must solemnly swear

they don't want to control the convention, but with holy motives place the convention in the right hands. Also, that they announce who the "right hands people" are.

- Candidates publish a fact sheet on their church records, the school their children attended, the law firm that will represent them if any fraud is imagined or discovered, and their stand on resolution five ('88 convention). This is a hot one! Keep it churning!

- Messenger registration fee be \$25 so each candidate can be assured of paid TV time.

- Candidates and support organizations solemnly swear they know more about appointing foreign missionaries than the elected trustees.

I am not sure whether this is "tongue in cheek" or "foot in mouth." I suppose both.

Clay Frazier
Alpha Church
245 St. John Road
Morristown 37814

Southern Baptists begin 742 new Sunday Schools in 1988-89

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists started 742 Sunday Schools during the 1988-89 church year, a decline from the 861 Sunday Schools started in 1987-88 and the lowest total since 874 starts were recorded in 1984-85.

"There is a desire for starting new Sunday Schools, but few states have a

Cumberland Baptists to sing in Austria

The Cumberland Baptist Choir, comprised of singers from churches in Cumberland Plateau Association, will travel Nov. 15 to Vienna, Austria.

Tom Jacobs, minister of music at Homestead Church, Crossville, is founder and director of the group.

Jacobs said he sees the choir's opportunity to perform in Austria as "a missions trip."

The choir, which will perform at various locations in Vienna, will end each concert with the song "Love in any Language." Jacobs called that selection "a great foreign missions song."

Twenty-four members of the choir will make the trip, Jacobs said. "We are united in our purpose and feel that this is our way of personally carrying out Christ's Great Commission in a global context."

The choir is scheduled to return Nov. 20.

strategy for getting it done," said Jim L. Harvey, Sunday School growth and administration consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Harvey singled out Texas as a consistent leader in starting new Sunday schools. Texas started 217 Sunday Schools in 1988-89, down from the 273 started in the state in 1987-88.

Florida had an increase in Sunday Schools, with 118 recorded, compared to 56 the previous year. Harvey pointed out that Florida during the past year had a person responsible for training churches in conducting Outreach Bible Studies as a strategy for starting Sunday Schools.

Three state conventions met or surpassed their goals for starting Sunday Schools. Alaska started 15, with a goal of ten. Maryland started 18, surpassing a goal of 15, while Minnesota/Wisconsin started 19, with a goal of 12.

Other top state totals were California, 35; North Carolina, 25; and Georgia, 21.

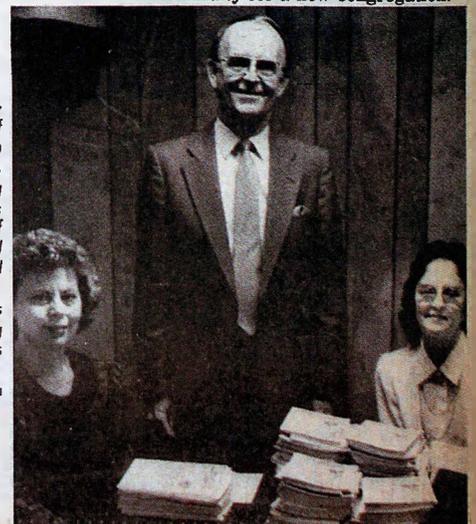
The emphasis for starting Sunday Schools supports the Southern Baptist Bold Mission Thrust goal of 50,000 churches by the year 2000. The convention has about 37,567 churches.

"Sunday School is a major part of efforts to start new churches," Harvey said. He pointed out that an ongoing Bible study organization is the basis for continuity for a new congregation.

CHAPEL HILL MEETING —

The 44th annual fall session of New Duck River Association met Oct. 23 at Smyrna Church, Chapel Hill. Welcoming messengers were, from left: Linda Smith, member of Longview Church; Harold Smith, director of missions; and Doris (Mrs. Harold) Smith. Moderator Tom Sumners presided also on the following night at Shelbyville Mills Church.

— Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen



Missouri Baptists launch cooperative missions emphasis

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Missouri Baptists launched a multi-year emphasis on the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget plan, during their 55th annual meeting in St. Louis Oct. 3-25.

Messengers also adopted resolutions supporting the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the sanctity of human life. A layman was elected resident for only the third time in convention history.

A statewide task force presented a communications plan that was the culmination of a two-year study. The plan is designed to "educate Missouri Baptists about the cooperative way of supporting missions," task force Chairman John Gilbert, pastor of First Church, Poplar Bluff, told convention messengers.

"In our study, we discovered that many Missouri Baptists did not fully understand what the Cooperative Program is and does," Gilbert said. "This plan is designed to educate and

ultimately to have an impact on our giving. It is not just to raise more money; it is for education and understanding."

The top priorities of the plan are to reverse declining church percentage giving to the Cooperative Program and to increase CP giving annually, based on inflation rates, Gilbert said.

Other goals include involving five new churches each year in supporting the Cooperative Program, establishing a recognition program for CP support from churches and associations, making the convention's executive board staff more responsive and accessible to churches and associations, and developing a profile of successful CP-giving churches that can be used to help other churches increase their understanding and support of the program.

Under the theme, Cooperative Missions Program, the plan includes a speakers' bureau, addition of toll-free telephone numbers to the state conven-

tion office, special inserts in Word and Way, the convention newsjournal; and a liaison program between state convention staff members and churches.

In a sermon presented as part of the task force report, Paul Brooks, pastor of First Church, Raytown, called the Cooperative Program a "Jesus program, a Holy Spirit program, a Bible program, a missionary program, an educational program and a social program."

"Millions of Baptists in thousands of churches have pooled their money together to advance the word of God and to extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ," he said. "We have an obligation under God to cooperate together for causes none of us can do on our own. I know of no other reason why we should give to the Cooperative Missions Program."

Earlier, messengers adopted a budget that increased the percentage of gifts from Missouri to Southern Baptist causes. Although the \$15 million budget represents no increase over the 1989 budget, 35.2 percent will go to the national budget, up from 35.167 this year. If the total budget is achieved, Missourians will contribute \$5.3 million to Southern Baptist causes.

Messengers adopted with no discussion and few dissenting votes a resolution affirming Southern Baptist Con-

vention involvement in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Washington-based religious liberty organization comprised of nine denominations.

The resolution noted the historical relationship between the two entities and a 1987 SBC action calling for a continued relationship to the Baptist Joint Committee through the SBC Public Affairs Committee.

The resolution called on messengers to:

- "Express our continuing appreciation of the work" of the Baptist Joint Committee.

- "Voice our strong reservations about any attempt to reduce or terminate" the SBC-Baptist Joint Committee relationship.

- "State our disappointment at the SBC Executive Committee's recent proposal that the SBC Christian Life Commission be given the assignment of religious liberty matters."

The action called for copies to be sent to each member of the SBC Executive Committee with a request for a response from the committee.

Other resolutions dealt with the sanctity of human life and opposition of the use of government-issued educational vouchers to fund private school tuition.

Opposition to pornography . . .

(Continued from page 1)

sed that profit to buy an island in the Caribbean and airplanes with which to fly into cocaine traffic.

"Pornography victimizes those who are involved in the production of pornography. Three of the most famous male 'stars' have died in the past 12 months of AIDS. One of them bragged that he had sex with more than 1000 men and women."

If a broad-based coalition of citizens as its way, Nashville will join the list of more than 40 communities nationwide that have eliminated obscenity and child pornography from their neighborhoods.

The Nashville Coalition Against Pornography has been established, with M. Rodgers, former ambassador to France, as its chairman. A Christian layman and businessman, Rodgers has assembled an advisory board of more than 300 people representing the entire

community. Physicians, attorneys, ministers, and other citizens have joined the coalition. The list includes the present and former mayors of Nashville, several members of the city council and a U.S. representative.

"There are 107 video outlets, over 50 of which are distributing the kind of material which is illegal," Rodgers told the crowd. "We are going to be nice to these people. We are going to ask them to stop selling this material. We're going to give everyone a chance to abide by the law. Then we will use other means."

"The key is for us to understand what we're talking about. Pornography is the greatest misuse of women imaginable."

Sears was in Nashville to participate in two days of coalition meetings under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

FMB update

Tennessee missionaries on the move

Dennis and Judith Hale, missionaries to Spain, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Buenavista 6, 2-C, 33066 Oviedo, Spain). He was born in Carrollton, Ga., and grew up in Opelika, Ala. She is the former Judith Greene of Chattanooga. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1965.

David and Jean Dorris, Baptist representatives to Israel, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Baptist Village, Mobile Post, Central Sharon 45, 875, Israel). He is a native of Springfield. The former Jean Moreland, she was born in Mayfield, Ky., and lived in Springfield and McMinnville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1974.

Jerry and Elaine Gordon, missionaries to Belize, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Box 105, Belmopan Cayo District, Belize). They are natives of Tennessee. He

was born in Gibson County and considers Jackson his hometown. The former Elaine Ward, she was born in Crockett County and considers Crockett Mills her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1989.

Jim and Patsy Parker, missionaries, have transferred from Malawi to Bophuthatswana. They are in language study (address: P. O. Box 861, Edenvale 1610, Republic of South Africa). They are natives of Memphis; she is the former Patsy Smith. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Samuel and Connie Stallings, missionaries to the Philippines, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 8000, Koronadal, Marbel, S. Cotabato, Philippines 9506). They are natives of Tennessee. He is from Bolivar and she is the former Connie Davis of Covington. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1981.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Running and religion have some uncanny similarities. They also are dissimilar in some ways.

One thing that comes through clearly to me, though, is that careful reading of the Bible indicates there were some mighty good runners in the old times.

Running is one of those exercises that some folks hope would fade away quickly as merely a health fad. To me, there is a simple answer. I believe we live in an age when people are growing increasingly impatient with cars and machines and parking lots and traffic congestion and pollution.

Reverting to the purity found in ordinary exercises is a delightful experience. More and more people are finding running and walking to be perfect relaxing and recreating agents.

The Bible is filled with illustrations of the benefits of foot power. People in Bible times walked — and ran — and jogged wherever they went. For the ordinary family, riding the donkey, camel, mule, ox, probably was a luxury. Sometimes they covered great distances in short periods of time.

How about Elijah? Check his physical abilities. Look at 1 Kings 18:46-19:4. "The power of the Lord came on Elijah; he fastened his clothes tight around his waist and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel (from Mount Carmel). King Ahab told his wife Jezebel everything that Elijah had done . . . Elijah was afraid and fled for his life; he took his servant and went to Beersheba in Judah . . . Elijah walked a whole day into the wilderness."

That says he ran first about 20 miles, then fled another 90, and finally walked for a day into the wilderness. He must have been in good mental condition — and spiritually in tune

with God. Later in that 19th chapter, we see that he walked for 40 days to Sinai!

Paul is one of the more obvious advocates of running. Often he refers to "running straight toward the goal," running to win the prize, throwing off all encumbering weights, seeking the victory. After Paul explains in Philippians 3 that he is doing his best to win the prize, not looking back, running straight ahead — he says that "all of



ALLEN

us who are spiritually mature should have this same attitude."

I gave my life to Christ as a young teenager. About 20 years ago I became a serious runner. The two "races" are not contrary to each other. Rather, they are complementary.

After the exhausting run and long distance walk, Elijah simply felt pooped out. He sat down in the shade of a tree and wished he would die. "It's too much, Lord," he prayed. "Take away my life; I might just as well be dead." I know how Elijah felt physically. When I have run the marathon distance of 26.1 miles, I too can say, "It's too much."

God's angel fed Elijah twice — and finally told him, "Get up, and eat, or the trip will be too much for you." Sometimes I feel deep exhaustion after a long, long run, and vow to myself that never again will I run that distance. But I do. God always feeds me, as He does others in the race of life, and we go on.

It is essential that we know we are in the race that Paul describes — for the duration, the long haul.

Two are Tennesseans

Southern Baptists complete Mongolian training project

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (BP)—Four Southern Baptist teachers have completed a pilot project in Mongolia to help the country in its five-year plan for 1990-95 to expand English-language instruction in primary and secondary schools.

The Mongolian government, which is seeking increased relations with Western nations, asked Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization, to help design English curriculum and train its English teachers.

"They want us to help them train their Mongolian teachers," said Jack Shelby, CSI's Hong Kong-based administrator. "They don't want a lot of foreign teachers, and this is not likely to ever be a big program."

The Southern Baptist team conducted workshops at the ministry of education in Ulan Bator in September and designed and wrote curriculum for a 33-week English course in Mongolian secondary schools. Accompanying Shelby in the two-week project were Ronald Midkiff of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., Nancy

Sherman of Memphis State University in Tennessee and Vi Marie Taylor of Austin, Texas.

The project was CSI's second in Mongolia. In February, another four-member Southern Baptist team taught English to Mongolian travel guides working for Zhuulchin, the government tourist agency.

As a result of the two visits, the government has invited CSI to conduct three more projects in Mongolia. CSI plans to send an English professor to teach at Mongolian State University. In addition, the government has asked for two or more teachers to teach English in secondary schools in Ulan Bator. The teachers are expected to begin work in September 1990.

Mongolian officials also requested a CSI consultant in linguistics and English to work with the government's ministry of education to design curriculum and train teachers for the country's English-teaching program. CSI plans to fill the consulting position as soon as possible.

Shelby stressed the educational nature of the projects.

"People are not going as missionaries," he emphasized. "We cannot preach or evangelize or start churches. The fact that we are a Christian organization is not a problem as long as we respect their guidelines and their feelings in the matter."

The Mongolian government is not sympathetic toward religion. The first country to follow the Soviet Union as a socialist nation, Mongolia officially is atheistic. Previously it was a Buddhist country.

"In recent years, Mongolians have opened one (Buddhist) monastery in the heart of the capital," said Shelby. "It's the only functioning religious institution of any kind in the entire country. Mongolia is a country of 2.5 million people with no church, no mosque and only one Buddhist temple."

Less than a dozen Christians are known to live in all of Mongolia. The Bible is not available in the Mongolian language. However, a British Bible translator has just completed a Mongolian translation of the New

Testament and is working on the Old Testament.

"Any attempts at (Christian) outreach would be seen as proselytizing," Shelby cautioned. "What we're asking people to do is to go there and simply model a Christian lifestyle and then avail themselves of whatever personal testimony opportunities they have within constraints imposed by culture and government restrictions."

CSI also might help Mongolia in the medical, agricultural, and manufacturing fields, Shelby said. But he reiterated that the programs are likely to be small because the government emphasizes teaching its own people to train other Mongolians.

Northern Association taps Eddie Perry

Members of Northern Association recently elected Eddie Perry of Maynardville as their new director of missions.

Perry began duties Nov. 1, succeeding Horace Dyer, who retired Oct. 31.

Perry, a native of Knoxville, was ordained to the ministry in 1978 by Nave Hill Church, Maynardville.

He was pastor of Union Church, Luttrell, for two years. Prior to his election, Perry also served as treasurer for the Northern Association.



PERRY

Gabhart writes Belmont's history

Having been so much a part of its recent past, Chancellor Herbert C. Gabhart has written a book which chronicles the history of Belmont College.

The book is entitled *Work: The Soul of Good Fortune (Memoirs of a Love Affair with Belmont College)*. A book-signing will be held Nov. 10, from 2-4 p.m. in Freeman Hall on the campus in Nashville.

Publication of the book coincides with the upcoming celebration of 100 years of education on the school's campus. The content recounts not only Gabhart's 30-year association with the college but also relates the educational history of the campus. He served as president of the college from 1959 to 1982, and has served as chancellor since 1982.

Today's Belmont College was founded by Tennessee Baptists in 1951. Forerunners of the school include Cumberland University (1842-1951), Ward Seminary (1865-1912), Belmont Junior College (1890-1912), Tennessee College for Women (1905-1946), and Ward-Belmont School (1913-1951).



AT PINE EDEN CHURCH — New officers of Cumberland Plateau Association are, from left, Roy Davis, director of missions; Roy Lanz, Lantana Road Church, treasurer; Charles Christopher, education director, Emmanuel Church, moderator; Charley Ivey, pastor, Bethlehem Church, vice moderator; and host pastor James Haynes.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Have you ever thought about starting a rumor? I have often wondered how they get started and what you would need to do to get a rumor started. If I could discover the secret for starting rumors, I would make some changes.

Most of the rumors I have heard involve something that is negative. I rarely ever hear a rumor that involves something good. Would it not be good for someone to start some rumors that involve something good and positive?

Let me tell you the kind of rumors I would like to start. I would like to start a rumor that God is doing something significant through the churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. I would like to start a rumor that hundreds of people are being saved every Sunday as the Gospel is preached in our churches. I would like to start a rumor that some Tennessee Baptists do care about people who hurt and suffer. I would like to start a rumor that some



LOWRIE

Tennessee Baptists consistently share their faith with the unsaved. I would like to start a rumor that some Tennessee Baptists are involved in meaningful intercessory prayer.

I would also like to start a rumor that there are professors who teach on our Baptist campuses at great sacrifice. Some of them could go to better paying positions but have elected to teach in a Christian environment and to share their gifts with young people in a Christian context. I would like to start a rumor that Tennessee Baptists continue to rescue abused children through the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. I would like to start a rumor that Tennessee Baptists have a strong program about which they ought to be proud.

Do you get the idea? Why don't you help me and let's sow Tennessee down with rumors. This would be especially appropriate since we will be having our convention next week at Central Church in Bearden. You know how rumors can affect the convention. With your help, we just might make this the best convention Tennessee Baptists have ever had.

HCBA plans alumni dinner at convention

SEYMOUR — Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy will host an alumni dinner Nov. 14 on the HCBA campus in Seymour.

Dinner will be served beginning at 5 p.m. in the Ashe Cafeteria.

Tickets for the dinner are \$4 and may be purchased at the academy's booth at Central Church, Bearden. Advance reservations may be made by calling (615) 573-8321.

Academy President William L. Palmer invites all Tennessee Baptists to visit the campus sometime during convention week. Tours will be provided.



OFFICERS ELECTED — Members of Sequatchie Valley Association, Whitwell, held the second half of their annual meeting Oct. 17 at South Whitwell Church, Whitwell. The meeting was presided over by new officers elected in April at the first meeting. Officers are front row, from left, Terry Humberd, Discipleship Training; Ernie Cardell, treasurer; Charles Conley, director of missions; and Doris Conley, Woman's Missionary Union. Back row, from left, are Bill Roberts, moderator; Bill Fox, stewardship; Bob McFarland, evangelism; and Steve With, Sunday School director.

— Photo by Connie Umstead

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.

Beech River Association

Director of Missions Doyle M. Neal
New officers are Conyer Walker, pastor, Sand Ridge Church, Lexington, moderator; James Seago, pastor, Bear Creek Church, Parsons; and Mike Rhodes, pastor, Calvary Church, Parsons, treasurer/clerk.

Beulah Association

DOM William George
Gwen Armour was honored for serving ten years as associational secretary and clerk/recording treasurer. She was given a book of letters, gift of money, and a reception.

New officers are moderator Jerrell White, pastor, Second Church, Union City; vice moderator Bill Wolfe, pastor, First Church, Obion; treasurer Bill Flood, member, First Church, Union City; and clerk/recording treasurer Linda George, associational secretary.

Central Association

DOM Ralph E. Hoover
Elected as officers were Kevin Goza, pastor, Northside Church, McMinnville, moderator; Bucky Kerr, pastor, Gath Church, McMinnville, vice moderator; M. D. Overton, member, First Church, McMinnville, treasurer; and Fred Greene, member, First Church, Morrison, assistant treasurer.

Chilhowee Association

DOM John R. Churchman
Officers follow: Moderator W. F. Hall, member, First Church, Seymour; vice moderator Clifton Hearon, pastor, Mt. Carmel Church, Maryville; treasurer Joe Ingram, member, Broadway Church, Maryville; and clerk Bruce Yates, pastor, Armona Church, Alcoa.

Cumberland Association

DOM Harold A. Shoulders
Shoulders was honored on his retirement at the end of this year after almost 17 years. Also all officers and committee and staff members who have worked with him were recognized.

Officers were re-elected and follow: moderator James Clegg, pastor, Plea-

sant View Church, Clarksville; vice moderator Robert Mitchell, pastor, New Providence Church, Clarksville; treasurer Shoulders; and clerk Linda Biggar, associational secretary.

Fayette Association

DOM B. F. McIlwain
Newly-elected officers are Joe Acoff, pastor, Oak Grove Church, Moscow, moderator; Claudie Hammers, pastor, Liberty Church, Somerville, assistant moderator; and Mrs. Jesse Price, member, First Church, Somerville, treasurer/clerk.

Holston Association

DOM Tai Thompson
Marion Lewis was honored posthumously as "Volunteer of the Year" with a plaque given to his widow and dedication of the minutes. Mountain View Church, Johnson City, where James Cambron serves as pastor, was voted into membership. Also two churches were included under the watchcare program: Campbells Chapel, Bristol Va., of which C. Richard Campbell is pastor, and Liberty Church, Blountville, where Bradley Booher is pastor.

New officers are Clay Austin, pastor, First Church, Blountville, moderator; Lee Ray Robertson, member, Central Church, Johnson City, vice moderator; E. W. Barnes, member, Gray Church, Gray, treasurer; and Tenna Eades, associational secretary, clerk.

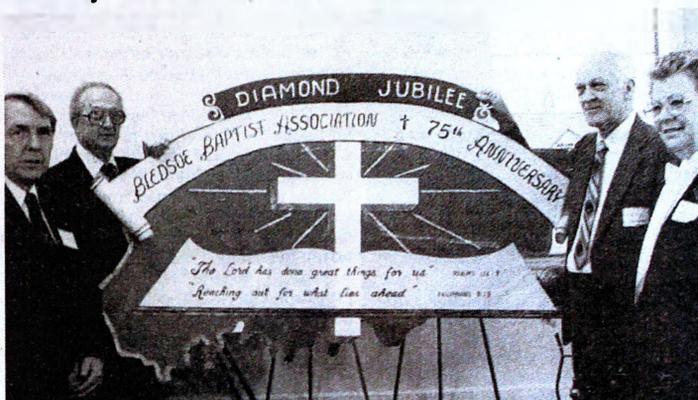
Loudon County Association

DOM Raymond C. Atwood
Tennessee/Philippines Partnership volunteers and D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, spoke to the messengers. Pioneer Church, Greenback, of which Tom Compton is pastor, was added to the association and Mae Preston, member of First Church, Loudon, was honored for 45 consecutive years of attendance at the annual meeting.

New officers are moderator Jimmy Riner, pastor, Corinth Church, Loudon; associate moderator Gene Russell, pastor, Union Fork Creek Church, Loudon; treasurer/clerk Mrs. Charles E. Amos, associational secretary; and assistant treasurer/clerk Raymond Atwood.

McMinn-Meigs Association

DOM Ted E. Davis
It was reported that the new office complex is to be complete in



CELEBRATION LEADERS — Among those celebrating the 75th anniversary of Bledsoe Association during its annual meeting were, from left, Director of Missions J. C. Lewis; J. C. Bigbee, pastor, Oak Street Mission, Portland, vice moderator; Phil Dougan, pastor, Madison Street Church, Goodlettsville, moderator; and Norene Dougan, member, Madison Street Church, clerk. — Photo by Connie Davis

December, 1989.

Officers are Kenneth Elkins, pastor, Antioch Church, Athens, moderator; Edward Wood, pastor, East Niota Church, Niota, vice moderator; and Bea Gardner, member, First Church, Athens, treasurer/clerk.

Maury Association

DOM W. Elmer Crosby
New officers are Charles Jackson, pastor, Rock Springs Church, Columbia, moderator; Amos Jarman, pastor, First Church, Spring Hill, vice moderator; Jean Gilliam, associational secretary, treasurer; and Linda Bass, member, Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia, clerk.

Nashville Association

DOM Carl J. Duck
The association acted to adopt 1990-95 Mega Focus Cities goals and accept two churches. Covenant Church, Nashville, of which N. Lavan Modling Jr., is pastor, and Hickory Hills Church, Mt. Juliet, where J. Samuel Crouch serves as pastor, were added. New officers are David C. George, pastor, Immanuel Church, Nashville, moderator; Kenneth Castleberry, pastor, Dalewood Church, Nashville, vice moderator; Duck, treasurer; and E. Doyle Chatham, member, Inglewood Church, Nashville, clerk.

New Duck River Association

DOM Harold D. Smith
It was reported that the Baptist Student Union center at Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma, was completed. New Duck River, Duck River, and William Carey associations along with the Tennessee Baptist Convention contributed to the center.

Elected as officers were Tom Sumners, music director, Parkview Church, Lewisburg, moderator; James Hickey, pastor, East Commerce Church, Lewisburg, vice moderator; Martha Deason, member, First Church, Shelbyville, treasurer; and Richard Lee, pastor, Rover Church, Eagleville, clerk.

Riverside Association

DOM Terry Geren
The association acted to dedicate its minutes to the memory of Effie Reagan, member, First Church, Jamestown, who had attended each annual meeting since 1937.

New officers follow: John Albright, pastor, Allons Church, Allons, moderator; Robert Barefield, pastor,

Hanging Limb Church, Crawford, assistant moderator; Lucille Geren, associational secretary, treasurer; and Don Paris, pastor, First Church, Byrdstown, clerk.

Sevier County Association

DOM Frank Proffitt
Messengers voted to build a 2600-square-foot office building and sell present home/office.

New officers are moderator John Smith, pastor, Knob Creek Church, Seymour; vice moderator Jack Bailey, pastor, Laurel Grove Church, Sevierville; treasurer Charles E. McCarter, member, Boyd's Creek Church, Sevierville; and clerk Nancy Carpenter, member, First Church, Seymour.

Watauga Association

DOM William J. Powell
Elected as officers were Richard Shaw, pastor, Doe River Church, Elizabethton, moderator; Clarence Phillips, pastor, Shady Valley Church, Shady Valley, vice moderator; Will Andrews, member, Oak Street Church, Elizabethton, treasurer; and Sue Anderson, member, Siam Church, Elizabethton, clerk.

Weakley County Association

DOM Richard Skidmore
Messengers voted to give \$2000 to a Michigan Baptist church for remodeling. Main Street Church, Martin, was added. John E. Hazelwood is its pastor.

Officers follow: Wayne Perkins, pastor, Bethel Church, Greenfield, moderator; Roy Auvenshine, pastor, Bethlehem Church, Greenfield, vice moderator; Bonnie Bullock, member, Jolley Springs Church, Dresden, treasurer; and Gertie Sheffield, member, First Church, Dresden, clerk.

William Carey Association

DOM Joe W. Mayberry
Messengers designated \$10,000 for a new office building and reported the completion of the Baptist Student Union center at Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma.

Officers follow: Gary Gardner, pastor, Donaldson Grove Church, Huntland, moderator; James Harney, pastor, Hickory Grove Church, Huntland, vice moderator; Frances Alexander, member, First Church, Fayetteville, clerk/treasurer; and Evelyn Knois, member, First Church, Petersburg, assistant clerk/treasurer.



WILSON COUNTIANS — Participating in the annual meeting of Wilson County Association were, from left, Nathan Hale, pastor, Cedar Creek Church, Lebanon, vice moderator; Kenneth Griffin, pastor, Barton's Creek Church, Lebanon, clerk; Jean Jennings, member, First Church, Watertown, treasurer; Peggy Tramel, associational secretary; Director of Missions Robert Agee; and Bill Enoch, pastor, First Church, Watertown, former moderator.

— Photo by Connie Davis

Church-state issue still hot in child-care debate

WASHINGTON (BP) — The role churches should play under proposed child-care legislation remains a contested issue in Congress.

Recent floor debate in the House of Representatives revealed continuing questions about how to send federal funds to religiously affiliated child-care centers without violating the Constitution.

The House recently passed a comprehensive child-care measure that includes plans designed by two separate committees. The Ways and Means proposal is silent on the church-state issue, but the Education and Labor plan forbids the use of federal funds for "sectarian activity, including sectarian worship and instruction."

Proponents of the House measure rejected charges that it would exclude

churches from participation. They added the measure's restrictions on federally funded child-care services provided by churches and synagogues are the same as those that already exist under the Head Start program.

"Churches could provide child-care services and receive federal assistance as long as they refrained from religious teaching in the program and did not discriminate in enrollment and hiring decisions," said Rep. Constance A. Morella, R-Md. "Many Head Start programs operate in churches; there is no reason why child-care services could not also be provided in or by churches."

But House opponents argued the restrictions would preclude church-related centers from participating.

Allowing churches to provide child-

care services in their basements is not sufficient, said Rep. Thomas J. Tauke, R-Iowa. The problems arise, he said, over whether such centers will be able to display religious symbols, control personnel, and lead children in praying or telling Bible stories.

"The reality is that the churches who provide child care will not accept those restrictions and, therefore, the money will not flow to them," Tauke said.

At one point, the debate on the church-state issue became so heated that House Majority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., came to the floor to assure members that the body's

Democratic leadership had no intention of supporting a bill that would exclude religious child-care centers.

In an earlier letter to House members, Gephardt said the Democratic leadership believes House child-care conferees "should, and will, move toward the Senate position on this issue" when the measure goes to conference for reconciliation with the Senate's child-care proposal.

The Senate version would allow parents to use federally funded child-care certificates at sectarian child-care centers as long as such use does not violate the Constitution.

One Woman's View

By June McEwen

I walk through the office, straightening the chairs, lining up the tables, arranging journals on tabletops, and moving pencils — creating order among the surface things in my work environment. Neatness, order, the furniture aligned: these create an atmosphere which conveys a sense of being in control and gives a feeling of security.



McEWEN

I walk through this day in my life and long for the power to straighten relationships, realign misunderstandings, arrange and ease old hurts, and soften the suffering inherent in living. Predictability, pleasantness, absence of hurt and failure, avoidance of pain and suffering: if these could be achieved then there would be an environment of security, control, and safety.

We can decide on where the furniture is placed and keep the magazines neatly arranged. The

physical aspects of our space can be fixed, reset. But even this fixing has to be done every day. Nothing stays; change is constant and on-going.

The emotional and spiritual environment of relationships cannot really be fixed or controlled, not even with daily and repeated efforts. After all, people and emotions, souls and spirituality, are not items of furniture. Here we must remain open and ready for change. Vulnerability to those we love is a prerequisite to our continual growth and to allow others to grow.

Walking through the rooms of our daily lives, we nurture, accept, love, and pray for others. The only person we control and direct is limited to just one, *ourselves*. When we reflect on it, controlling oneself is about all the challenge we can handle anyway.

We stand in need of Jude's benediction: "But you, my friends, keep on building yourselves up on your most sacred faith. Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and keep yourselves in the love of God, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ in His mercy to give you eternal life (Jude 20-21 TEV)."

HOUSEPARENTS

Couples needed to serve as houseparents, caring for boys and girls in a live-in arrangement at our campus. Contact:

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes
P. O. Box 519

Franklin, Tennessee 37064

or Call: 1-800-624-8591 or: 615-377-6551

Missions in Michigan

We are praying for 100 bivocational or retired pastors in the next two years:

- To lead small existing churches
- For discipling
- To help start new churches

Are you interested? Call or write —

Carrol Fowler
Church Extension Director
Baptist State Convention of Michigan
15635 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, Mich. 48076

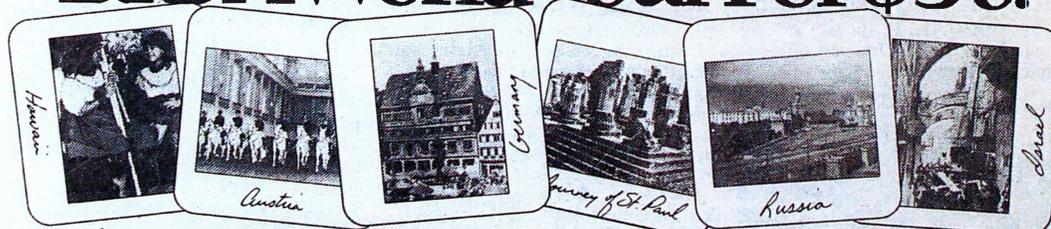
(313) 557-4200

Do it now! You are needed!



MICHIGAN

Take A World Tour For \$30.



Six of America's most celebrated photojournalists are about to take you on a breathtaking, personally-narrated world tour, and you don't even have to leave Nashville to enjoy the trip.

Just join TPAC's Travel Adventure Film Club and we'll whisk you off to six of the world's most fabulous destinations for just \$30.

As a club member, you'll not only get a substantial discount on show tickets (up to \$19.50 off single ticket prices), you'll get the best seats available...and the same ones for every show. You'll be able

to choose the performances most convenient for you, the 2:30p.m. matinee or 8:00p.m. show. Plus, with our membership exchange privilege, there's no worry over unexpected changes in plans. In addition, with each membership, you will receive a coupon that entitles you to a Church Street Centre coupon book worth over \$200 in savings.

You won't want to miss a single fascinating minute, so call 741-2787 or stop by the TPAC box office and get your membership today. Group discounts are also available, call 741-7975.



Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Why Pay More for Life Insurance
Very low non-smoker monthly cost!

AGE	AMOUNT	MALE	FEMALE
35	\$100,000	\$10.30	\$ 9.30
45	\$100,000	\$13.30	\$13.80
55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 Knoxville Area 690-0776
Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, Ky. Newlife graded premium life insurance form No. 76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 85 and then remain level.

CHURCH STEEPLES

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALL CROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL, CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS

ERECTION AVAILABLE

WRITE OR CALL FOR LITERATURE OR PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE 1-800-241-3152
IN NC 1-800-523-9058

President of Church Products 28 Years

A & O STEEPLES & BAPTISTRIES
4871 HARVEY RD. • BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NC 27282

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

Churches ...

Members of Georgetown Church, Georgetown, recently held a service to burn the \$40,000 note on their education plant.

Talip Grove Church, Old Hickory, will hold a parenting seminar Nov. 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the church's Family Life Center. The subject will be "Stress, Pressure, and Suicide" and will involve a parent and youth dialogue. Also, the church will host a concert by gospel singer Jeff Steinberg Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Emmanuel Church, Jacksboro, will have a benefit singing for church van repairs Nov. 18 from 7-9 p.m. Several music groups will perform.

Members of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, celebrated the church's 75th anniversary Oct. 29. D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director-treasurer, led the special service and Julian Suggs, TBC Church Music director, led music.

Pine Grove Church, Wildersville, dedicated a new church building Oct. 29.

Members of Salem Church, Parsons, observed the church's 125th anniversary and dedicated a new fellowship hall recently.

First Church, Elizabethton, will dedicate its new three-manual Allen Digital Computer Organ in a recital Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the church. The recital will feature Albert L. Travis, professor of organ at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. John D. Bunn is music and promotional coordinator. Brent Seals is pastor.

Ordinations ...

Jim Pinkston, minister of music/youth at Oakland Church, Corinth, Miss., was ordained into the ministry Sept. 3. He formerly served at First Church, Halls.

Central Church, Oak Ridge, recently ordained the following men as deacons: James Cornett, Bill Mathis, Lowell Reid, and Keith St. Onge.

Leadership ...

Clark Street Church, Johnson City, called Dianne Fortune as minister of music, effective Oct. 25. She previously served Central Church, Erwin.

Roy Powers was recently honored

with his wife, Jimmie, for his 22 years of service as Sunday School director at Dickerson Road Church, Nashville. He and pastor Lloyd Johnson have served together at the church for 15 years.



POWERS

Greg Miller joined the staff of Stock Creek Church, Knoxville, as minister of education and youth. The Georgia native is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Terry Mitchell was recently called as pastor to New Hope Church, Hendersonville. He was ordained July 30 at Park Avenue Church, Nashville.

First Church, Maryville, called Charles Ballard as minister of education and outreach, effective Nov. 1.

Chuck Carothers has been called to First Church, Millington, as associate pastor and minister of education.

First Church, Clarksville, recently called Phillip Herring as pastor of students.

Marvin Bower was recently called as pastor of Central Church, Mountain City.

Towering Oaks Church, Greeneville, called Ronald Hicks as interim pastor.

Nathan Bishop was called as pastor of Mt. Olive Church, Union City.

Banner Church, Gatlinburg, called Mike Underwood as pastor. He was ordained July 30 at First Church, Wears Valley.

Creed McCoy has been called as interim pastor to Henderson's Chapel Church, Pigeon Forge.

Cherry Grove Church, Jonesboro, called Jon Rogers as assistant pastor/youth, effective Oct. 1. He previously served at Smithwood Church, Knoxville, and is a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Tom Collins has been called as minister of music at Tusculum Church, Greeneville.

First Church, Pulaski, called Gary Cook as interim pastor.

People ...

Former Tennessean Lois Inklebarger Walker was recently elected president of the Florida Woman's Missionary Union. Her home church is Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, and she earned a degree in music from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Revivals ...

Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville, recently held revival with evangelist William Blackburn. Ronnie Cottingham led music. There were 11 professions of faith.

Lenox Church, Lenox, held fall revival Oct. 8-13. Jack Wilhite was speaker.

Antioch Church, Sevierville, held revival Oct. 30-Nov. 3. Jerry Vittatoe was evangelist.

Sevier County Association reports several revivals being held this week. They are Paw Paw Hollow Church, Strawberry Plains, Jerry Vittatoe; Roaring Fork Church, Gatlinburg, Guy Milam; Knob Creek Church, Seymour, Elmer Sharp; and Bethel Church, Sevierville, Harry C. Mynatt.

Jerry Reynolds began revival Nov. 5 at First Church, Hohenwald. It will conclude Nov. 10.

Meridian Church, Knoxville, will hold a one-day revival Nov. 12 with evangelist Phil Glisson.



RETIRING DOM — Glenn A. Toomey, left, director of missions for Nolachucky Association who will retire at the end of 1989, receives a framed photograph and letter detailing some of his 25 years of service and naming him director of missions emeritus from Ricky Dinkins, pastor, Russellville Church, Russellville, during the association's annual meeting. Toomey also was honored with a reception. — Photo by Connie Davis

Mount Harmony Church, Riceville, began revival Nov. 6 with Bobby Thompson speaking. Services will conclude Nov. 10.

Unaka Avenue Church, Johnson City, began revival Nov. 5 to conclude Nov. 8. Speakers include Charles Earl, Holston Valley Association director of missions; Al Iglar, professor of environmental health at Eastern Tennessee State University; Tal Thompson, Holston Association director of missions; Frank Blevins, pastor of First Church, Bluff City; and Earl Wilson, president of Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

North Fork Church, Rogersville, held revival in October with evangelist Basil Jones.

Frank Bell recently spoke at revival at Cave Hill Church, Newport.

First Church, Lenoir City, held revival Oct. 8-12. John Sullivan led the services and Terry Shannon led music.

Stone Association reports several revivals held in October. Churches follow: Bangham Heights Church, Cookeville, Raymond White; Cedar Hill Church, Baxter, Ken Altom, Mark Fuqua, and Roger Phillips; Woodcliff Church, Monterey. In addition, Johnson Church, Monterey, began revival Nov. 5 with evangelist Steve Shipley.



HOLSTON VOLUNTEERS — Roberta Futrell, center, of Southside Church, Johnson City, receives a plaque recognizing her four years of service as coordinator of Holston Association's hospital ministry from Beverly Smothers, right, the association's Christian social ministries director. Looking on is Jo Holland of Central Church, Johnson City, who is taking over the post. Sixty-nine volunteers, representing 23 churches, distribute free coffee to families and friends in the intensive care waiting room at Johnson City Medical Center.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE — Sam Moore, left, recently received a pin for 24 years of perfect Sunday School attendance from Phillip Meek, Sunday School director at Antioch Church in Sevierville. Looking on is Pastor Mike Jones.

Guidance for responsible relationships

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

Introduction

There are times in all our lives when we need wise counsel and prayer for ourselves, our families, and our churches. This lesson deals specifically with a prayer request, as well as counsel for the needs of the Thessalonian Christians. The lesson closes with a prayer for peace.



WATSON

Paul's prayer request (3:1-2)

Paul needed prayer, and he requested the prayers of this local congregation. He requested the prayers of all the churches to which he wrote, with the exception of Galatia, which was a backsliding church, a church without true prayer power.

Preachers, too, need earnest and sincere prayers, just as Paul did. They need prayer so the Gospel can have free course, literally may run, and so our Lord may be proclaimed and glorified.

Paul further had need of the prayer of protection. The men who were attacking Paul and the Gospel were wicked. They were not satisfied to just reject Jesus themselves, but also desired to destroy the preachers who proclaimed Jesus. The request of Paul for prayer is the request of all who proclaim the Gospel. All proclamation about Jesus must be undergirded with prayer.

Paul's confidence in the Thessalonians (3:3-5)

Paul's confidence in the Thessalonians was based on the Lord. Jesus had sovereign rule at the Thessalonian church. The Lord which they served "stablished" and "kept" them from evil. The word "stablish" indicates inward spiritual rooting and grounding. "Kept" relates to protection from outward assault. Both inward and outward spiritual attack is related to the evil one.

Paul mentioned two ways the Lord provides for His people. One relates to the love of God, the other to patience or endurance. His prayer was that the Thessalonians would be directed toward the "love of God," and have patience in waiting for Christ. Christ's love and patience should motivate the same in their lives.

Dealing with those who walk disorderly (3:5-13)

Paul used the word "command" in verse 6. This is usually a word used by a military commander giving orders. A military officer has authority as a result of being commissioned by his government. Paul's command to them came from his commission by Jesus (Acts 26:16-18).

The disorderly, out of rank Christians, who did not work and meddled in the affairs of others were to heed Paul's words. Paul said the faithful Thessalonian Christians should withdraw or stand aloof, not expel the disorderly. This calls the disorderly person to attention, protects the con-

gregation, and also makes plain that the congregation is not characterized by this type of sin (v. 6). The congregation is to determine if they hold to the traditions of Christ, the true teaching of Christ which was passed down to them (v. 6).

Paul set an example for the Thessalonians. He worked long, hard hours to support himself and did not sponge off anyone (v. 8). He had the right and the authority to be supported by the Thessalonian Christians, but he chose not to be supported by them financially. He was in favor of financial support of the ministry, but here he chose not to receive any (1 Corinthians 9:14).

BIBLE BOOK SERIES	
November 12 Lesson	
Basic Passage:	2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
Focal Passage:	2 Thessalonians 3:1-16

Paul said in verse ten, that those who do not work, do not eat. The early church felt a great need to aid the needy, especially the hungry.

The word "hear" is used here in the present tense and means Paul had heard not just once, but many times that many had quit their jobs and were living off other church members. These loafers became busy bodies. The word busy body means doing something useless or worthless. Paul said cut off their food supply and bring

them back to the reality of work. He used his apostolic authority and commanded them to work. The disorderly were to work with quietness and purchase their own food from their earnings. Paul said there is no place in the church for the idle busy body who tends to the business of others.

Dealing with the disobedient (3:14-15)
Paul knew that some of the idle busy bodies in the Thessalonian church had not heeded his first warning (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). Then he told the faithful Thessalonian Christians to note, or mark, these people and not associate with them. Hopefully, this would cause the disobedient people to change their ways. This command was to the whole congregation, not just a few. The purpose of this action was not revenge, but hoped for reclamation.

Paul had the welfare of the disobedient in mind in church discipline, but ultimately the welfare of the church was supreme (1 Corinthians 5:6-7). Church discipline is definitely a New Testament teaching. To ignore this teaching is to ignore the welfare of the church, as well as the welfare of the wayward church member.

Paul's concluding prayer and greeting (3:16)

Paul's closing prayer for them was all inclusive. Wherever they were on the earthly Christian pilgrimage, strong or weak, he wanted the Lord to be with all of them. Peace does not come by human means, but only from the Lord of Lords and the Prince of Peace.

Provision for the redeemed

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

In our last lesson, the story ended with finding "The Lamb of God" who was worthy to open the book with seven seals in chapter five.

In chapter seven, we find that God saved a remnant of Israel (144,000) and a great multitude of Gentiles during the great tribulation.

At the beginning of the chapter, six seals of judgment have been opened. There is a pause before the seventh seal is opened. This interlude is a time of God's mercy for those who have accepted Christ during the great tribulation. Care must be taken to protect those who belong to God before the opening of the seventh seal.



GIBBS

John saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth holding back the four winds. The fifth angel ordered the four angels, who had been given power to hurt the earth and sea, not to hurt the earth and sea until the servants of God had a seal on their foreheads.

Who are these people who will be saved? Who will be among the 144,000? The Seventh-day Adventists say they will be the 144,000. The Jehovah's Witnesses say they will be the 144,000. Some say that 144,000 is the church.

I believe that the 144,000 will be the people who live during the time of the great tribulation. I believe that in verse four, when it says that the

144,000 will be of the tribes of the children of Israel, that it means exactly what it says. John went on to list the tribes in verses 5-9. "Israel" means Israel. If God had wanted to call Israel the church, I think He would have just said church.

What is meant by the "sealing" of the 144,000? In Ephesians 1:13, it says, "ye were sealed after that ye trusted in Christ, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise;" and in Ephesians 4:30, "grieve not the Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." The seal guarantees that God's children will be delivered.

Now the scene changes from earth to heaven: John says, "I beheld a great

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

November 12 Lesson

Basic Passage: Revelation 7:1-17

Focal Passages: Revelation 7:1-4, 9-10, 13-17

multitude which no man could number that stood before the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb. They were clothed with white garments and had palms in the hands. They all cried with a loud voice saying, 'Salvation to our God and unto the Lamb.' These people were the tribulation saints in heaven.

One of the elders asked, "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" Verse 14 gives the answer. "These are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes and

made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

The "white robes" set before us is the righteousness of Christ. We cannot stand before God in our own righteousness. Their robes were white. How did they get that righteousness? It was by the shed blood of the Lamb. Their robes were washed in the blood of the Lamb and made white as snow.

What is the Gospel? It is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. The Gospel is not God asking you to do something. It is God telling you that He has done something for you. The Gospel is not you giving something to God. It is God giving something to you. What He gives you is eternal life as a free gift.

This great multitude of people had been through the great tribulation. Most of them were martyrs in laying down their lives for Christ. Verse 16 says, "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat." The believers had experienced hunger, thirst, and extreme heat. It was a great comfort to know they would never have to experience this again. During much of their persecution, there was much weeping. God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

We live in a world of tears. There

are tears of sickness, sadness, loneliness, and death. What a wonderful place heaven will be because it will be a land where God wipes away our tears.

Our God is able to bring good out of many bad situations.

Samuel Brengle was preaching on a street corner in a rough district of the city. While he was preaching, a ruffian in the crowd threw a brick which struck him on the head. It almost killed him. During the long convalescence of 18 months, Brengle wrote some articles on holy living. The result was a book titled, *Helps to Holiness*, which blessed the lives of thousands.

When Brengle finally recovered, his wife handed him the brick which caused his suffering. On the brick were lettered the words of Joseph, "As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good . . . to save much people alive" (Genesis 50:20).

We can all say with the elders in heaven as they bow down before the Lamb, "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might be unto our God for ever and ever."

GREAT GIFT IDEA
Preserve Those Precious Memories
Let VID-TEK transfer your 8 mm, Super 8, Super 8/sound, 16mm to video tape. For more information contact: VID-TEK
5123 Paddock Village Court, Suite C.13
Maryland Farms — Brentwood, TN 37024
(615) 373-5936

FOR CHURCHES ONLY
BUILDING MONEY
BELOW PRIME
call ANDY HARDY
1-800-231-0373

CLASSIFIED
WANTED: Part-time music director. Coordinate all music activities. Above 25 years of age. Married. Send current resume to: Mt. Harmony Church, 6320 Straw Plains Pike, Knoxville, TN 37914.

Beginning where you are

By Mattie Carroll Mullins, layperson; Gray Church, Gray

When I first read the title for this lesson, I immediately remembered an old Gospel hymn which is seldom used today entitled, *Brighten the Corner Where You Are*. It fascinated me as a child when my church choir director would lead this song. I sang the verses with gusto and took the words literally, as I seriously believed as a Christian I should do all I could to brighten the corner where I was. Beginning where you are suggests where we are to witness in whatever situation we find ourselves.

In 2 Kings 5:1-19, we read an interesting story about a great, distinguished leader of the Syrian army named Naaman. He was a great captain who had received many honors from his country and through him the



MULLINS

Lord had given deliverance to Syria. Although Naaman was a mighty and valiant warrior, he had a human need. He was a leper. The Syrians had gone out by companies and brought back captives from Israel. Among the captives was a little Jewish maiden who was sold as a slave to Naaman's wife. Seeing her owner's physical ailment, this servant girl was moved with compassion. She told her mistress of the prophet of God, Elisha, who lived in Israel.

The young maiden knew of Elisha's remarkable powers and was convinced he could heal her master. She took the opportunity to arrange a time for Elisha to participate in the healing of Naaman.

When Elisha heard of the need, he responded. A messenger was sent to Naaman who told him to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times until he was perfectly clean. By this act, Naaman was obedient to God, and surrendered himself to the power of God and turned his life over to God's will. Elisha refused any reward which was offered to him.

What did the Jewish maiden really

do in this story? She saw a need and immediately sought someone who could fill this need. She was instrumental in seeing that Elisha met this need. Yes, this changed Naaman's physical condition, but it also strengthened his relationship to God.

Before healing could come, Naaman had to let God work in his heart and life. The maiden used every opportunity to seek help from Elisha for Naaman, but God had to work the miracle.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
November 12 Lesson
 Basic Passage: 2 Kings 5:1-19
 Focal Passages: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 8-10, 14-16

Can you see the power of one person's influence? The servant girl was not even identified by name and was known by very few people. When the opportunity came, she was ready to show genuine compassion for her master and see that his needs were met. She was willing to begin where she was.

Are we sensitive to the needs of those we meet? Are we interested in the healing of those sin-sick? There are countless millions today without Christ as their personal Savior.

Will you covenant to "brighten the corner where you are?" We begin by meeting the needs of individuals. In

Holston Baptist Association where I live, Tennessee Baptists are meeting needs of many through the work at the Baptist center, adult homes complex, alternative home for expectant mothers, children's home cottage, summer migrant ministry, and other programs for young and old.

Southern Baptists are responding to needs on our home and foreign mission fields as we build schools and churches; provide homes for orphans; care for the elderly; and send food, seeds, and clothing to those in need. We also send Gospel tracts and Bibles in different languages to lost people.

A few years ago, my 92-year-old father's church sent out a survey just before a new church year. As Daddy read all the questions asking how members could volunteer to serve in numerous capacities, it was evident he could no longer drive the church van, teach a Sunday School class, count the money, oversee the grounds, serve as deacon, or a dozen other things he had participated in for years. He had gradually turned many responsibilities over to the younger men in the church, but still had the same desire to serve.

After praying about this, the Lord led him to realize there was still something he could do. He returned his survey form with an additional remark that went something like this: "I have the time, a good voice, and a telephone. I will be happy to make calls for the pastor and the church, to the sick, bereaved, and the lost. I can explain the plan of salvation to folks and I can pray with them." He did this faithfully until his death. He did what he could with the opportunity he had.

Naaman had a need. The servant girl referred him to Elisha. Elisha showed Naaman that he could be made clean. Christ's message is that simple. We can help those in need and show them they, too, can be made perfectly clean. Beginning where you are involves following this example.

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-571-1459
 In Texas 1-800-441-8582
 P.O. Box 710
 Henderson, TN 37053-0214

• Steeples • Baptries • Lighted Wall Crosses

• "Krinklas" Windows • Baptistry Heaters

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
 4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
 JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— SOLID OAK PEWS —
 PEW UPHOLSTERY REFINISHING
 BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
 EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE

1-(800)-523-9058
 NC 1-(800)-222-7895

LIGHTING CARPET

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES

Manufacturers of Lights, Baptistries, Signs

1-800-446-7400
 Free Call

Box 2260, Derwille, VA 24541
 In VA (804) 822-2000

AUGUST 14-19, 1990, IN SEOUL, KOREA

Join Us For A Once In A Lifetime Spiritual Experience

Just imagine the joy of sharing prayer and fellowship with Billy Graham, Korean Baptists and Baptists from around the world! Or, feeling the spiritual strength rise within as international church leaders speak the gospel and move you with every word.

You can join in this once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience by being part of the 16th Baptist World Congress. Simply call 703-790-8980 and start making plans. Thousands already have.



FMB photo by Don Rutledge

Come with your entire family. Or, better yet, get other families from your church and travel together. What a fantastic trip this will be.

People from all over the world saw the breathtaking, cosmopolitan city of Seoul in the 1988 Olympics. Now you can see the incredible beauty of Seoul for yourself and join hands with Baptists around the globe — as together we pray, we love, we hope, we witness, we worship and serve. Call today for a free brochure.

Baptist World Alliance Congress
 6733 Curran Street
 McLean, VA 22101-3804
 703-790-8980



NEW 1990 SKIING AT RIDGECREST



New Year's Ski Bible Conference
 December 29-January 1

Holiday Ski Bible Conference
 January 12-15

Sweetheart Ski Bible Conference
 February 9-11

Ongoing Ski Bible Conference
 January 1—February 16

Ask about our free ski package. Bring 25 skiers, the 26th skier free! Call or write for more information:

Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center
 Box 128
 Ridgecrest, NC 28770
 (704) 669-8022

Songs of the Sea with Dino Kartsonakis and Gary McSpadden on **Royal Caribbean "Nordic Express"**
 June 18 for 4 nights — Spaces limited
WHOLESALE TOURS
 Toll Free 1-800-338-7507

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38840
 In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
 Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

PEW UPHOLSTERY REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS PEW REFINISHING STAINED GLASS LIGHTING CARPET • PEWS

We have upholstered pews in over 1500 churches totaling over 800,000 lineal ft. We can reupholster and repair any pews on site for less cost than the original manufacturer.

Church Interiors Inc.
 Leading the Nation in Church Renovations
 P.O. Box 5346 • High Point, NC 27262
 Call Toll Free: 1-800-BUY-PEWS
 (1-800-289-7397)

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Orphans, needy in Lebanon receiving Baptist aid

LARNACA, Cyprus — Southern Baptist hunger relief offerings are helping put food on the tables of three orphanages and homes for the elderly and handicapped in predominantly Muslim areas of Lebanon.

"The food is for people who are hungry ... in institutions that are broke," said Pete Dunn, a Southern Baptist missionary based in Cyprus, referring to the \$40,000 allocation of Southern Baptist hunger relief funds. "Each box of food that is going in says it has been donated by the Baptists in Christian love," he said.

The food is being delivered by World Vision, an international relief-oriented ministry. Dunn recounted that when World Vision workers told a Muslim official in Lebanon that Baptists would be supplying food, the leader replied: "I know the Baptists. This would be fine."

During the summer, another \$40,000 in Southern Baptist hunger funds went to several Lebanese Baptist churches to aid needy families. Countless people had not worked since March, Dunn said, "and the churches had exhausted their ability to help."

Two generations commissioned for first time as home missionaries

ATLANTA — For the first time, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board commissioned two generations — parents and their married daughters — as missionaries during the same commissioning service. And it happened twice during one service at First Church, College Park, Ga., on Oct. 29.

The two extended families were among 100 missionaries from 23 states and Puerto Rico commissioned by the Home Mission Board for service in 26 states and Canada. Eddie and Mary Henson of West Virginia, the parents of Lisa Dean of North Carolina, were commissioned at the same time as their daughter and her husband, Jim. And Bill and Jane Alexander of Texas, the parents of D'Lisa McIntosh, were commissioned alongside their daughter and her husband, Scott.

Bill Graham, director of the missionary personnel department for the Home Mission Board, said the service was the first time that parents and their children had been commissioned together.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis advised the 100 missionaries to follow four principles in their lives to maintain the spiritual, mental, and physical strength necessary to be effective missionaries. Lewis urged the missionaries to discipline their lives to include daily prayer, daily Bible study, daily visitation and witnessing, and daily personal commitment to sacrificing their own desires in submission to God's will.

Dellanna O'Brien, newly elected executive director of the Southern Baptist

Woman's Missionary Union, led the prayer of dedication. She prayed for joy in times of sorrow, peace in times of conflict, hope in times of despair and the strength to love the unlovely.

Iowa Fellowship re-elects Berry

AMES, Iowa — Tye Berry, pastor of First Church, Bettendorf, Iowa, was re-elected president of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship during the annual meeting in Ames, Oct. 20-21.

The 133 messengers also adopted a budget of \$950,234, of which \$240,742 will come from the 64 congregations affiliated with the fellowship. Of the receipts from the churches, 17 percent — \$33,823 — will be sent to support the worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, up one percent from last year.

In addition to Berry, messengers also re-elected Barry Stewart, pastor of Albia Road Church, Ottumwa as vice president. Eugene Linn, pastor of Sioux Rapids Church, was elected secretary.

Messengers adopted a resolution which said "pro-abortion forces have determined to stop the election of political candidates who stand against the sin" of abortion, and encouraged "courageous candidates" to continue to oppose abortion.

Baptist named chief of Civil Air Patrol chaplains

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — For the first time in its 48-year history, the Civil Air Patrol has a Southern Baptist as its chief of chaplains. Lt. Col. Eugene Elmore of Maiden, N.C., assumed the post this fall. He previously was chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol's mid-east U.S. region, which encompasses six states and the District of Columbia.

Elmore joins a national team headed by another Southern Baptist, Maj. Gen. Eugene Harwell of Charlotte, N.C. Harwell has been national commander of the Civil Air Patrol for the past three years. Of the Civil Air Patrol's 1,041 chaplains nationwide, 112 are Southern Baptists. Although not appointed missionaries, they are endorsed for service by the chaplaincy division of the convention's Home Mission Board. Civil Air Patrol chaplains of all faiths must be endorsed by the appropriate agencies of their denominations.

Both Elmore and Harwell said they would like to see more Southern Baptists involved in Civil Air Patrol chaplaincy because of the ministry opportunities. Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. As a non-profit organization, it coordinates volunteer emergency services such as search-and-rescue missions.

Cuban leader says churches a bit freer

LERIDA, Spain — Baptists in Cuba have relatively more freedom today than in years past and have rebuilt ten churches in the last five years, Cuban Baptist leader Luis Gonzales Pena told Spanish Baptists during a recent visit.

Gonzales, 75, directs the Baptist seminary in western Cuba. He last visited Spain in 1955 and said he had wanted to return ever since.

Chinese Christians celebrate decade of reopening churches

SHANGHAI, China (BP) — As the government commemorates the 40th anniversary of "New China," Chinese Christians are celebrating the tenth year since permission was granted to reopen churches following the Cultural Revolution.

More than 6000 Protestant churches have opened in China since 1979 — a rate of three churches opened every two days.

"Sympathy in society for the church

is a very important factor" in churches being reopened, said Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), president of the China Christian Council and Protestants' Three-Self Patriotic Movement. "As far as the central people's government and provincial governments are concerned, I think there is a desire to implement the principle of religious freedom."

Ding said the government's actions are "not because of any high opinion of

religion, but because they know it's the only way to maintain unity. The Communist Party wants to unite as many Chinese as possible to work together for the prosperity of the country. For that unity to be possible, minority characteristics, including religious faiths, must be respected and tolerated."

During the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution every church was closed down and its property confiscated. Of the 6000 Protestant churches reopened in China, about two-thirds meet in buildings returned to church ownership. One-third meet in new buildings located mainly in rural areas where a church building did not exist before. In addition, at least 15,000 church groups meet

in homes throughout China.

When attempting to reclaim a church property, local Christians usually raise the question with authorities about use of a church building. Many of these former church buildings now are used as factories, schools, hospitals, and warehouses. Congregations have the legal right in China to reclaim property, but church officials admit reclamation often is a long process.

Chinese Christians recognized the tenth anniversary of the church's reopening in different ways. In Shanghai, more than 3000 Christians marked the occasion with a special service in Huang Pu sports stadium.

Bible a 'hot item' among Chinese

NANJING, China (BP) — If China had a book of the year, the Bible probably would be it. It's a "hot item," according to Chinese Christians.

Evidence of the Bible's popularity among Chinese can be seen in numerous ways:

- Bibles are sold in many bookstores in China, although Bibles printed by Chinese Christians' Amity Press are not yet available in stores. The vast majority of the stores are government-owned.

- The Bible is on the book counter of the Nanjing Public Library.

- The Xinhua bookstore chain, operated by the New China News Agency, stocked Bibles until they sold out.

- In northeast China the \$1 price tag on Amity Press Bibles can soar to 13 times that price because of demand.

- Christians often are asked by non-Christian co-workers to buy Bibles for them. Also this year, nearly 200 students have come to the Nanjing Christian seminary from nearby Nan-

ing University to buy Bibles.

- Some young scholars in Beijing, all non-Christians, edited and published a book titled *The New Word of the Bible*, containing articles on the Bible and Western thought as expressed in literature, philosophy and ethics. A major portion of the book is quotations from the Bible.

- Another group of non-Christians is revising the 1919 "Union Guanghai" version of the Chinese Bible because many words in the old version are different from modern Chinese word usage.

- Book publishing companies operated by the Chinese government recently have printed five books of selected Bible stories.

"Intellectuals are interested in the Bible because they're interested in the West and consider the Bible a very important source for Western culture," explained Peter MacInnis, a United Bible Societies employee who lives in China.

Few East German Baptists flee

WEST BERLIN (BP) — Only a handful of Baptists have joined more than 52,000 East Germans who have fled to the West in recent months.

East German church leaders have encouraged their pastors and members to stay where they are and be faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Few laypeople and no pastors or seminary students have joined the exodus from East Germany so far, said Ulrich Materne, general secretary for the Baptist Union of East Germany. East German pastors report they are counseling many Baptists on whether to apply for visas to emigrate legally to the West.

However, leaders fear East German Baptists may not be allowed to attend classes at the new International Baptist Lay Academy next July in

Budapest, Hungary, because of the current crisis.

Some Baptists are among the many thousands of East Germans who have applied for permission to emigrate legally to West Germany. Nineteen members of a 78-member church in Cottbus, south of East Berlin, applied for exit visas.

To prevent a leadership drain from East German churches, Baptist union leaders in both Germanys agreed that East German pastors who go to West Germany will not be permitted to be pastors of union congregations there.

Although East German Baptist leaders oppose a Baptist exodus, one leader challenged West German Baptists to evangelize East Germans flooding there.