

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 156/NO. 8/FEBRUARY 21, 1990

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Compassion, ministry urged for people with AIDS

NASHVILLE (BP) — As it continues to spread rapidly and worldwide, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome calls individual Christians and churches to respond with attitudes and actions that reflect both the holiness and compassion of God, speakers at the first Southern Baptist national conference on AIDS said in Nashville.

The Bible is clear that God's compassionate nature expects Christians to be Good Samaritans and not bypass individuals who suffer with various ailments such as AIDS, speakers told more than 200 conference participants.

At the same time, the Bible is equally clear that God's holy nature rejects homosexuality, promiscuity, and drug abuse — the primary ways AIDS is spread — as morally unacceptable, speakers said. Various speakers also said that AIDS impacts the lives of tens of millions of people, including many in Southern Baptist churches, in addition to those who have the virus.

"AIDS is a crisis of great magnitude that must be faced by our families and our churches," said John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

"Each of us will be touched, affected, however small, but still affected" by AIDS, said William Tillman, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

During the Feb. 12-13 conference at First Church, Nashville, pastors, laypeople, and denominational employees told about being called upon to minis-

ter to people with AIDS and their friends, family members, and fellow church members.

Noting more people in America have died of AIDS than died in the Vietnam War, Belinda Mason, a Southern Baptist layperson from Kentucky who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion, said: "These are not numbers or even panels on a quilt. These are people."

The conference, "AIDS: Crisis for Church and Family" was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, the missions ministry division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the family ministry, discipleship training, church administration, and student ministry departments of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Because so many victims of AIDS are either homosexuals, drug abusers, or members of minority racial groups, "the temptation is to deny the presence of the disease by denying those who have unpopular standing in society, those who have gotten the disease in unethical ways," Tillman said.

"AIDS is not and cannot be limited to only one or two subpopulations in our society," he said. "To think so is incredibly naive." While she and her family have experienced acceptance and love from their church, East Hartford Church in Hartford, Ky., Mason said many other people with AIDS have experienced rejection and alienation from Christian people.



TENNESSEAN RETURNS — AIDS expert Richard Goodgame recently returned to his native home of Nashville to participate in the Christian Life Commission's national conference on AIDS. Goodgame, a medical missionary in Uganda, visits with Belinda Mason, a Southern Baptist who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. — Photo by Jim Veneman

"If this doesn't trouble us, I worry about us," she said. "Many of us who have stood silent while people have been driven from their homes will be called to account. Maybe we can look at AIDS as a test, not for the people infected but for the rest of us."

Richard Bridges, pastor of First Church of Bowling Green, Ky., told about his brother-in-law's death from AIDS. Bridges called the disease "an opportunity for people called Southern Baptists to demonstrate the power of the love of God."

Several speakers said they are uncomfortable with statements by Christians that AIDS is a judgment from God.

Sullivan said AIDS is not the judgment of God on individuals but on permissiveness in general. "The church, not just Southern Baptists, have taken a permissive attitude toward sexuality and toward the social problems of life," he noted.

Southern Baptist medical missionary Richard Goodgame said: "We don't" (See page 3)

Agency defers decision on Southeastern accreditation

By Marv Knox

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada has delayed until June its decision on the accreditation of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Association of Theological Schools and another accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, have been studying the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary's accreditation for about two years.

Southeastern has been troubled by a dispute between faculty and adminis-

tration and trustees since October 1987, when the trustees' new conservative majority changed the way the school chooses faculty members. Subsequently, at least 18 faculty and administrators — including the president and faculty dean — have resigned or retired.

Both accrediting agencies launched investigations of Southeastern almost two years ago. Both agencies issued reports critical of the seminary, raising issues of institutional effectiveness/image, faculty selection, perceptions of academic freedom, and seminary governance.

Trustees and faculty drafted separate responses to those reports, as did President Lewis A. Drummond, who worked with a committee representing the school's constituencies.

Last fall, seminary administrators, faculty and trustees participated in a workshop designed to bring reconciliation to the campus.

They reached a compromise agree-

ment that placed a moratorium on election of permanent faculty until after the trustees' March meeting; instructed a special faculty/trustee task force to propose a new faculty-selection process, which the trustees are to consider in March; and allowed Drummond to appoint temporary faculty as needed during the interim.

In December, the Southern Association placed Southeastern on "warning," a public sanction imposed for a maximum of two years. During that time, the school is to work to correct its deficiencies in the four categories noted in the association's report.

The accrediting agency will send a review team to visit the school during the next year and report on its find-

ings. The association will consider Southeastern's case at its annual meeting in December.

Meanwhile, the Association of Theological Schools' accrediting commission — which last June had instructed Southeastern to "show cause ... why it should not be placed on probation" — met with Drummond and the seminary's academic vice president/dean, L. Russ Bush III, in January. They discussed the school's efforts to comply with the accrediting criteria, Bush reported.

In mid-February, the Association of Theological Schools notified Drummond that it had deferred its decision of Southeastern's accreditation until its (See page 3)

Rains flood Copper Basin region

Torrential rains flooded the Copper Basin area of southeastern Tennessee and northern Georgia Feb. 15-16 causing extensive damage to homes and businesses.

Cameron Byler, Brotherhood director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Al Patterson, director of missions, Copper Basin Association, assessed the damage Feb. 19.

Byler said about 34 families on the Tennessee side "lost everything." He

noted water rose about seven feet high in some homes and businesses.

Byler said the TBC disaster relief van and feeding unit are not needed, but work crews are requested. Volunteers interested in helping with cleanup work should contact Al Patterson at (615) 496-7977.

Byler also said canned and dry food goods are urgently needed and may be sent to the Copper Basin Association's Crisis Center in Ducktown.

An inside look

Preparation begins

- For "Here's Hope" revivals.....Page 2

FMB trustees meet

- Overseas baptisms upPage 3

AIDS

- An inside look.....Pages 5-8

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

Facing reality — What does AIDS mean to us?

In this issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, we have some in-depth emphasis on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, commonly known by its acronym, AIDS.

AIDS for millions of people is not only a dirty word, it is something they are certain they will never have to cope with. It is in another world for them — a world of homosexuals and/or drug addicts who use unsterilized needles. But heterosexuals also have AIDS.

AIDS also means death. And thus the Christian especially is faced with choice — what to do about AIDS, what to do when confronted with a face-to-face encounter with a person with AIDS, or how to help a family touched by AIDS.

It is simple to condemn and castigate. It is easy to quote Scripture about sexual sin and the price it exacts. But what about the innocent victims, what about the victims of accidental infection by transfusion?

It comes to more than that for Christians. Tennessee Baptists are not immune to AIDS, nor is any other group in the world. We must come to grips by being informed, by being

ready to show Christ's compassion and help the healing before death.

AIDS is all around us. Last February in an editors' meeting in San Diego, California, we heard (and learned) about AIDS. Families of patients shared their agony. A pastor told of his efforts to help AIDS victims and their families. Some were Baptist — others weren't. What did he get for his efforts? He was terminated by the church.

When we visited the African nations of Rwanda and Burundi five years ago, already Baptist missionaries were being counseled about the onslaught of the AIDS epidemic — coming across borders from Uganda.

Local doctors were overwhelmed — patients had to be shifted out to die in hospitals where there was no medical care — only the compassion of some doctors and Christian groups.

According to news reports, at least one hospital was discovered in Romania after the government was overthrown in January — filled with dying AIDS patients, all babies and little children. They had been hidden away

from public view as if they were guilty of crimes.

AIDS poses an uncertain challenge for our society and churches. Baptists must realize that the enormity of the challenge is real. The specter of death hovers over all who are infected and also the well. Our responsibility is to see the problem through the eyes of Christ and follow His example.

A pastor friend shared news of a personal tragedy. Friends of the family notified him and his wife that a son had died, the same age as the pastor's son and a good "buddy" for several years. The cause of death: AIDS. So it strikes closer to home than many realize.

We encourage the reader to study this information about AIDS. Pray about it. And be willing to let God lead us in attitudes and actions. If more information is needed, the Christian Life Commission (Nashville) has an excellent series of leaflets about AIDS.

The leaflets include: AIDS: a Deadly Disease, People with AIDS, AIDS: Biblical Insights, and Ministry to People with AIDS. — WFA

Southern Baptists preparing for 'Here's Hope' revivals

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists have begun praying and ordering products in preparation for the denomination's "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals March 18-April 29.

And some churches couldn't wait, so they started their "Here's Hope" revivals early.

Darrell Robinson, vice president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, preached for one of the nation's first "Here's Hope" revivals, held at First Church, Mableton, Ga., in January.

"The church had made excellent preparation using the 'Here's Hope' manual," Robinson said. "Their prayer emphasis was tremendously effective."

"This tells me that anywhere people have prepared for revival, I believe they'll have two things happen: they'll have a great spirit of revival and they'll have a harvest," Robinson said.

Meanwhile, churches and associations across the nation are holding prayer retreats for the simultaneous revivals. The retreats vary in length from two hours to two days, but all are designed with 45 minutes of actual praying for every 15 minutes of program.

The board also introduced a new element of personal prayer preparation for this year's simultaneous revivals, the Daniel Prayer Team. It is based upon a successful emphasis developed by Earl Peacock in Georgia during the 1985 "Good News America" revivals.

Peacock, associate director of evangelism for the Georgia Baptist Convention, said he realized the 1985 simultaneous revivals could not be successful without prayer. He was inspired by the Biblical account of Daniel, who prayed three times a day despite threats to throw him in the lion's den.

"We determined to get a group of

people together who — like Daniel — would pray regardless of what the opposition might be," he said.

Peacock believes the prayers of those 4000 people during the 1985 revivals brought about a reversal in the number of baptisms in the state. "That was the year we turned baptisms around in the state of Georgia," he said. "I think it made a tremendous difference. Whenever you get several thousand people together to pray, it's going to make a difference."

For the 1990 revivals, the board has promoted the Daniel Prayer Team concept nationwide. Thus far, 7500 people have returned commitment cards to the board, promising to pray daily for the revivals.

Those committed to pray have received copies of the "Sweet Hour of Prayer" spiritual preparation guide, a bookmark, certificate, and a set of blue dots to stick on watches, mirrors, or other obvious places as a reminder to pray.

Churches also are putting feet — or at least fingers — to their prayers as they dial the board's "Here's Hope" customer service center to order revival materials and promotional products.

"The response is exceeding anything we ever dreamed of," said Jerry Wolverton, director of marketing. "Our people are working longer and harder hours than anyone ever imagined."

Wolverton has added additional phone lines and workers to meet the demand. He has urged churches to place calls outside the peak ordering period of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern time. The "Here's Hope" toll-free ordering line is open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Callers who cannot get through on the "Here's Hope" line — (800) 346-1990 — may use the board's regular customer service line: (800) 634-2462 or may submit orders by fax to (404) 898-7228.

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will open a "Here's Hope Victory Line" for callers to report results of the denomination's simultaneous revivals March 18-April 29.

The number is (404) 898-7589. Staff members from the board's mass evangelism department will take calls between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern time, Mondays through Fridays. The number is not toll-free.

Howards coordinate relief work

MEMPHIS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has targeted St. Croix in the Virgin Islands for continuing disaster relief response following devastation incurred by Hurricane Hugo.

Brotherhood Commission volunteers will roof about 100 homes, said Mark Sly, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board disaster relief coordinator for the U.S. Virgin Islands. The board coordinates Southern Baptist ministry on St. Croix because it is a U.S. protectorate.

"This will be working with the Mennonite disaster services," said Sly. "They have compiled a list of over 200 families who need assistance right now with over 100 of them who have materials on site waiting for labor to come down and replace their roofs."

M. B. and Cathryne Howard of Covington, will be on-site coordinators for the project. Howard is the National Fellowship of Baptist Men's construction coordinator and a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention ex-

ecutive board.

Volunteers will stay at a central location and travel daily to their work sites. Maximum travel time will be 20 minutes, said Sly. "We have a church, Grace Central Church, that can sleep 50 men easily," he said. "Volunteers will have to bring their own cots or sleeping bags."

Jim Furgerson, the commission's national disaster relief coordinator, said crews will start going to St. Croix April 16. Plans call for six to eight teams of four to six men to go each week through May 30. Each volunteer will be required to contribute \$75 for food and bring his own tools. Negotiations are underway with airlines for reduced fares.

Cameron Byler, Brotherhood director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said Tennessee Baptists have been asked to provide two to four teams of four to six men each.

Persons interested in the mission project may contact Byler at (615) 371-2025.

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; Paul Durham, vice chairman; Gary Anderson, Raymond Boston, Herschel Chevallier, Larry Gilmore, Don Givena, Irvin Hays, M. B. Howard, James Hutson, Moncrief Jordan, John D. Laida, Murray Mathis, Jerry Oakley, Howard Olive, James Porch, Frank Samuels, Bobby Turner, and Emerson Wiles Jr.

FMB trustees elect Law, hear of overseas growth

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees heard reports of upsurges in overseas baptisms and other mission results, elected a woman vice president and honored R. Keith Parks on his tenth anniversary as board president at their February meeting.

They also authorized reopening missionary work in Nicaragua and opening work in Denmark, appointed 29 missionaries, reaffirmed the board's longstanding policy against appointing divorced people as missionaries, and made requirements for the missionary associate program more flexible.

Trustees and staff opened the three-day meeting with a half-day "solemn assembly," based on the Old Testament practice of calling people to repentance and prayer. Prayers, Scripture reading, and presentations during the assembly resulted in deepened relationships and set the tone for the rest of the meeting, according to participants.

"A good bit of private confession occurred that caused staff and trustees to face our personal relationship with Christ and, as always, this results in a closer relationship with each other," said Parks. "We learned some of our perceptions about each other weren't accurate."

The trustees closed their meeting with a tribute to Parks' ten years of leadership as president, following a celebration held earlier by staff.

A statistical review of 1989 reveals an upsurge in baptisms, church membership, churches, Sunday School enrollment, and Discipleship Training in churches related to Southern Baptist foreign mission work, Parks said.

Overseas churches baptized 227,437 people — an increase of 14.9 percent

over 1988 and a ratio of one baptism for every 10.7 church members. The ratio is one for every 40 members in Southern Baptist churches in the United States. The increase reversed a three percent decline the year before.

The number of Baptist churches overseas increased 10.6 percent, from 19,199 to 21,239. Overseas membership went up by 345,818, a 16.4 percent increase, to 2.4 million. Meanwhile, Sunday School enrollment added 356,535 new members, a 23.4 percent increase to 1.9 million, and Discipleship Training saw an increase of 1120, to 19,764.

Although mission congregations or "preaching points" increased from 18,250 to 21,234, only 5.4 percent of the congregations counted in 1988 became churches in 1989, said Jim Slack of the board's research and planning office. Slack, who said a realistic rate is 20 percent, noted that the board has "started concentrating more on the maturing of new units into churches."

Betty F. Law, 61, associate area director for Spanish South America, was elected with two dissenting votes as vice president for the Americas. She will oversee mission work in Middle America, Canada, Brazil, the Caribbean, and Spanish South America and participate in the board's Global Strategy Group, a long-range planning body of top administrators.

Parks, addressing trustees before Law's election, noted that some trustees had questioned whether a woman should have leadership and authority over men. He urged them not to apply interpretations of Scripture to leadership roles beyond the local church.

"The Foreign Mission Board is not a church," he said. "We have spiritual functions. But we are a business organiza-

tion. We are an agency of this denomination." The board has other women in supervisory roles and has women among its 90 trustees, he added.

Law's 25 years as a missionary in Cuba and Spain with her husband, the late Thomas Law Jr., and nine years as a board administrator gave her the insight and experience needed for her new job, Parks said.

Parks also addressed concerns voiced by some trustees that Law has not earned a seminary degree. The degree had been a job requirement for the post and is required for many missionaries she will oversee. The board has to look at the whole picture when filling a staff position, not just one requirement, Parks said.

The "lack of a degree has been more than compensated for in her own personal study and experience," he said. Law has a master's degree in Spanish literature and completed 18 hours of seminary study.

Bob Claytor, a trustee from Rome, Ga., and member of the board's committee on the Americas, said the committee questioned Law in depth about her views on theology and current issues and was "extremely satisfied with her ability to handle that (and) with the soundness of her theology. The bottom line for us, especially for me, was that she (demonstrated) the scriptural knowledge necessary" for the role. "However she's gotten it, she's got it."

On the question of divorce, trustees decided unanimously to continue the board's policy of not appointing people who have been divorced. The action, following a yearlong study, came in response to a motion at the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC calling for an evaluation of the board's divorce policy.

The 29 new missionaries, including six with ethnic backgrounds, bring the total foreign missionary force to 3777.

Thompson Station Mission seeks volunteers

Members of Thompson Station Mission, Thompson Station, voted unanimously Feb. 11 to begin construction of a new building.

The mission, begun ten years ago by Nashville's Belmont Heights Church and First Church, has increased in membership from 33 to 70 in the last year, with Sunday School attendance now close to 100 people.

Fourteen people were baptized last year.

"A lot of church members are brand new in church work. This will be a unifying project," said Tom McCoy, pastor. "It will get the entire church body involved and show the community that we're serious and that we're here to stay."

The congregation has been meeting in a building purchased for the mission by Belmont Heights Church, but they have reached capacity in educational space.

McCoy considers the church property on Route 31 five miles from the Saturn plant to be a prime location for the new building. Several subdivisions are planned for the immediate area and a bypass around Nashville is planned which, when completed, will intersect Route 31 two miles from the property. The new building will "bring im-

The board will seek missionary personnel to enter Nicaragua and Denmark as soon as possible.

Southern Baptists will have missionaries in all Central American countries when the board assigns a missionary in a liaison role in Nicaragua. The liaison will "minister in partnership with Baptist communities in Nicaragua," said Joe Bruce, area director for Middle American and Canada.

No Southern Baptist missionaries have been assigned there since 1983, when the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua advised furloughing missionaries not to return because their physical safety could not be guaranteed.

For Denmark, the board needs a missionary to serve as pastor of a new English-language congregation in Copenhagen and as a liaison with the Baptist Union of Denmark.

Trustees also unanimously approved changing the qualifications for the missionary associate program, which employs personnel for four-year renewable terms overseas rather than as career missionaries.

The changes, which lower the minimum age for missionary-associates to 24 and allow for more flexibility in balancing skills and experience against formal education, are expected to open the way for more Southern Baptists to serve overseas.

One change would allow the spouse of the person with the primary missionary assignment to be employed without education beyond high school if certain requirements are met. That means a pastor's wife who has a high school diploma and demonstrated leadership ability could be employed without further education. Certain other assignments also may allow employment of a missionary associate without a college degree if the person has the required skills and experience.

Compassion, ministry urged for . . .

(Continued from page 1)

now why there's AIDS, or breast cancer, or diarrhea or all those things. We do know about one judgment of God — that Jesus Christ will separate the sheep from the goats.

The goats go to hell, and the sheep to everlasting life. You can count me to be a sheep. I'm going to treat people as if they were Jesus — every AIDS patient, every AIDS family — so I won't have to fear that judgment."

Goodgame, Sullivan and other

Agency defers . . .

(Continued from page 1)

une 6-8 meeting.

Drummond said of the association, "We're very grateful to ATS for the continuance of their work with us and for giving us this further opportunity for meeting our criteria standards." Trustees will take up the faculty-election issue at their next meeting March 12-13, said Chairman James R. DeLoach, associate pastor of Second Church, Houston.

"I know the trustees are going to be considering the things that will be brought to them by the fact-finding committee of faculty, trustees and Dr. Drummond," DeLoach said. He predicted the faculty, administration and trustees will agree on a faculty-election process that can satisfy the accrediting agencies.

speakers said one way Christians should respond to the AIDS epidemic is by emphasizing sexual purity before marriage and sexual fidelity after marriage.

America's main admonition to practice "safe sex" to combat the spread of AIDS might prevent the AIDS virus from being transmitted somewhat but "doesn't fulfill God's plan for sex and marriage," Goodgame said.

Churches must counter this "safe sex" approach in today's culture by emphasizing the "just say no" message as contained in the Bible, he said: "AIDS is a case of bad VD (venereal disease). You get it from sleeping around. You don't get AIDS from (being around) AIDS patients."

Beverly Hammack, director of the missions ministries division of the SBC Home Mission Board, urged Southern Baptists to bridge the gap from believing they should care about people with AIDS to becoming Christian care givers.

"The message from the church is, 'We care,' but there is a big gap. We must build bridges of relationships with people," she said.

— Contributing to this story were Lewis Moore, Linda Lawson, Dan Martin, Marv Knox, Kay Moore, and Jim Lowry.

Our Readers Write

God always loves

Jim Pennington's letter, Feb. 7 issue, gave several reasons why more people are not involved in church work. He stated that divorce was a possible reason, adding that once a person is divorced, opportunities for leadership and services are practically nonexistent.

God does not stop loving people once they are divorced. As a person who is divorced, I have struggled with rejection and criticism where I least expected to find it — among other Christians. I finally realized that while I could not change other people, with God's help I could change myself. If other people choose to criticize me or judge me harshly because I am divorced, that's their problem. God has called me by name and I am His.

Judi Easley Taylor
604 Spruce St.
Johnson City 37601

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.

Observe the Sabbath

Has the fourth commandment been removed from the ten commandments? Are Christians no longer to observe Sunday as the Christian's Sabbath? Have we modified the fourth commandment (liberalized it) for modern times and convenience? Is God's Word errant in containing the fourth commandment? Is God's Word truly the same yesterday, today, and forever?

The two basic principles of the fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath

Lebanon home receives name

Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons has recently named their newly-purchased group home for mentally retarded adults in Middle Tennessee. Stone Way Acres is located in Lebanon and will serve clients in the mid-state.

Stone Way Acres is a joint effort of BHEP and the ministry of Adult Homes of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. BHEP is a non-profit corporation in charge of raising capital for the purchase of land and buildings. Tennessee Baptist Adults Homes helps fund programming and operating expenses for the group home.

Two work days recently have been held at Stone Way Acres. Numerous churches from Wilson and Davidson counties furnished volunteers and supplies to paint and prepare the home for occupancy this spring.

A Stone Way Acres Benefit Day has been planned for Nashville on March 3 at Lincocya Hills Church to raise funds for furnishing the home.

Donations may be made any time by contacting Bill Marr, pastor of Lincocya Hills, (615-883-7111), or Gene Nabi at (615-792-3419).

day to keep it holy," are simple. God says (present tense — God's laws do not change) every seven days My people are to rest their physical bodies from their regular labors, and make a special effort to exercise their spiritual selves. (1) God's people are not to work on the Sabbath, nor cause others to work on the Sabbath, nor even to make their domestic animals to work on the Sabbath, (other than in emergency or necessary activities — Jesus' clarification). (2) God's people are to assemble themselves to worship God, to study, and edify one another in the principles of God's Word, and to win the lost to Christ.

More professing Christians today are working on Sundays, not because they're more, but simply to make more money. More are patronizing restaurants, entertainment performances, business activities, and shopping in the malls. The height of disobedience (from this writer's viewpoint) is the scheduling on Sunday mornings (by pastors) of prayer breakfasts in restaurants.

Southern Baptists have the potential to turn back the rising, destructive tide of liberalism (both in Christianity and in our national life in general) if we would only preach, teach, and practice the principles of Jesus. Jesus, our Lord and Master, observed the Sabbath, and we, who profess ourselves to be followers of Christ, should likewise observe the Sabbath!

Jack Hughes
7829 Mahan Gap Rd.
Ooltewah 37363

About church women

Concerning Christian women as deacons and ministers, a friend said, "it is not something worth making a big fuss about."

I decided to study the specific Scripture and hopefully with the aid of the Holy Spirit, decide for myself if it is a subject about which to focus major attention.

In each of the Scripture verses giving qualifications for these offices, the Greek word that was translated *man* or *men* (*aner*) is defined as "an individual male." The other Greek word for men *anthropos*, is translated "a human being."

Acknowledging "all Scripture is of the Holy Spirit," and God's instruction to us, I conclude that God prefers males in these positions. Had I have been drawing up qualifications for these assignments, I would have considered women initially. Most of the women I know seem more compassionate and insightful in spiritual matters than most men I know.

This seems to be the fundamental issue in this matter: no matter what my personal sentiments, I conclude that the Bible is God's exact word and communication, and to change His intent for any reason is wrong.

C-N breaks spring enrollment record

JEFFERSON CITY — Enrollment figures released by Carson-Newman College show that spring enrollment reached an all-time record.

Since 1985 spring enrollment has increased every year, going from 1499 to 1884 this year.

The fall enrollment is generally used as the benchmark since there is a tendency for more students to drop out in spring.

The 1989 fall enrollment edged over the 2000 mark, which is considered to be the optimum level of enrollment, according to C-N President Cordell Maddox.

There are those who say "If God had given us those instructions in this age, He would have included females in His qualifications."

Oliver Holmes is credited with developing our present technique of constitutional interpretation. His theory led to the Supreme Court's interpreting our Constitution in light of modern attitude.

This is the pitfall the church faces when we try to "bring the Bible up-to-date." God's original intent becomes ambiguous when there are attempts to bring His message into conformity with what we feel is prudent. We take for ourselves what God has defined as His role.

We must remember that Jesus did not pray for us to know the truth in some relative manner. He prayed that we would be committed to the truth, and He defined the truth as His Word.

We must not, as Christ's church, put His desire and His truth secondary to our own conceptions and feelings.

Richard Parrott
1777 LeDean Drive
Morristown 37814

Threats seen

Amen to Ben Bledsoe's letter in your Jan. 31 issue. It was a refreshing breeze in the midst of what has lately seemed to be the paper's penchant for largely ignoring theological differences that divide Southern Baptists.

I am 60, and have served as pastor of Southern Baptist churches in Maryland and Virginia, and as an Army chaplain. Since accepting Christ as my personal Savior at age 11, I have been a member of many Baptist churches. I grew up proud to be a Baptist, proud of our belief

in the priesthood of all believers and their right to interpret the Bible as the Holy Spirit gave them light to see the truth. When fellow Baptists disagreed with me, I did not see it as a threat to the truth, but as another facet of truth. Now as fundamentalists fasten a political strangle-hold on the Convention and relegate non-conforming Baptists to second class status, as associations withdraw fellowship from those churches who exercise their freedom in Christ to call women as pastor, as seminarians' jobs are threatened — well, I am not as proud anymore.

I feel there should be room for fully franchised and fully participating (1) Christian, (2) Baptist, (3) fundamentalists, moderates, liberals who love, respect, uphold, pray for, and fellowship with one another. I'd love to pastor a Baptist church like that one day. But sadly, aside from a miracle of God and the love of Christ, it will probably never happen.

We are losing our ability to love, accept, and work together as we serve God together in spite of our differences. Unless this changes, our witness is doomed. God have mercy upon us.

Milton A. Anderson
8301 Hunterhill Drive
Knoxville 37923

— To be a positive force in Tennessee Baptist life and work, we believe this paper must neither ignore nor augment controversy or differences among Southern Baptists. Our role is to report and interpret the news, and to tell about what Baptists are doing for Christ in Tennessee. We would rather help bring healing than to belabor strife. — Editor

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

He had always wanted to fly.

As the oldest of three children in a blue collar Baptist family, he sometimes lost hope about flying. For it seemed as though there was always a family need for the few dollars and quarters he could earn at odd jobs.

But he held fast to the dream and one day father told him he could begin keeping his money for flying lessons. The lessons didn't cost much when he was young. And perhaps the instructor, a lanky, rawboned aerial maverick who had also worked for his own lessons, felt a kinship with the budding aviator.

It didn't take long. In fact, he was soloing before the lessons were completed. So confident was he behind the stick with the wind swooshing by the cockpit — and so certain was the instructor of his student's ability, he cut the strings.

He didn't have too long to gain experience. Only a few months passed before World War II caught up America in its maelstrom of horror.

The young aviator volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Force.

Well, he was a natural. Mom and dad and his two sisters prayed many extra hours. They had some picnics, I suppose, and some times just sitting around talking.

But they — all of them — also spent hours in church, because that was part of the family's life. He was not the only one from the small community to volunteer for service. The older folks talked about it some, wishing them well, promising to pray, asking them to write "and let us know how you're getting along, and never you mind, we'll write you too."

He quickly made friends at the air

base out west. It was his easy smile and the genuine spirit.

Before long, his group, young men from all over the United States, were handling the planes as if they had always been companions.

He and a close buddy were on assignment one warm afternoon. It was a perfect day. They carried out their orders and on their way back to the base, they skirted off course briefly to fly over the home where some new girl friends lived.

The two planes zoomed lower and lower, in perfect tandem. They

tipped their wings in salute to beauty — and looked at danger too late.

Both trainers clipped tall cactuses and barreled out of control, smashing into the rocky earth.

His buddy died — on the spot of the crash. He didn't, but he endured many weeks of pain and eventual recovery.

His friend's mother survived too. Heart broken by a young son's life rudely snuffed out by an innocent accident, she could think only of the assurance of the love of Christ.

Not long after, she wrote a little leaflet about that love, calling it Jesus Doeth All Things Well. From the old hymn she took the title, "All the Way My Savior Leads Me."

My friend learned early that Christ's love indeed helps us do more than endure. With it, we conquer pain — and death. The two mothers used that tract as testimony to many people. Oh yes, even in the depths, the Savior is there.



ALLEN

Tennessee Baptist chaplains discuss AIDS ministry

By Connie Davis, assistant editor
 "I remember the first patient I worked with who had AIDS," said Chaplain Larry Austin of Knoxville. After donning the suggested gown, gloves, and mask, Austin went to visit the patient. The woman in her early 20's told Austin her story. While a teenager she had run away from a bad family situation. She supported herself, but for a while lived with a man. Several years later, she became involved in church, met a man, married, and had a family. But then she discovered she had AIDS. "She had no job, no money, no support, nothing," described Austin. As he prepared to leave the visit, she asked him not to wear the gown and other items if he came back. "It struck me to the core because I was afraid. I had gone in and done my ministerial duty, but that's all. . . . Actually my germs were more dangerous to her." Now Chaplain Austin wears gloves but not the gown or mask when visiting AIDS patients.

The state's three Baptist hospitals in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville, welcome and minister to AIDS patients, but treat very few.

In 1989 only .07 percent or 39 of the 55,000 patients released from Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis, had AIDS. Statistics were not available from the Baptist hospital systems in Nashville and Knoxville.

As non-government funded institutions, the hospitals care for fewer indigent patients than other hospitals. They allocate portions of their budgets for indigent care which is extended also to AIDS victims who often cannot pay their medical costs. The even smaller number of contacts at the hospitals reported by chaplains reflect the short-term stays of AIDS patients,

the high patient/chaplain ratio, and the barriers limiting ministry, reported the chaplains.

Chaplains from all three institutions correlated the disease to leprosy because of its stigma. The ministers do not interpret AIDS as God's punishment for homosexual or promiscuous behavior.

Chaplain Austin observed, "I find myself unable to say I think God's punishing by AIDS. What about babies born with AIDS? I don't think a

The "key" to the ministry is treating the patient with the "dignity and respect due any human being," said Denson, who works with six other chaplains at the 439-bed institution.

The chaplain reported many AIDS patients are alienated from God for many reasons, one being the shock of revealing "different lifestyles" such as drug usage and sexual promiscuity, which may or may not have been known by friends and family. Chaplain

Care System, Nashville, noted that his contact with about ten AIDS patients during nine years had met with barriers. He supervises two other chaplains in Nashville's 759-bed facility.

"I've spent more time with family and friends than with patients because they are so sick, so out of it," said Lamberth. One friend of an AIDS patient asked Lamberth about Christian beliefs on after-life.

"In this community there's an automatic guilt put on a person with AIDS," continued Lamberth, noting it was true regardless of the means of transmission. Claude Huguley, another chaplain at the Nashville hospital, observed that the guilt complicates the person's ability to deal with the issues of death and dying. "If we spend our energy judging them on how they got AIDS we lose the opportunity to minister."

Chaplain Huguley told of one patient that faced the agonizing reality of his own progressive dementia and his clear need for comfort.

Churches can meet the needs of AIDS victims more effectively than a chaplain because members can provide long term relationships. And the number of people affected through relationships and family is increasing every day, he added.

Colleague John Morris claimed that the disease "isn't the last word" among those affected, but rather terror "that it's too late. . . ."

"The church is going to have to respond either by being proactive or reactive," noted Morris.

Drumel reported that the six chaplains ministering to the hospital's 1975-bed system primarily minister to AIDS patients in much the same way as other patients.



disease is always a consequence of our behavior. . . . Religious people have an aversion to AIDS patients because of the homosexual issue."

"We minister to everybody regardless of their life circumstances, but unconditional love should not be equated with unconditional acceptance," said David Drumel, director, religion department, Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis.

"They are people and as such Jesus would have ministered to them," said Dick Denson, director, department of pastoral care, Baptist Health System of East Tennessee.

Austin encouraged Christians to evaluate their feelings before trying to minister, considering possible irrational fears and prejudices, especially toward homosexuals.

"They don't teach you about this when you're studying to be a chaplain," said Austin, who has an earned doctorate.

"What they (AIDS victims) are seeking is renewal back into the community of faith." And what they require is support, often to meet basic needs, added Austin.

Lewis Lamberth, director, department of pastoral care, Baptist Health

Hightower notes anger must be controlled. "I've been angry at myself for being fearful and also at the PWAs, especially homosexual males, for poor choices."

But the hardest thing to control, Hightower said, is a sense of helplessness.

"For most of my world I am in control. But when I sit with a person who has AIDS I'm out of control and helpless," he said.

Challenge to PWAs

People with AIDS have several fears that must be dealt with, primarily fear of abandonment and death, Hightower said.

PWAs fear abandonment from not only friends and family, but their employers and the health care system, he observed.

Hightower noted PWAs are fearful of death. As we know AIDS now, it is a death experience, Hightower said, though he observed AIDS victims are living longer and that one day it may not be a terminal disease.

"Your effectiveness as a minister to PWAs depends on how well you've managed your own grief and how well you've come to terms with your own mortality.

"It's impossible to tend well to a person facing death if we ourselves are afraid of death," Hightower said.

Challenge to family

Hightower noted family can be family of origin or others who have become family to the PWA. He offered suggestions for helping them deal with a loved one who has AIDS.

Support must be given to families who have a member dying of AIDS, he stressed. The death experience is always a crisis and we must be supportive, Hightower added.

He suggested being attentive to children, those who have AIDS themselves or those who have a relative with the disease. "Children are excellent observers, but terrible interpreters," he noted.

Also, Hightower said, those ministering to families must help parents come to terms with their children who have AIDS. This includes helping them face the fact their child is homosexual or a drug user, he observed.

And, he stressed again that AIDS patients are not always homosexual or drug users. There may be times when parents must come to terms with the fact their daughter contracted AIDS from her husband, he said.

"In the United States heterosexuals are still pretending AIDS is only a homosexual illness," Hightower said, adding that it simply is not true. He noted heterosexuals are now the group most in danger of contracting the disease, followed by homosexuals and teenagers.

"We're going to have to be the people willing to stand in the middle of parents and children, helping them deal with a crisis," Hightower challenged.

Strategies

Southern Baptists can do several things to minister to AIDS victims, Hightower said. The first step is gaining more knowledge about the dreaded disease.

Basic education is needed in the churches more than anything else, he said.

"The typical Southern Baptist probably understands South Africa better than AIDS and that's not saying much," Hightower observed.

Second, those who minister to AIDS patients must be "empathetic and emphatic" listeners, Hightower suggested. We must be willing to be present and to listen, he said, noting "that is the singular, hardest thing I've had to learn."

Third, we must become "expert" grief counselors, Hightower said, stressing again that we must be able to deal with our own grief first.

And, finally, we must become "experts" at referral, Hightower said. "AIDS is bigger than any one minister, church, or association. We must find community resources to do what we can't do," he said. — Lonnie Wilkey

Pastoral counselor cites guidelines for AIDS ministry

The increased number of people with AIDS (PWAs) brings forth challenges not only for those people, but for ministers and others as well, said a pastoral care counselor.

James Hightower, pastoral care counselor for the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, led a workshop on "Ministry to people with AIDS" during a national conference on AIDS Feb. 12-13 in Nashville. The meeting was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Challenge to ministers

Ministers must be careful not to be judgmental, Hightower said, citing 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. "We may not be homosexual, but we all have sinned in some way," said Hightower, who has written a pamphlet, "Ministry to People with AIDS," that has been published by the CLC.

In ministry to AIDS patients, if we "begin at the point of judgment we're on a slippery slope that goes nowhere," Hightower observed.

Hightower noted ministers must manage all the feelings aroused by AIDS, primarily fear, anger, and a sense of helplessness.

He readily admits he has been fearful of "people I've come into contact with who have AIDS." A way to relieve those fears, he suggested, is education.

Sam: 'I knew what I had been involved in was a sin.'

Editor's note: To ensure confidentiality, the person in this story is referred to by first name only.

"The nurse told me it was all right to cry because she did when she found out. I didn't, but I did later . . ."

"I felt abandoned by God at first even though I knew what I had been involved in was a sin. I always felt I would never get AIDS . . ."

"The one thing I was thankful for was that my wife didn't get infected."

That was almost two years ago, explained Sam, who lives with his wife in one of Tennessee's communities where they are members of a Baptist church.

Hesitantly Sam continues, "I had been involved in some homosexual activity. I was needing some counseling . . ." He talked to his pastor who recommended talking to a chaplain at a Baptist hospital.

"He asked me if I had ever been tested for AIDS. . . My test was positive. It was a shock to me because I felt fine." His good health continues.

"Since I've found out I've been able to tell some close friends. I have seven friends who are good Christians and Baptists. Two are involved in the medical field. . . They are my support group."

"I didn't know how they would react. I was scared at first."

Sam's wife adds, "We were anxious that they wouldn't want us to be around their children or to spend the night." "Or eat dinner with them," adds Sam. "But they're college-educated people," said Sam who has a college degree in communications.

The couple hasn't told any other friends or family members.

"It's such a small community. Besides my wife there's only one person who knows and that's my pastor and he feels like I do; it would not be

feasible to take the lid off so to speak. Even if I got it through a transfusion I don't know how some people would react.

"I haven't told my parents. They're up in years and I don't want to burden them unless I get sick."

Brother of AIDS victim shares

At age five, Jerry became a Christian. During college, he worked at Glorieta, sold Bibles door-to-door, taught Sunday School, dated the daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries, and preached at youth revivals. Even after becoming involved in a homosexual lifestyle, Jerry "never felt comfortable with it. And I did get out," he said. But it was too late. —

reprinted from Missions USA, January-February 1989

"We haven't let him die," said Terry Arterburn, Jerry's brother, of Gatlinburg, who continues to tell of his brother's struggle with AIDS though he died in 1988.

Arterburn speaks to groups and counsels people referred through a counseling center.

Jerry lived with Terry, his wife, Janette, and their four children for three months in Cookeville where they lived at the time.

The brothers were very different and not close, explained Terry, describing Jerry as the perfect student, good-looking, and very competitive.

At the time Jerry became sick, he was a millionaire with two homes, a boat, a BMW, and access to a corporate plane. He managed a country club/real estate development in Texas. He had left the gay community two

"No one in our families know. . . I . . . pick up on things, how people react to it in the media."

Sam became a Christian when he was 19 while in college. He became a Baptist "because I agreed more with their doctrine" than the Protestant

church he attended as a child.

"I have had doubts (about salvation), because of my desires of the homosexual nature. But since I became a Christian I do get more insight from the Bible and I do feel more of a oneness with God and with His people."

"It strengthens me in a way to know for almost two years that I have had the HIV virus and don't have the symptoms. . . I still hold out the hope and I know my wife does too that I won't come down with the disease. I have a strong immune system. I never catch what she gets," Sam added with a smile, referring to his wife.

"The Lord has a special purpose for me. If He didn't He would have already let the disease take control."

The couple shared that they probably won't have children, although adoption and artificial insemination are options. And with some adjustments, they lead normal lives. The virus is difficult to contract if using proper care, explained Sam.

"We're committed equally to each other," said Sam's wife.

In regard to a church's ministry to AIDS patients, Sam observed, "The church accepts a multitude of sins — alcoholism, drug addiction are examples. But it's hard for the Christian community to accept homosexuality."

"It's hard on the Christian to be able to find support in the church, which is where you ought to be able to find it."

"I don't condone the sin. To me it became a trap and a snare that I just found myself in."

"People can be a friend. If I didn't have them I don't know what I would have done."

"People in churches should just remember that we are to love one another and to listen to someone who is HIV positive or who has the disease."

Sam doesn't believe that AIDS is God's judgment.

"What about the child who has AIDS. That child didn't do anything to get the disease. I feel fortunate in that aspect."

"God's judgment is death because of man's fall in the Garden of Eden. My only hope is through Jesus Christ." — Connie Davis

years earlier and even begun speaking in churches against homosexuality.

During Jerry's stay in Cookeville, his greatest impact was on the Arterburn's children, now ages 17, 16, 12, and nine. They still recall experiences from that time, Arterburn reported.

"If there was any way that they could have caught the disease we would never have let him stay with us," stated Arterburn.

The children enjoyed the time, even nursing him, he added.

Never bitter, Jerry would explain that he was rebuilding in three years what he had taken 30 years to unbuild, referring to his Christian witness, reported Terry.

One way he did this was to write the book, *How Will I Tell My Mother?*, with his brother Steve. He also spoke to churches and Fellowship of Christian Athletes' groups, appeared on television, and visited AIDS patients.

"He was so unique, a pioneer. Churches really accepted Jerry."

And he was an asset to AIDS' programs. Hospitals who didn't want to care for him when he first became ill learned from him, continued Arterburn.

Jerry's life also revealed the impact support can have on an AIDS patient, said Arterburn, noting that Jerry was bedridden for just four days.

The ordeal "made my family a lot closer," he added. His parents, who live in Bryan, Texas, where Jerry lived for a while, also counsel people affected by AIDS. Their church, First Church, Bryan, ministered in "non-traditional ways" to the family, said Arterburn.

"Churches are going to have to wake up. . . They think they can preach love without educating the child about current issues." — Connie Davis

CLC conference speakers:

• "The Pharisees would form a circle around lepers and cry out 'Lepers, lepers.' We can form a pious circle around those with AIDS and treat them as lepers of old." — John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention

• "Sex is involved in the AIDS issue. Part of the problem in the church is that we are not dealing with it as clearly as we should." — John Sullivan

• "AIDS is transmitted through blood, semen, and vaginal fluid. . . You cannot catch the virus through the air, . . . through food . . . or through casual contact. Desks, doorknobs, and commodes are completely safe," said William Schaffner, physician, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville

• "We needed something to instruct them in how to do Biblical things, and actually that is what America needs too." — Rick Goodgame, former medical missionary to Uganda

• "We have catalogued our drives and desires as personal rather than ethical." — John Sullivan

• "Sixty percent (of those with AIDS) nationally are white, 26 percent are black, and 14 percent are Hispanic." — Bill Tillman, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

• "Last year only 9.6 percent of the public health budget was spent on AIDS research." — Bill Tillman

• "If AIDS is God's judgment on the homosexual community, why has it waited so long for visitation on the community?" — Tillman

• "The fear is if we deal with AIDS we might lose our evangelistic emphasis . . . because we're paying too much attention to social issues. . . We must be ready for opposition." — Tillman

• "I was in the lifestyle of homosexuality for a long time. Some people would say, 'Well, you're the one who asked for it.' I didn't. . . Give hope, not condemnation. Sure it's wrong; homosexuality is wrong." — Frank Koelling, participant from St. Louis, Mo.

Caring for persons with AIDS in the local church

How will we minister to AIDS patients?

I. By developing care teams — these people need to be:

- willing to suspend judgment
- flexible
- ready listeners
- willing to do menial tasks
- people who have done their own grief work well
- expert grief counselors

II. By providing social support

- contact with PWAs (persons with AIDS) usually begins socially
- transportation
- household chores
- serving meals
- shopping and social activities

III. By providing emotional support

- helping the PWA stay independent as long as possible.
- adopting a listening style that helps the PWA tell their story.
- helping the person explore options and possible actions.
- tending to emotional issues such as lowered self-esteem, depression, suicidal thoughts.

IV. By providing physical support

Basic nursing care may be needed such as:

- bathing
- changing linens
- helping PWA exercise
- rubbing/massage extremities

Being God's servant people may take on new meaning as we learn to serve PWAs.

V. By providing spiritual support

- worship
- "pastoral conversations"
- leading persons to God in non-trusive, non-exploitive, and non-judgmental ways

Conclusion: The explicit contract will be, "you will not die alone." Accepting this call to ministry will be the way of pain and death.

Source: Handout provided by James Hightower of the Baptist Sunday School Board during the Christian Life Commission's national seminar on AIDS Feb. 12-13 in Nashville.

Nashville layman Rich Murrell ministers to AIDS patients

NASHVILLE — A Texas housefly led Rich Murrell into a life-changing ministry.

In 1983 Murrell was living in Fort Worth, Texas, while attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. During that time he was involved in a local HOSPICE organization, a group that deals with terminally ill patients.

He recalled one day when he was asked to visit a patient dying of AIDS. "I didn't even know what AIDS was then," Murrell said.



MURRELL

The patient's parents left the house while Murrell visited their son. During the visit a housefly landed on the young man's forehead.

"I reached over and brushed the fly off his head," Murrell recalled, noting that the young man grabbed his hand and said, "You're the first person other than my doctor who has touched me in six months."

That was "a life-changing" experience, Murrell affirmed.

"I couldn't imagine people being so phobic that they wouldn't touch someone," he added.

Murrell noted the Lord "began

speaking to me at that time" about a ministry to AIDS patients.

"I have a personal call to minister to AIDS victims. I didn't have a vision. I just saw a fly on someone's forehead," Murrell said.

After graduating from Southwestern Seminary, Murrell joined the staff of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board where he now works in the Discipleship Training department.

He became involved once again in HOSPICE, but eventually learned of Nashville CARES, a non-profit, community-based AIDS service organization created in 1985 by concerned citizens of Nashville and Middle Tennessee in response to the growing health crisis presented by AIDS.

Murrell explained the United Way organization does "a holistic type of work." Some of his time is spent providing transportation, buying food, or performing housecleaning chores for AIDS patients. Most of all, however, he is a friend to the AIDS patient he is paired with through a "buddy system."

Murrell's involvement with the volunteer program has surprised others in Nashville CARES, he noted.

"Their perception is that Southern Baptists have little sympathy or compassion for people with AIDS," Murrell said.

Related to that perception, Murrell

observed, is the reality that some Southern Baptists believe "sin" caused a person to contract AIDS.

"Southern Baptists have got to go beyond looking at AIDS as a result of sin in one's life," he said, adding that many AIDS victims are those who received a blood transfusion or are babies whose mothers were infected with the virus.

"We can't be judgmental. We all have sins that need God's grace and mercy."

Murrell emphasized that Southern Baptists must look at AIDS patients as "people with a terminal disease who may or may not be Christians." If they are not Christians, he added, we need to help them know Christ as their personal Savior.

And though Murrell has received some criticism for ministering to "those" people, his church has been most supportive, he said.

Murrell, a Sunday School teacher at Immanuel Church, Nashville, said members of the church and his class have contributed financially to Nashville CARES and some have even visited AIDS patients with him.

In addition, the church recently approved a plan through which domestic hunger funds from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta would be channeled through the church to help AIDS patients.

Murrell noted the process which also involved going through Nashville Association and the Tennessee Baptist Convention has been approved and the first funds have been received.

Those hunger funds are vital for ministry to AIDS patients, Murrell said, noting that about five years ago the primary ministry was caring for the dying.

Now, AIDS patients are living longer; thus health and nutrition are major concerns, he said.

Murrell noted he has received tremendous blessings from his ministry to AIDS victims.

And he has hopes that other Southern Baptists will eventually be more willing to minister to AIDS patients as they learn there is little danger to themselves.

While acknowledging he uses precautions when cleaning an AIDS patient's home or in other instances, Murrell stressed that "AIDS is hard to catch."

"I know that touching people and showing them care and compassion is not going to endanger me," he said.

Through his AIDS ministry Murrell has learned the people he deals with are diverse, but one prevailing fact is evident, he said.

"We have to minister to them, accept them, and love them when no one else will." — Lonnie Wilkey

Educate youth about dangers of premarital sex, leaders urge

In addition to sexually-transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, the rise of AIDS cases among teenagers intensifies the need for education, two Southern Baptist leaders contend.

At first glance, there does not appear to be a problem with teenagers contracting AIDS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control there were 352 cases of AIDS among teenagers as of Feb. 28, 1989.

But, over one-fifth of people with AIDS are in between the ages of 20-29, according to the Center's information. Because of the seven to ten year wait before the HIV infection develops into AIDS, most of the 20-29 year old age

group were probably infected as teenagers.

The teenage problem in Tennessee is even greater, said Matt Nelson, director of AIDS education for the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment.

About 27 percent of people with AIDS in Tennessee probably contracted the disease as teenagers, compared to 20 percent on the national level, Nelson said.

Nelson noted the state health department stresses education among youth. Literature produced by the state encourages abstinence of sexual activity, but does offer other alternatives for "those who do not listen" to the

abstinence message.

Churches on the other hand are the vehicle through which abstinence can and should be taught.

"Churches are in the business of encouraging behavior that does not lead to transmission of AIDS, sexually-transmitted diseases, or unwanted pregnancies," said Larry Braidfoot of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Braidfoot noted "this is a crucial time to teach moral values of chastity and fidelity.

"Helping a teenager resist the temptation to be sexually active may, literally, be an act of rescue," he said.

Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, agreed with Braidfoot's assessment.

Sexual abstinence is the only solution, Ross said. "We must guide our teenagers to choose not to have sex until they're married."

Ross added that "for too long, our churches have only communicated to teenagers a negative message about sex.

Act to avoid litigation, Braidfoot warns

In a seminar on AIDS, churches, and litigation during the Christian Life Commission-sponsored conference on AIDS last week, Larry Braidfoot, CLC general counsel, reported laws concerning AIDS are being written, but churches must act to avoid litigation.

Braidfoot cautioned clergy to abide by confidentiality commitments or risk being sued. Clergy cannot disclose information that a person has AIDS to protect the congregation because current medical information denies it, he explained.

In most states the only exception allowing disclosure of confidential information is in cases of child abuse,

"The church has good news," Ross stressed, noting that God's plan "results in sexual expression that brings babies into complete families, strengthens marriages, and doesn't make people sick and die."

Church leaders, Ross said, in cooperation with parents should present to teenagers "the painful consequences of disobedience, but also the positive advantages" of choosing God's plan in relationship to sex.

Ross said he wished "we could assign the full responsibility of Christian sex education to the home," but that is "not practical in our day."

He noted most Southern Baptist churches report that at least one-third of their active youth are the only ones from their home who attend church. Some of those youth, Ross continued, come from homes where their parents "continue to disregard God's plan for sexual expression."

"Teenagers from those homes must have Christian role models and loving, Biblical teaching of values if they are to be any different," Ross concluded. — Lonnie Wilkey

Braidfoot added.

In the area of custodial responsibility, Braidfoot cautioned churches to train children's workers in precautionary practices against infectious diseases like AIDS and hepatitis.

"The church is okay if medical guidelines of the day are practiced," said Braidfoot.

Concerning employment practices, Braidfoot reported, "There is increased federal interest in fairness and equality in the workplace." Discrimination may threaten a church's tax exempt status, said Braidfoot. — Connie Davis

You won't get AIDS . . .

- . . . from everyday contact
- . . . from being a friend
- . . . from a kiss
- . . . by talking
- . . . by listening
- . . . from a public pool
- . . . from a toilet seat
- . . . by donating blood
- . . . from tears
- . . . from food
- . . . from a hug
- . . . from a telephone
- . . . from a crowded room
- . . . because someone is different from you.

Stop worrying about how you won't get AIDS. And worry about how you can . . .

- . . . from sexual intercourse with an infected partner
- . . . from sharing drug needles with an infected partner
- . . . by being born to an infected mother

TENNESSEE
RESPONDS
TO AIDS

Tennessee AIDS Hotline
1-800-525-AIDS

The TENNESSEE RESPONDS TO AIDS campaign is a comprehensive AIDS information and education program for Tennesseans sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment through the Bureau of Health Services AIDS Program.

SOURCE: Tennessee Department of Health and Environment

TenneScene

You might travel to these Tennessee towns ...
Churchton, Brick Church, and Church Hill ...

Associations ...

Members of Hamilton County Association will celebrate its 40th anniversary March 25. Special guest speaker will be Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Churches ...

Cary Worthington, an interfaith witness associate, will speak March 5-8 at Mill Creek Church, Nashville. His topic will be learning about the cults, including the New Age Movement and Satanism.

Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, will host Jhan Moskowitz, staff evangelist with Jews for Jesus, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. as he presents "Christ in the Passover." The presentation shows the Jewish background for communion. Jews for Jesus is an evangelistic agency that proclaims Jesus is the promised Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles.

Team treats 3375 Venezuelans

A medical team of 42 volunteers — 21 Tennesseans — have returned from Venezuela reporting 3375 patients treated, 348 persons fitted with glasses, and 722 persons making spiritual decisions.

Physician Dewey Dunn of Nashville, the coordinator of the team, reported that he had "never seen this kind of response in any medical evangelism project." He has participated in seven such projects.

Six members of the team delivered lectures at the medical school in Barquisimeto on dermatology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery — rehabilitation, ophthalmology, gastroenterology, and pulmonary medicine. Vernon Jeffords of South Carolina gave a teaching microscope to the school. Plans are being made for a follow-up trip in 1991, reported Dunn.

In the clinics patients sightless after cataract surgery left seeing after being

First Church, Bluff City, held a one-day Soul Winning Workshop for Soul Winning Commitment Day, with 35 people committing themselves to soul winning. Several people made proclamations of faith during Sunday School and Discipleship Training.

Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis, will hold homecoming March 18.

Colleges ...

Union University, Jackson, will host "Supporting Cultural Literacy: Language Studies in Southwest Tennessee," a conference to assist teachers and citizens who want to implement improvements in west Tennessee education. The conference will be held March 3 with registration at 8:30 a.m. in the Penick Academic Complex foyer. There will be no charge.

Leadership ...

Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga, called Steven H. Pearson

fitted with glasses. All received nutrition instruction, said Dunn.

One 23-year-old mother with a malnourished baby had never seen North Americans and she said she had never learned how to properly feed her baby. She accepted Christ as her Savior. Team members left money at a nearby church to provide food for the baby.

Medicines brought by the team for parasites and children's vitamins were exhausted, added Dunn, but donations from team members bought new supplies.

Venezuelan medical workers and volunteers worked alongside the team and missionaries. They also met with several churches during their stay Jan. 15-20.

Team member Leanne Robbins of Nashville who served as a pharmacy helper and musician reported, "I found that if you make yourself available, God can use you."

as associate pastor/youth and activities. He earned master of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, and was formerly pastor of Mountain Creek Church, Chattanooga.

Atkins Church, Corryton, called Ed Luttrell as interim pastor.

Rialto Church, Covington, called Henry West as pastor.

First Church, Greenfield, called Jackie Vaughn as music director.

Jerry Nash recently accepted the pastorate of Denton Church, Cosby.

Homer C. Cate, Knoxville, was called as interim pastor to Fort Hill Church, Knoxville, effective Jan. 10.

Pine Grove Church, Mountain City, called J. D. Rash as pastor.

Ebenezer Church, Knoxville, called James D. Clayton as pastor in January. Clayton was formerly pastor of First Church, Cordova, Ala.

Jeff Blalock has been called to Covmont Church, Sevierville, as pastor. He was ordained Dec. 10, 1989.

Bill Chitwood recently resigned as pastor of First Church, Madison, to join the Baptist Sunday School Board as editor of the Bible background materials for the Bible Book Series of Sunday School lessons.

Tom McMahan recently became pastor of Sugar Loaf Church, Seymour.

First Church, Rutherford, licensed Mark Warren to the ministry Feb. 4. He is a student at Union University. The church also called J. O. Smothers as honorary staff evangelist Jan. 31.

Beck Mountain Church, Elizabethton, called Bobby Gardner of Texas as pastor, effective Jan. 7.

First Church, Whitesburg, called Phillip Moore as interim pastor. He is a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Rockford Church, Rockford, called Carlos Ownby as pastor.



FARMER HONORED — Springfield Church, Springfield, recently designated Jan. 28 as *Fyke Farmer Day*. Farmer was honored for 23 years of service at the Covington Heights/South Main Mission. Springfield Pastor Jerry Oakley, right, presented Farmer with a plaque in appreciation for his service. Farmer and his wife, Frances, also received flowers. At the end of the service, the congregation expressed their appreciation to the Farmers individually.

People ...

Bill Cannady, former minister of music at Crieewood Church, Nashville, has returned to Nashville after serving for ten years as minister of music and education in California. He also has worked in church growth, witness training clinics, and Sunday School growth efforts. He is available for similar work, and can be reached at 549 Huntington Pky., Nashville (37211).

Revivals ...

North Knoxville Church, Knoxville, held a one-day revival Feb. 11. Phil Glisson led services and Floyd Lammerfeld led music.

First Church, Chattanooga, will hold revival March 7-11. Dan Yeary, pastor of University Church, Coral Gables, Fla., will lead services.

Steve Hale will lead revival services March 4-8 at Highland Church, Pulaski.

Jerome Hilliard will lead joint revival Feb. 28-March 3 hosted by First Church, Lynnville, (Feb. 28); Minnow Branch Church, Pulaski, (March 1); Union Valley Church, Ethridge, (March 2); and Richland Church, Lynnville, (March 3). Services begin at 7 p.m. each night.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

It is evangelism conference time in the associations. Baptists are at their best when they are involved in evangelism.

One of my joys is to speak in evangelism conferences across the state.

A few days ago I spoke in Sullivan Association at Calvary Church, Kingsport. It was a joy to see a group of faithful Baptists together on Saturday night singing, praying, and preaching. Tommy Holtzclaw is giving good leadership and that association has big plans for reaching out.

The next week I was in New River Association in Oneida. We met at New Haven Church. This association is looking forward to a united evangelistic effort later in the spring where John Sullivan will be the evangelist. They



LOWRIE

are excited about a strong evangelistic push.

I also have been to Central Association in McMinnville at Cornerstone Church with a large crowd on a Thursday night. An associational choir lifted the hearts of the people unto the Lord. A special group of young people from First Church, McMinnville, communicated the message of Christ in mime. Then I had the joy of preaching. Ralph Hoover is giving good leadership to this association. They are making plans for the Here's Hope Revivals in April.

There will probably be an evangelism conference in your association. I would encourage you to attend, to have your heart warmed and your commitment renewed to reach out and share Christ with someone.

Evangelism is not an option with us. It is a primary task assigned us by the Lord. I pray that God will renew the fires of evangelism in all of our churches.



MORTGAGE BURNED — First Church, Lebanon, recently celebrated the retirement of a \$500,000 mortgage on its Christian Life Center. The six-year-old facility provides seven-days-a-week ministry with more than 3000 people per month participating in special programs and activities. Joining in the noteburning ceremony in the Christian Life Center were Walter Smithwick, trustee; Robert VanHooser, trustee; Sam Shipp, trustee; Charles Bell, chairman of the building committee; Tom Boyd, chairman of deacons; Ray Cleek, pastor; Sid Berry, church treasurer; and Dale Nelson, of Heritage Federal Savings and Loan.

Related faithlessness and deliverance

By Paul S. Moody, pastor; Erin Church, Erin

Just as with the Book of Joshua, the Book of Judges opens with the announcement of the death of a great leader, Joshua. From the beginning God has always called His servants to be the instruments of grace. When these spiritual guides have lived out their days, another appears on the scene to carry on the work. However, after the time of Joshua these leaders did not have the same ability to control the people. The tribes did not enjoy the same success as did their predecessors. In this lesson, we shall see the "up and down" cycles of the people of Israel.



MOODY

Israel experienced times of being unfaithful, of punishment, and of deliverance. This perfectly describes God's dealings with His people in every generation. Very few of us constantly remain in the will of God completely. From outward appearances it may seem that one is doing everything perfectly as the Lord intended; however, in the soul of every person is imperfection and sinfulness. The only difference is that of degrees. The text declares that God would "raise up judges" to deliver them, but soon the people would forget and return to their old ways.

Tatiana Goricheva, a Russian dissident, tells about a friend who commit-

ted suicide: "Today, 20 years after her death, I can put it in Christian terms: she discovered her sinfulness. She discovered a fundamental truth, namely that human beings are weak and incomplete; but she did not find the other truth, which is still more important, that God can save human beings, lift them up out of their fallenness and snatch them out of the most impenetrable darkness. No one had told her anything about this hope, so she died, forced under by despair" (*Talking About God is Dangerous: The Diary of a Russian Dissident*, 1988).

The Israelites knew about despair, but they also knew about deliverance and salvation. The young girl driven to death by the hopelessness of life never found out about God. Not so for Israel! Time and time again the Lord came to the rescue through powerful judges, men and women who provided the necessary leadership to keep the tribes in tact and in covenant with God. How can one explain the rebellion of the chosen ones of God who knew about His blessings and love, one to chase after false gods and pagan rituals? From previous lessons we have learned of the doubts which Joshua had concerning the sincerity of his people to "serve the Lord." He knew them well! How easy it is to come forward in a revival and tell the congregation that you intend to put God first. Our covenant with the God of Israel is not a hit and miss agreement. When we confess the Lord, He expects us to have already counted the cost and be

ready to put the dark past behind us. The Lord grew weary of His fickle followers who were for Him one day and against Him the next.

Let us not miss the point that through it all God kept on keeping on. He never utterly forsook Israel. Although tired of their failures and sins, the Lord brought correction and then tried again. That is our experience too! Grace is still the main word about God. It does not mean that God will forever overlook our actions, but that He will repeatedly offer forgiveness and mercy, just as He did with Israel. The difference in modern times is found only in the names of our false gods. No longer do we call them "baal;" now they are success, greed, and happiness. But the qualification for a false god is anything or anyone which has become our top priority. Our gods are more subtle, but not any less dangerous.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES
February 25 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Judges 1:1-5:31
 Focal Passages: Judges 2:18-22; 4:1-4

Judges such as Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, and Barak played out their roles in Israel. These courageous leaders gave God's people the role models they needed. But as quickly as one died, the people turned back to their old ways of idolatry.

One particular story involved Deborah and Barak. After the death of

Ehud, the people again did evil in the sight of the Lord. Thus, they were delivered into the enemy's hand, which turned out this time to be Jabin, king of Canaan and his general, Sisera. These were difficult times of oppression under the strong arm of a powerful enemy.

But, as in every previous situation, the Lord showed tolerance and forgiveness in calling a woman named Deborah to lead Israel. There can be no argument that God has always used women as well as men in fulfilling His master plan. Deborah possessed great wisdom and courage and succeeded in defeating the enemy. In this account, Barak was the lesser in leadership of the two, and was not willing to carry out completely the plans of Deborah. And, in the end, Sisera is slain by another woman, Jael. This event in Israel's history records the faithfulness of Deborah, judge for the Lord.

Finally, our text tells us that the Lord brought confusion to Sisera and his men ("discomfited"). The battle was not won by the ingenuity and bravery of Deborah or by the power of Barak or the boldness of Jael. It was achieved as in all spiritual victories by God. Our struggles against evil and sin are not attained by our strength but, rather, by our faithfulness to God. When we obey His Word, the victory is certain. We never know when — but we know what. The timetable belongs to God. Our obligation is to remain faithful, to accept correction, and to serve God alone.

Promise of the Spirit

By Roger S. Oldham, pastor; First Church, Martin

The ministry of the Holy Spirit, promised by the Lord in His final discourse, is one of the most profound assurances of our faith. Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would guarantee their everlasting life, their spiritual strength, and their inward peace. Several truths about the Holy Spirit are found in this text.

Jesus indicated that the Holy Spirit was a personality of the Godhead, equal in essence to God the Father.



OLDHAM

Though equal with God, the Holy Spirit was distinct in Person. The question "Who is the Holy Spirit?" has challenged Christians for centuries. No simple answer exists. While some view Him as an impersonal force or a mystical manifestation of God, Jesus indicated that He is a unique Personality of the Godhead. "Trinitarian" theology is the best way that believers through the ages have developed to describe the Holy Spirit. All the data of Scripture must be examined to answer this important question.

Testimony of the Holy Spirit's oneness in essence with the Father and Son is found in Jesus' teachings. Jesus stated that the Father would send "another Comforter" to the disciples (v. 16). The word "another" implies "another of the same kind." Just as Jesus had been their resident Lord, the Holy Spirit would minister to them.

Furthermore, after promising the Holy Spirit, Jesus concluded: "I will come unto you" (v. 18). Moreover, Jesus indicated that the Father would send the Holy Spirit (v. 26). Just a few minutes later, He asserted, "I" will send the Holy Spirit to you (chapter 15:26). Here, Jesus equates Himself both with the Holy Spirit and with the Father.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
February 25 Lesson
 Basic Passage: John 14:15-31
 Focal Passage: John 14:15-27

The deity of the Holy Spirit is also seen in His titles. He is the Holy Spirit (v. 26). He is the Spirit of Truth (v. 17). Since God alone is holy and Jesus is the Truth (v. 6), these titles of the Holy Spirit identify Him as one in essence with the Father and the Son. These data, along with many others, serve as the basis for the doctrine of the Trinity — that the one God has manifested Himself in three Persons.

A second question that surfaces is: "What does the Holy Spirit do?" As the Comforter, the Holy Spirit strengthens the believer (the Latin terms *cum fortis* mean "with strength" and form the English word *comforter*). He stands alongside the believer to rebuke accusations of the devil; He is the One we can lean on in distress (the sense of the original term "paraclete"). He inspired the disciples to remember the words of Jesus as they later wrote the Scripture (v. 26b). He illuminates our hearts to hear and perceive the Word of God (v. 26a). He

gives us inner peace in life's storms (v. 27). He secures our salvation by dwelling in us forever (v. 16).

A final question then becomes extremely important: In whom does the Holy Spirit dwell? The Holy Spirit dwells in true believers. The mark of true trust is obedience. Jesus said: "If you love me keep my commandments" (v. 15). He again stressed: "Whoever has My commandments and keeps them — that one is the one loving Me" (v. 21a, personal translation). Although many know of Him as the Son of God, fewer truly know Him as Lord and Savior. The mark of love is obedience. Jesus insisted: "If a certain one loves Me, he will keep My Word" (v. 23).

In whom does the Spirit dwell? He does not dwell in mere professors of religion; He dwells in genuine possessors of salvation. He does not dwell only in "super-saints;" He dwells in every true believer in Jesus Christ. If you are saved, He dwells in you!

In a day of so much shallow, superficial, sentimental Christianity, Jesus' words are words of encouragement and exhortation. To the believer, His words give the encouragement of serenity and security; they strengthen

and sustain. To the backslider in heart and to the "professing" unbeliever, His words exhort: "Examine yourself. See if you are in the faith" (cf. 2 Corinthians 13:5). Let us hear Him today. Listen with your heart as He says: "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (v. 15).

New Age Movement workshop set at Union

Union University's office of religious affairs and the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department will jointly conduct a workshop on the New Age Movement, Monday, March 5. It will be led by Maurice Smith of the Home Mission Board.

The workshop will start at 10 a.m. in the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel. Other sessions will be conducted in Room D-3 at 3, 7, and 8 p.m.

Students, pastors, directors of missions, and laypersons in West Tennessee who are interested in gaining in-depth knowledge of New Age are invited to attend.

CLASSIFIED

HOUSEPARENTS — for home for Exceptional Persons in Lebanon, Tenn. Resume' to BHEP, P. O. Box 24821, Nashville, Tenn. 37202-4821.

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.

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

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
 In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
 Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Trusting God's power

By Larry W. Fields, pastor; Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville

The Christian life is not always lived on a level plain (Deuteronomy 11:11). One day we can be on the mountain peak of happiness and the next day find ourselves in the valley of despair.

That's what happened to Jesus and three of His disciples as they returned from the glorious experience of the transfiguration to the harsh reality of the needs of a father and his epileptic son. The disciples left behind had not been able to help.

We often feel inadequate when faced with the immensity of the spiritual and physical needs of mankind as we seek to minister for Christ. We are prone to frustration when we compare our limited resources and abilities with the enormity of the task. To depend on our resources alone would lead to certain failure, but to trust God's power and direction is to guarantee victory.



FIELDS

SINGLES INTERLUDE 1990

March 16-18

Glenstone Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN

Join other singles from Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, and Tennessee for a weekend of fun, fellowship and spiritual growth. Special Guest: George Fields. For reservations call Walnut Street Baptist Church at (502) 589-5290 or write for brochure. Make your reservations now!

Getting Ready for Sunday's Sermon

A Practical Guide for Sermon Preparation
Martin Thielen



Getting Ready for Sunday's Sermon: A Practical Guide for Sermon Preparation contains hundreds of preaching ideas. It is designed to help preachers who preach several times per week. Illustrations, outlines, series ideas, and sermon summaries offer a wealth of usable ideas for the busy preacher. Paper, \$6.95

Martin Thielen is editor of Proclaim magazine and The Deacon magazine, The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. His latest Broadman book is *Getting Ready for Sunday: A Practical Guide For Worship Planning*.

At Your Baptist Book Store or order by calling 1-800-458-2772

BROADMAN

Failure of the disciples (vv. 17-18) With the voices of glory still ringing in their ears, Jesus, Peter, James, and John, descended the mountain to be confronted with the grating noise of religious debate, human anguish, and demonic possession. The scene was disheartening: powerless disciples, arguing scribes, and a broken-hearted father with a very sick son (v. 14).

The nine disciples left behind faced a dual problem. They were unable to deliver the boy from demonic control, and the scribes who were probably part of a "truth squad" from Jerusalem were not only winning the debate, but taunting the disciples because of their failure.

Why had they failed? In Mark 6:13 we read where they were given the power to cast out demons. Was it a special authority for only that mission or did this failure take place because their faith lapsed? We don't know the exact answer, but we can be sure that the battle with Satan will be a difficult, ongoing struggle. To limit our resources to our own power puts us at a disadvantage, and we will face certain failure.

Our failure hurt the cause of Christianity. People measure Christianity by the standard of our lifestyle and actions.

Response of the Savior (v. 19) After taking charge of the situation and hearing the explanation and description by the boy's father, Jesus sighed in frustration.

He was grieved because He had given His disciples the authority to cast out demons and yet their efforts were ineffective. How often He must

be grieved with us when we fail to exercise faith and use the spiritual resources He has so graciously given.

He was also upset with the scribes for their total lack of belief and their gloating over the disciples' failure.

One lesson we learn from His involvement is that when the disciples were at their rope's end, Jesus came. He promised that He would be with us always. During troubled times and times of failure, He is present.

During this time of trouble and failure Jesus said, "Bring the child to Me." The scribes were silent; the disciples were embarrassed; but Jesus responded. You can always depend on Jesus.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

February 25 Lesson

Basic Passage: Mark 9:14-29

Focal Passages: Mark 9:17-29

Faith of the boy's father (vv. 20-24)

The demon in the boy could cope with the apostles, but Jesus was different. Knowing its time was limited, the evil spirit reacted in a "grand mal" convulsion, as if to do its worst to the boy one last time. Mark very graphically described the results (v. 20).

Jesus refused to be drawn off course by that reaction. As the Great Physician, He calmly asked the boy's father for a case history.

The father responded, but notice the hesitancy in his appeal (v. 22). He said, "If you can do anything, take pi-

ty on us and help us." Since the disciples failed, he had his doubts that Jesus could heal.

Jesus did not need much faith. The father needed a nudge of encouragement. Jesus shifted the emphasis from His ability and power to the father's faith. When Jesus promised that "All things are possible" (v. 23), He was not promising that we will automatically have everything we want, but that we will have everything we need to serve Him.

The father responded in verse 24 with one of the most sincere confessions of faith recorded in the Bible. He cried out, "I do believe; help my lack of faith."

Healing power of Jesus (vv. 25-27)

At Jesus' command the deaf and dumb spirit cried out and came out of the writhing boy. He who had been under the power of the evil spirit was now under the control of the Savior. He lifted the boy up and restored him to his father.

Priority of prayer (vv. 28-29)

Jesus did not dress down His disciples in front of the crowd. He waited until they were in private. The disciples took the initiative and honestly asked why they could not heal him. He responded (v. 29) that they had been careless in their personal spiritual walls and had neglected prayer.

We can be called and gifted, prepared and ordained to be disciples of Jesus Christ, but if we do not remain in constant contact with the source of our power, we will fail in the crisis. May God help us daily to stay plugged in to the power source.

CHURCH FURNITURE
by LINDSEY
DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY—PEWS, PULPIT TABLES, CHAIRS, FIBRE-GLASS BAPTISTRIES AND CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT

PHONE 615-762-2249
Lindsey's BOX 429
LAWRENCEBURG, TENN. 38464

The NIV Student Bible & Family Bookstores PRESENTS
D&K
DEGARMO & KEY
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DC TALK
IN CONCERT
FRIDAY, MARCH 16,
8:00 P.M.
NASHVILLE, TN
TPAC-JACKSON HALL
Tickets: \$12.50/\$9.75 Group
Tickets Available at His Excellence, The Covenant Family Bookstore, Baptist Bookstore, and all TICKETMASTER locations.
TELECHARGE/ALISA: 741-2787 or 1-800-333-411X
For more information and group rates call: (615) 370-4447
SPONSORED BY WNAZ RADIO
THE PLEDGE TOUR

PEW UPHOLSTERING
REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS
PEW REFINISHING
STAINED GLASS
LIGHTING
CARPET • PEWS
We have upholstered pews in over 1500 churches totaling over 600,000 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)

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
A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282
— SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES STEPLETS
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
1-(800)-523-9058
NC 1-(800)-222-7895

"ONE GREAT TOUR AND TWO GREAT EXPERIENCES"
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE and GERMAN PASSION PLAY (Oberammergau)
An Inspirational, Teaching Seminar and Tour.
July 9-22, 1990
A First Class Bryan Tour (\$2895 per person from New York)
Call or write for descriptive brochure.

Dr. Bill Palmer
President
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy
Seymour, TN 37865
(615) 573-8321

Dr. John Wallace
President
Wallace Hardware
Morristown, TN 37815
(615) 586-5650

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Second Texas pastor to run for SBC presidency

DALLAS — Saying he wants to try "to encourage people like myself in smaller membership churches," Pastor Dan Bates of 155-member Millican Church in Southeast Texas has announced he will be nominated for president at the Southern Baptist Convention June 12.

He may ask "an old friend from Missouri" to nominate him, Bates said, or he may just nominate himself as did evangelist Anis Shorrosh in San Antonio in 1988. Shorrosh got 81 votes out of the 31,291 cast.

Bates told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he has no illusions he will be elected, but will be nominated at the annual meeting in New Orleans and at following conventions "until the Lord tells me to quit."

"I have no agenda but to try to be faithful to God and an encourager of people like myself in smaller membership churches. I want to encourage those who have given up or are about to (give up)," he said.

Bates, 45, has been pastor of the Millican congregation since Dec. 1987.

Another Texas pastor, Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, also is a candidate for the presidency.

CLC opposes Kennedy's sex-education program

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has expressed opposition to Senate bill that would provide federal funds for school-based health clinics. The Family Planning Amendments of 1989, S. 110, would modify Title X of the Public Health Services Act and provide \$10 million that could be used for school-based clinics.

Title X has been the major source of family-planning funding for about 20 years. S. 110 would increase funding for Title X from \$138.2 million in fiscal 1989 to \$179.5 million in fiscal 1992. The bill also would allow the clinics to continue dispensing contraceptives to underage youth without parental consent. The bill also provides an additional \$10 million for research and development that could fund research for a new abortifacients, such as the "morning-after" abortion pill.

CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land said in letters to U.S. senators: "We are disturbed by changes to Title X which Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. proposes in S. 110. While this legislation is being represented as a routine reauthorization of the Title X program, in fact, S. 110 would significantly rewrite the program."

Land included in the letter a copy of a 1988 Southern Baptist Convention

resolution opposing the proliferation of school-based clinics and the 1989 SBC resolution opposing abortion. That 1988 resolution calls school-based clinics "the newest assault on parental authority and responsibility with respect to their adolescent children." The 1989 resolution outlines Southern Baptist support of federal legislation prohibiting abortion except to "prevent the imminent death of the mother."

The letters to the senators were co-signed by James A. Smith, the assistant director of the CLC's Washington office. Land and Smith said they are concerned that the "vague language" in the bill could allow the money to be spent on the abortifacients. "We strongly believe actions which facilitate the taking of unborn human life should not be developed or approved by the federal government," they said.

Brotherhood approves new associational strategy

MEMPHIS — A strategy to make Southern Baptist associational Brotherhood programs more responsive to churches and individuals was approved by state Brotherhood directors and associates during their annual leadership conference.

Kenny Rains, the new director of world missions conferences and associational relations for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, said a more practical associational Brotherhood organization will result from restructuring. Brotherhood is a missions organization for Southern Baptist men.

"We're taking a more back-to-the-basics approach where we can better meet the needs of associations of all sizes and locations," said Rains. "We realize that the way we organize Brotherhood in individual churches is not necessarily how we'd approach it on the associational level."

The restructuring calls for an expansion from two complex organizational plans to five simpler organization plans that associations can select and adapt to their own organizational structures. Another change is an emphasis on helping churches involve men and boys in missions and involving men and boys in missions through projects and events sponsored by associational Brotherhood organizations.

Mississippi editors receive promotions

JACKSON, Miss. — Two longtime Mississippi Baptist Convention journalists have been promoted to new positions by the convention's board.

Tim Nicholas, associate editor of the Baptist Record, the convention's weekly newsjournal, was named director of the MBC office of communication. Anne McWilliams, assistant editor of the Baptist Record, was named associate editor.

Nicholas has been associate editor of the paper for more than 13 years. Previously, he was photo/feature editor for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and served in the U.S. Air Force.

He is a graduate of Georgia State University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

She is the first woman to be associate editor of the paper.

Baptists pledge support for Bush's war on drugs

WASHINGTON (BP) — Twenty Southern Baptist pastors and denominational leaders pledged their support of President Bush's war on drugs during a Feb. 6 Washington meeting with U.S. drug czar William Bennett.

Bennett, in turn, endorsed the pastors' proposed national anti-drug effort, which will be announced officially June 11 at the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference in New Orleans.

After the Baptists briefed him on their plans, Bennett told them, "This looks very good, very promising, very welcome. Churches can be central to the resolution of the drug problems in

Women's Conference set at Hendersonville church

A Spring Women's Conference will be held March 10 at First Church, Hendersonville. The keynote speaker is Jeanette Henry of Orlando, Fla., wife of Jim Henry, former pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

The theme of the conference is "A Wise Woman Builds." Seminars offered include The Ups and Downs of Feelings; Marriage — the Three R's of a Lifetime Adventure; God, Are You Still Up There?; Decorating — Never Say Never; Too Much to Do? (Learn How To); and Standing Bold in the World for Jesus Christ.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and closes around 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$13 and includes a gourmet lunch.

For further information call First Church, Hendersonville, (615) 824-6154.

this country."

Drug dependence often results from a spiritual deficiency, which the government cannot address, Bennett said.

After hearing about how the proposed anti-drug program will include individual counseling, group programs, and citywide mega campaigns, Bennett suggested the Baptist pastors also consider staging "large public events and public marches," particularly in inner-city neighborhoods, to draw even more attention to the drug problem in the United States. Young people need to see that the good guys will stand up and fight," he said.

Bennett indicated he will accept the invitation to be the keynote speaker at the noon luncheon June 11 in New Orleans to help the pastors announce their anti-drug program. The pastors hope to launch the anti-drug program on a national scale on the eve of the start of the 1990 SBC annual meeting, also in New Orleans, June 12-14.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., said the Southern Baptists at the meeting in Washington represented about 100 pastors who attended the "Southern Baptist Pastors' Congress on Drugs" last fall in Houston.

The new program will be called "Drug Free for Good." The group's purpose statement says it is designed "to equip the pastors with Christ-centered programs of prevention and recovery that will enable the local church to minister more effectively to those struggling with alcohol and drug abuse."

The project is being coordinated with Rapha, an alcohol and drug rehabilitation and treatment center with facilities in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Richard Land, executive director of

the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said: "I commend Southern Baptists anywhere and everywhere who are seeking to address the drug problem and its victims."

Tennessee students invited to Russia

NASHVILLE (BP) — Students from five states this summer will become the first Southern Baptists to conduct short-term missions work in the Soviet Union.

Teams of 12 students each will be selected from Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi, along with a joint team from Alabama and Kentucky, to accept the invitation extended by Soviet Baptists in late January.

The students will help renovate a Russian Orthodox church building for use by a Baptist church in Leningrad. Brad Gray, student ministry consultant for world student missions at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said he hopes other states will have opportunities to participate in future projects.

The Leningrad project became available in January, several months after the usual August deadline for summer missions projects, and time would not permit opening it to everyone, Gray said, noting, the first five states contacted agreed to provide a team for the project.

The Tennessee team will travel to Leningrad in late May for a two and one-half-week assignment and will be followed by the other teams, with Mississippi students completing the

project in August.

The students will do various renovation jobs on the building so it may be used as an inner-city church and a ministry to youth in downtown Leningrad, according to Gray, student ministry coordinator for the project.

The students also will have opportunities for singing, giving testimonies, some preaching, and participating in worship services in Leningrad, Gray said.

Rodney Wilson, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Department, will coordinate the Tennessee team which includes ten students and Bob Hall, BSU director at University of Tennessee-Knoxville, who will serve as work site coordinator.

Wilson said the students will do a variety of work including carpentry, painting, masonry, and laying tile. "This is a tremendous opportunity for Tennessee students to be involved in this precedent setting ministry in the Soviet Union," Wilson noted.

He encouraged Tennessee Baptists to pray for the team before and during the trip to Leningrad. Students are now applying for the trip. Applications are being accepted through the end of February, Wilson said. He noted interested students may contact the BSU director on their local campus.