

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Executive Committee approves SBC budget, decrease for BJCPA

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee recommended a basic Cooperative Program 1990-91 budget of \$137 million Feb. 20, but drawing most attention during the two-day meeting in Nashville was a drastic reduction in the SBC allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJC).

After lengthy debate, the Executive Committee adopted a subcommittee recommendation by a vote of 53-17 to pare the BJC budget allocation from the current \$391,796 to \$50,000. The BJC had requested \$403,556. The budget faces approval by SBC messengers in June at the annual meeting in New Orleans.

Two hours of debate were spent on the budget, and another two hours later on Tuesday night were used in debating whether the Executive Committee would adopt a six-and-one-half page rationale for their actions.

The rationale paper, which was prepared by committee officers, raised objections, defense, and lengthy comment before it was approved. A later motion gave notice of a minority vote on the budget and the rationale. Both will be published.

The rationale paper was approved after the budget was debated and voted.

### Alcoholic drinks

## Label warnings strengthened

WASHINGTON (BP) — Health-warning labels on alcoholic beverage containers must be "legible, conspicuous and prominent," the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms ordered in its final regulations, issued Feb. 14.

The Alcoholic Beverage Labeling Act of 1988, which went into effect Nov. 18, 1989, required that all containers of wine, wine coolers, distilled spirits, and beer must carry health- and safety-warning labels. The bureau's temporary regulations issued in early 1989 were criticized by pro-health advocates, who charged that the regulations did not ensure that the labels would be in conspicuous and prominent

places on the containers. The new rule makes labels more readily legible, supporters said. The labels read: "GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) According to the surgeon general, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may cause health problems."

"The alcohol industry lost, and the public won," said Robert M. Parham, associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Southern Baptists and other pro-health advocates have clinched a 20-year battle against one of the major disease-promoting industries in the United States."

"Warning labels are a proven way to alert consumers to the health and safety dangers of the drug that America drinks. Now, we can concentrate on a number of legislation efforts designed to curb the influence of alcohol, including expected legislation mandating an alcohol-free viewing period on television."

James Wideman, pastor from Portsmouth, N. H., moved to amend the budget transferring \$72,600 of the PAC's proposed \$96,600 to the CLC. James T. Roach, attorney from Albu-

querque, agreed, but Kenny Spain, pastor of Cadillac, Mich., supported the original motion. Wideman's amendment failed 35-35.

Jones moved an amendment which would give the three organizations a 1.89 percent increase each, calling for sensitivity to state conventions and Southern Baptists who support the BJC, and expressing concern about more "division, hostility, and confrontation."

Richard Cagle, Gadsden, Ala., pastor, noted that the subcommittee had struggled for hours with the budget, and expressed disagreement with the BJC performance regarding school prayer, abortion, and other proposed legislation.

The overall budget proposal passed by hand vote after Jones' amendment failed.

The Executive Committee concluded its business on Tuesday night. On Wednesday, 14 committee members met to discuss development of the minority report. A drafting committee



**CONDUCTING BUSINESS** — The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee met last week in Nashville. Six Tennessee representatives on the Executive Committee were present. On the back row, from right to left, are Joe Warwick, Knoxville; Doug Westmoreland, Nashville; and Don Whitt, Milan.

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was named, to include James Yates, pastor from Yazoo City, Miss.; Wallace Jones, Bradley, and Frank Lady, attorney from Jonesboro, Ark. Others may be involved.

### Other items of concern

Major items on Monday night were a message by SBC President Jerry Vines, and reports on SBC 1988-89 statistics, the New Orleans annual meeting, and the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

The budget monopolized a major portion of the Tuesday plenary sessions, causing the Executive Committee to act on 29 agenda items in 35 minutes.

Giving his last address to the Executive Committee as SBC president, Vines emphasized the foundation of the church is Jesus Christ.

"If you try to build the church on anything else but the Lord Jesus, it is destined to fail," said Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Jesus is "still the Master

(See page 3)

### In Copper Basin

## Flood victims need assistance

The rains that pelted Polk County and the Copper Basin area of southeastern Tennessee Feb. 15-16 caused an estimated \$5.2 million in damages, according to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

Approximately 34 homes and 43 businesses were severely damaged from the flooding, the report indicated.

Cameron Byler, Brotherhood director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, took food to the Copper Basin Association's Crisis Center Feb. 22 and reassessed the needs.

He also went to nearby Polk County where about five homes were damaged.

Byler said most of the destruction occurred in the Copper Basin. People in that area need canned foods, bedding, mattresses, and furniture, he said.

He noted that two pharmacies in

McCaysville which is on the Tennessee/Georgia border were "wiped out" creating a need for some medical supplies. Disinfectants for cleaning are also needed, he said.

In addition, work crews are needed to help with clean up operations both in the Copper Basin and Polk County. Trucks and trailers to haul debris are especially needed, Byler added.

He observed construction crews will be needed later to help with repairs. Byler said most of the homes destroyed had little or no insurance.

People interested in helping in Polk County Association may contact Director of Missions W. L. Shipman (615) 338-2749.

Individuals interested in sending food or other needed items to Copper Basin, or in sending work teams may contact DOM Al Patterson at (615) 496-7977.

### An inside look

From overseas

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Tennessee members

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**Editorials****Budget cut for BJC may mean weaker representation for SBC**

By a vote of 53-17, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee last week approved a recommended budget that slices the allocation of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from \$391,000 to \$50,000.

In the January program and budget subcommittee meeting where the budget was hammered out, major debate involved the BJC decrease. So the recommendation was no surprise.

Southern Baptists long have debated the role and value of this religious liberty/First Amendment sentinel which has had SBC ties for 53 years.

In recent years, the main snag came in 1982 when the BJC's board held a position in conflict with a Southern Baptist Convention non-binding resolution on school prayer.

From that time, opposition to support for the BJC has intensified.

At the outset here, we remind Tennessee Baptists that the budget faces one more hurdle. It must be approved by messengers to the Annual Meeting in New Orleans June 12.

We remind Tennesseans also that between now and then much will be written and said about the Baptist Joint Committee, the PAC, and the Christian Life Commission.

In our estimation, the BJC's budget allocation will be more controversial a topic than the usual discord over the SBC presidency. It will claim Southern Baptists' attention until the June meeting — and perhaps even after, though some predict the vote in New Orleans will provide a resolution to the question of BJC funding.

Not to be forgotten is the pyrrhic victory of the PAC. The subcommittee's recommendation would have transferred a huge amount of BJC allocation into PAC coffers. But that was

denied when a late hour motion was passed, giving the PAC a total of \$25,000 — and the CLC a whopping forty percent gain for an allocation of \$1.2 million.

PAC, comprised of the eighteen trustees of the BJC, elected by the SBC, has been at odds with the BJC for several years, and the two have not been able to act in accord on many matters. But in representing nine Baptist groups, the BJA exercises more power and recognition, and has more impact.

A further reminder for Baptists is that such a drastic reduction in funding by Southern Baptists may place BJC board members (from all nine Baptist bodies involved) in the awkward position of rearranging the representation of Southern Baptists.

Traditionally, representation is related to allocation amounts.

James Dunn, a Southern Baptist who is executive director of the BJC, has said, "One may safely assume that, should the Southern Baptist Convention vote to approve the budget as it now stands, trustees of the BJC would be forced to change its bylaws to be more responsive to its primary sources of Southern Baptist support."

In other words, since gifts from Southern Baptist state conventions already total more than the \$50,000 allocation, trustees may be chosen from among those involved. And Southern Baptists may end up with less than the eighteen.

The BJC has been careful to give a vital voice to its smaller Baptist bodies, never letting one giant control all of its actions. This, however, has caused consternation among some Southern Baptists who are reluctant to fund a body not controlled by Southern Baptists.

Five attempts in the last six years have been made to reduce BJC funding. SBC messengers have defeated each attempt. The budget recommendation is another attempt, albeit by a different approach.

The BJC has not been the sole spokesman in Washington for all Southern Baptist desires regarding religious liberty and First Amendment causes. But the BJC has upheld historic Baptist beliefs in church-state separation — and has not been involved in moral concerns except when related to religious liberty.

Some may see James Dunn as irascible or abrasive. But there can be no doubt as to his dedication to his assignment, his intelligence, and his love of Southern Baptists. Under his leadership, the BJC has access to government offices and recognized leadership in Washington.

If each of the nine Baptist bodies involved in the BJC support were to slash funding when they did not get their way, none would have the quality of church-state representation that we now have.

We encourage Tennessee Baptists to read and study these items as they become available: the budget rationale supported by the majority of the Executive Committee, the minority report, and the BJC's refutation of the charges against it in the rationale.

Southern Baptists already are supporting the BJC — through state convention budget allocations, by individual churches, and by other friends. It is probable that support will increase, possibly at the expense of the Cooperative Program, if budget cuts stand.

There are strong feelings on both sides. There is sincere concern on both sides. Let us search for ways to make the two sides as one. — WFA

**Overseas baptisms up almost 15 percent**

RICHMOND (BP) — Baptisms in overseas churches related to Southern Baptist foreign mission work increased 14.9 percent in 1989, reversing a three percent decline the year before.

Overseas churches baptized 227,437 new believers in 1989 — an average of nearly one baptism every two minutes — up from 197,863 in 1988.

The 1989 total, a record, reflects a ratio of one baptism for every 10.7 church members overseas, compared to one baptism for every 40 members of Southern Baptist churches in the United States, said Jim Slack of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's research and planning office. Slack prepares the annual statistical survey of foreign missions.

In other highlights of the 1989 survey, overseas Baptists' church membership increased 16.4 percent during the year, climbing by 345,818 members to 2.4 million and bringing average church membership to 115.4 per church.

Overseas Baptists added three and a half times as many new members as Southern Baptist churches in the United States, said FMB President R. Keith Parks. "Southern Baptists need to know that the spiritual, human and financial resources they are investing in foreign missions are being multiplied and utilized by God's Spirit in a significant way," he said.

The number of Baptist churches overseas grew from 19,199 in 1988 to 21,239 in 1989 — a 10.6 percent increase

in net church growth. The actual number of churches started in 1989 was 1059. The other 981 additions came from more accurate church counts in a number of countries.

Sunday School membership grew from 1.5 million to almost 1.9 million, a gain of 356,535 members, or 23.4 percent.

Discipleship Training in 1989 saw an increase of 1120 participants, to 19,764. Training includes the use of programs such as MasterLife, Bible Way, and Survival Kit for the Christian Journey. But Slack expressed concern about the low number of mission congregations or "preaching points" that matured into churches during the year. Although 1989 saw new preaching points grow from 18,250 to 21,234, only 5.4 percent of the preaching points counted in 1988 became churches in 1989.

Baptist work moved into 135 cities previously untouched by Baptist outreach — up from 110 new cities in 1988. And the new non-residential missionary program had placed 14 couples overseas by the end of 1989. They are working to evangelize unreached people groups in restricted regions with a total population of more than 120 million people from bases outside those regions.

Southern Baptists sent 310 new missionaries and more than 10,000 short-term volunteers abroad last year.

The appointment and reappointment of 310 missionaries fell below the 371

total in 1988, bringing the total Southern Baptist missionary force to 3780 at the end of 1989 — a net loss of 87 from the previous year after subtracting retirements, resignations, completions of service, and deaths. It was the first net loss in the mission force since 1972.

"Our career personnel picture is not as positive as we wish it was. We have had a steady decline in appointments the last five years," Parks said. "However, the prospects for this year are encouraging. We never know with certainty this early in the year how

many the Lord will call out. We do know that the numbers of those in contact with us who have the possibility of appointment are more encouraging than in recent years."

Southern Baptists spent \$5.2 million for overseas hunger and relief projects in 1989 — less than half of 1988's total. The money supported 191 projects in 44 nations.

Medical missionaries and workers treated almost 1.4 million patients. Missionaries and Baptists produced 51,000 television and radio broadcasts on 483 stations last year.

**Baptist and Reflector**

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# Tennessee Executive Committee members discuss SBC budget

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor  
NASHVILLE — Five of Tennessee's six representatives on the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee approve of the budget which will be presented to messengers at the SBC's annual meeting June 12-14 in New Orleans, La.

The budget would reduce funding for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from \$391,796 to \$50,000 while increasing the Christian Life Commission's budget by \$365,328. The Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee would receive \$25,000.

The final recommendation overturned a previous action the Executive Committee approved earlier in their deliberations. The first budget also reduced BJC funding to \$50,000, but would have given PAC \$96,600 with the CLC receiving an additional \$293,728.

Voicing support for the proposed budget are pastors Charles Sullivan, First Church, Lenoir City; Don Whitt, First Church, Milan; and Doug Westmoreland, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville; and laymen James Cooley, Chattanooga, and Joe Warwick, Knoxville.

Nashville layman Martin Bradley opposes the plan which significantly reduces Southern Baptists' funding of

the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee, which also represents eight other Baptist entities.

Sullivan said he feels the Committee's final recommendation which reduced funds to the PAC "has very much strengthened the recommendation of the Executive Committee to have religious liberty concerns addressed by the Christian Life Commission.

"And while it did not go as far as I had recommended (Sullivan said he favored total defunding of the PAC, leaving them as representatives on the BJC) I have to feel we have presented all Southern Baptists with a good choice," he said.

Cooley said he believes "the voice and witness of Southern Baptists will be strengthened in Washington with the additional influence of the Christian Life Commission which already has an office in Washington and the PAC which will continue to represent us on the BJC.

"I feel this proposal is not only economically prudent, but is spiritually sound," Cooley said.

Whitt said he favored reducing funds to the BJC because "it is not a Southern Baptist entity."

He noted Southern Baptists have provided the majority of the BJC's funding but do not have a majority of trustees.

Both Cooley and Whitt pointed out Southern Baptists will still be a part of the Baptist Joint Committee.

"Contrary to the opinion of some, the fact is that the SBC will continue to be represented on the Baptist Joint Committee with the same numerical representation they have had in the past," Cooley said, adding that "our contribution will be \$50,000."

Westmoreland said he is "democratic and will go along with the majority" in regard to the budget.

"Personally, I feel we don't need three entities in Washington when one could do it."

Westmoreland added he is in favor of the CLC because "it is our entity. We ought to be represented by our own."

Warwick simply said as a member of the Executive Committee he "is in favor of what the committee voted to do."

Bradley, however, said he opposes the effort to reduce the BJC's funding.

"The evidence of accomplishments and activities of the BJC over many decades leads me to a position of continued support of the BJC as an ef-

fective representative of Southern Baptists' religious liberty concerns," he said.

Bradley added that "the unified witness of various Baptist groups in Washington and other governmental centers is still to be strategically and earnestly desired."

Several committee members agreed that the proposed budget gives Southern Baptists a "clearer" choice compared to the budget that would have given PAC \$96,600.

Bradley said the second proposal "does seem to give a clearer choice" because it involves only two alternatives.

Sullivan said the vote by messengers at this year's convention "will decide the issue once and for all. This will be the final vote on the BJC," he predicted.

Sullivan discounted the notion that Southern Baptists have affirmed the BJC in recent convention votes. "In most cases we have been voting on some part of the budget process and not the BJC," he said.

Whitt agreed with Sullivan's assessment. "This will give Southern Baptists a clear choice as to which way they want to go in funding," he said.

## Executive Committee approves SBC budget; decrease . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
Carpenter." Vines said, observing that Jesus has building projects both in heaven and on earth. Citing the church as Jesus' earthly project, Vines said, "As a Christian I have an opportunity to be a laborer with Jesus in the building of His church."

**New York, Hawaii representation**  
The Baptist Convention of New York, with church membership of 25,838, and 206 churches and 100 church-type missions, was approved for full representation on Southern Baptist entities. The Hawaii Baptist Convention was approved for representation on the Executive Committee and other ap-

propriate committees. Hawaii has 55 churches and 26 missions with 15,384 members.

Acting on a referred motion from last year's convention in Las Vegas, the Executive Committee made no recommendation for an amendment on removing trustees of SBC entities or Executive Committee members.

### CLC gets increase

In the budgeting debate, the controversial reduction of the BJC allocation was part of the 1990-91 budget recommended to the Executive Committee by the Program and Budget Subcommittee which held budget hearings in January. (That meeting was

reported in the Feb. 7 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.)

The subcommittee recommended that the cut portion of BJCPA funding be split between two other SBC entities, the Public Affairs Committee which is made up of the 18 Southern Baptist trustees on the BJC's board, and the Christian Life Commission, which is headquartered in Nashville and also has an office in the nation's capital.

The PAC was to get an increase of 307.5 percent — to \$96,000. The CLC's increase would be 32.7 percent, up to \$1,191,236. After more than four hours of discussion, and after the recommended budget had been passed, debate was renewed upon a motion by David Hankins of Louisiana.

His motion to amend the budget by reducing the PAC allocation to \$25,000 and giving the remainder to CLC was passed on written ballot, 46-13. The CLC allocation is recommended at \$1,262,536.

### Rationale debated

Sparking a two-hour verbal donnybrook was the lengthy rationale statement about the budget. Executive Committee members were informed of its authorship by committee officers after the budget had been voted.

Committee members then voted to adopt the document as rationale for their action. It will be accessible to Southern Baptists before the June convention. Committee members voted to publish it, along with the minority report which supports BJC's current level of funding, in the May issue of *The Baptist Program*, the Executive Committee's magazine; in the "Book of Reports;" and the "Daily Bulletin" which will be given to messengers in New Orleans; and in a brochure which will be available upon request from the Executive Committee office in Nashville.

Charles Sullivan, Lenoir City, noted that the rationale was prepared by the

three officers Sam Pace, Paul Pressler, and Fred Wolfe; subcommittee chairmen Sullivan, Hankins, and William F. Harrell; and "a number of others."

Don Whitt, Milan, said he is in favor of printing the majority and minority reports. A member of the Program and Budget Subcommittee, Whitt said the rationale does not say that "these are the only reasons we voted this way."

### Other views on statement

Nashvillian Martin Bradley had a different view. "The publication of a document identified as the rationale for an action is not wise because that document was not available to members of the Executive Committee until time for consideration of a recommendation made to us by a subcommittee.

"The rationale document had not earlier been distributed to the subcommittee for use in its deliberations in the formulation of the recommended budget allocations."

A North Carolina committee member, Ann Smith, was one of those in opposition to the BJC allocation decrease. "The Baptist Joint Committee has earned its money," she said, "we do not need to defund them to add money to the CLC."

Smith reminded the committee that James Dunn, BJC executive director, several years ago successfully fought an attempt to tax foreign missionaries' overseas income. "He saved the Foreign Mission Board about \$10 million in eight years," she said.

She said she believed it was "tunnel vision" to cut the allocation, adding that some of the committee "is so set on political goals they are willing to sell off the BJC . . ."

On Friday the BJC issued a statement refuting point-by-point the charges made against it in the rationale statement.

## Committee acts on other recommendations

Actions taken by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee during their Feb. 19-21 meeting in Nashville included the following:

- Approved the employment of C. Barry McCarty as parliamentarian at the SBC's annual meeting June 12-14 in New Orleans. McCarty would be paid \$960 per day or \$120 per hour for pre- or post-convention consultations, plus expenses.

- Replaced two members of the 1989-90 SBC Committee on Nominations who resigned. Appointed were J. V. Davis, pastor of Rice Memorial Church, Northboro, Mass., and Patrick Henry, pastor, First Church, Johnson City, Ill.

- Elected six representatives on the Baptist World Alliance's Youth Committee for the term 1990-95: Helen Wood, Richmond, Va.; Dean Finley, Atlanta, Ga.; Charles H. Johnson, Nashville; Russell B. Griffin, Memphis; Georgia Hall, Birmingham, Ala.; and Jerry Merriam, Jackson, Miss.

- Heard a report from the SBC Liaison Committee which met in a four-hour session with the Virginia

Denominational Crisis Committee Feb. 19. According to the report presented by Chairman Julian Motley of North Carolina, the committees "engaged in substantial dialogue in an open, forthright, and conciliatory atmosphere and shared mutual expression of appreciation at the close of the meeting for the spirit and manner in which the discussions were held."

The meeting dealt with the Virginia Memorial which was adopted by the Baptist General Association of Virginia at their annual meeting in 1988.

- Acting on a recommendation from messengers at last year's SBC in Las Vegas, the committee felt "it would not be wise" to conduct the annual meeting of the SBC during a weekend.

- Adopted resolutions of appreciation for Timothy A. Hedquist, who recently resigned as vice president of business and finance for the Executive Committee, and A. Earl Potts, who is retiring as executive director of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

# Our Readers Write

## Tribute to a dad

Twelve homeless men sang "Happy Birthday, dear Heather," to my daughter, when we took her cake to Clearview Church in Franklin for her eighth birthday. We are their Monday night Room In The Inn family. It struck me that another generation is learning how to share Christ's love. Heather is a seventh generation Baptist, since 1793. But each generation has to learn anew. How did I learn?

I rode on a pink pillow in the Yellow Gospel Jeep, when we were Salem Association missionaries, during Southern Seminary days. Later in northern Alabama, I was a barefoot girl attending VBS and taking census in new missions started by my dad.

When Daddy was the State Sunday School secretary for Alabama, all six of us children were involved as greeters for the summer assembly programs at Shocco Springs, handing out cups of cool water.

Dad's 17 years with the Sunday School department at the Baptist Sunday School Board allowed us many summers of enchantment and service at Glorieta and Ridgecrest. We learned a greater appreciation of Baptists worldwide. After his retirement, Daddy became assistant to the pastor at First Church, Nashville, where our family has enjoyed great fellowship for 27 years.

My father, Harold Christian Marsh, died Nov. 8, 1989, after 73 years as the Lord's special servant. My mother, Alta Lively Marsh, continues to teach her children and grandchildren how to serve. Thank you, thank you, dear parents.

Christy Marsh Haines  
2193 N. Berrys Chapel Road  
Franklin 37064

## Dismantling the BJCPA

In the Baptist and Reflector of Feb. 7 I was dismayed to read again of the continued assault upon the Baptist Joint Committee. This time it is by a subcommittee of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. This subcommittee proposed reducing the Joint Committee's budget to a paltry \$50,000, a reduction of 87 percent plus.

Then this subcommittee sets out five guidelines whereby the BJCPA is under the close watch care of another committee. Referring to the fifth of these guidelines I quote: "relate to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and be the vehicle through which the BJC makes its budget requests and in regard to which the BJC will account financially and have a review of their program and personnel for and in behalf of the SBC."

This appears to me to be an attempt to totally dismantle the Joint Committee a piece at a time. Why not put the real question to the next convention at New Orleans — just be candid about it — and ask frankly "shall we dissolve the Baptist Joint Committee?" Let us have a halt to this slowly doing away with the Joint Committee and get to the total question.

D. K. Thomas  
206 High Street  
Maryville 37801

## Young can do well

In reference to the Baptist and Reflector article, Feb. 7 issue, "Seminary professor describes type of pastor churches look for today," I offer this response.

We take issue with the media of this country when they stereotype a Bible-believing Christian as a "wild-eyed, uneducated, narrow-minded fanatic." Maybe we better look in the mirror and see if we are calling the kettle black within our own ranks.

I'm referring to Guy Greenfield's article. In my opinion, this is a classic case of extreme broad-brushing.

Does Mr. Greenfield mean the majority of young men in the ministry are "arrogant, slick talkers in the pulpit who underneath it all have little integrity and less character?"

Does Mr. Greenfield think that the majority of young pastors are "... 'master manipulators of unsuspecting laypersons'?"

Is Mr. Greenfield saying the majority of young men behind the pulpit do not "practice what they preach" or do not "live it sincerely on a daily basis at home as well as at church?"

When speaking of "fallen pastors" in our country as coming from mostly the

younger group, could he give us his definition of young? Under 45? 40? 35?

Could it be we have an error in judgment here; maybe an unfair generalization?

High morals, integrity, and Godly characteristics prevail in the young as well as the old who have been redeemed by the grace of God.

There are still many Josephs, Samuels, Davids, Jonathans, Timothy's, ... who have not bowed the knee to self-satisfying aspirations.

Thank God for the "aged Pauls" in our convention, but thank God, too, for the "young Timothy's" the Lord has called into this great harvest for His kingdom.

Let us never forget the inspired words which the elder statesman Paul spoke to his own son in the faith. Timothy — "Let no man despise thy youth," literally, ("Push you aside as a boy").

Eric Godfrey  
Bethel View Church  
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**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.**

## Support for BJCPA

I read with great distress the recent article concerning the SBC budget proposal to reduce funds to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by 87.24 percent. Simply redistributing the bulk of the \$391,796 to the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee (\$72,896) and the Christian Life Commission (\$293,728) does not compensate for such a drastic reduction.

In each SBC annual meeting I have attended over the last decade, the Baptist Joint Committee and its budget have been affirmed, though frequently threatened. Two things concern me in this matter. One is provincialism. The BJCPA has been one vital area where a representation of the wider Baptist family has been able to work with great success and influence.

We hear complaints that the SBC bears too much of the financial burden for this organization. We should bear it, considering our resources. The united voice of many Baptist groups represents a stronger voice. Our contribution to this is well worth it. The other thing which concerns me is the attitude of arrogance in thinking we can do better by ourselves what the BJCPA has been doing effectively for years.

I cannot understand the proposal to defund, given the affirmation of the BJCPA in previous years. Furthermore, I suspect that if this measure succeeds in the Executive Committee and at the annual meeting in New Orleans, the consequences will be that many churches will designate funds to the BJCPA and decrease their Cooperative Program gifts accordingly. Nothing will be gained except greater division in our Southern Baptist family. We need to keep our strong support of the BJCPA.

C. Kenny Cooper  
Bellevue Church  
101 Cross Timbers Drive  
Nashville 37221

## Greenfield applauded, bold

It has been a pleasure to receive your fine paper here in Massachusetts. You remain our best window on Southern Baptist life in Tennessee. Your firm, Christian stands on issues ranging from "the controversy" to racism to the year of the laity are truly encouraging.

In the Feb. 7 edition, Guy Greenfield wrote an insightful article on the type of pastors churches are looking for. He mentioned "meaningful relationships," "clear perception into human needs," "sensitive to people," and "reflects the very presence of Jesus." Amen!

It seems that these qualities are not the province of one sex. Indeed, women are often more sensitive to the Spirit in these areas than men. I am not suggesting that the Baptist and Reflector take a stand on women's ordination. I am, however, hoping that future articles would not assume that "pastor" is inherently a term for males only. Phrases in the article like "pastor search committees are looking for men," "a man of solid moral character," and "faithful to his wife" give the false impression that the Baptist and Reflector is siding with one faction on this issue.

Todd Lake  
225 Chestnut Street #5  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

— The words were those of Guy Greenfield, not the paper. We have tried to make clear that opinions stated in articles are not necessarily those of the paper. — Editor

## Prophetic voice

Baptists in America were born fighting for religious liberty and the separation of church and state. Small in number and persecuted, they understood that the decision to follow Christ must be made by a free conscience. And they argued for religious liberty with a strength far beyond their numbers.

Over the years, the Southern Baptist Convention has become a large denomination, in many areas the most powerful religious group. Now we stand in danger of denying our heritage. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was established to support treasured Baptist principles. The staff of the Baptist Joint Committee are individuals committed to upholding religious liberty.

Sometimes the Baptist Joint Committee does what is convenient for Southern Baptists, and we say the Committee "supports" us. At other times religious liberty is contrary to the convenience of a large, powerful denomination. The Baptist Joint Committee seeks to call us back to our heritage, and it is painful to us to hear their prophetic word.

We often attack prophets when they oppose our convenience. But Jesus had harsh words for those who rejected the prophets. The SBC Executive Committee has made a grave error in its attempt to diminish the prophetic voice of the Baptist Joint Committee. We must reverse this error at the SBC in New Orleans, lest the judgment of Christ fall on us as well.

Sandra Hack  
2129 Acklen Ave., Apt. 4  
Nashville 37212

## Cook accepts call of West View Church

Ron Cook recently accepted his first pastorate at West View Church, Athens.

Cook was formerly minister of youth at East Niota Church, Niota, where he was ordained Dec. 31, 1989.

He and his wife, Sandra, have two children.

# TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Evidently the Lord is getting ready to do something good in Tennessee. As a prelude to doing something special, the Lord usually moves His people to prayer. Tennessee Baptists are beginning to pray in a new way.

I spoke recently to a prayer breakfast in Duck River Association. I was surprised at the large attendance presentation at Trinity Church on a Sunday morning. Baylon Hilliard planned the meeting after my call to prayer at the state convention. A spirit of earnest prayer seemed to be on the people.

W. L. Shipman, director of missions in the Polk County Association, shared with me that they are forming a prayer fellowship in their association. They are electing an associational prayer leader, and hopefully each church will elect such a person.



LOWRIE

In just a few weeks T. W. Hunt will train the prayer coordinators from each association in our annual key leaders conferences. Dr. Hunt is a man that God has called out to call Southern Baptists to prayer.

This thrills me! I do want to see our God move on and through His churches in Tennessee. This will come as we humble ourselves before Him in prayer.

Are you a part of a special prayer group? Does your church have an organized prayer ministry? Let me encourage you to take the initiative to call your church to prayer.

When I was a teenager, my pastor went to a special conference on revival. He came home with a burden for revival. He began to meet with a group of men and boys for prayer. It was during these prayer meetings that God began to work in my heart, and began to call me to preach. It was then that I began to realize the difference God can make when His people pray.

So team members, I will meet you in the throneroom as we seek the face of our heavenly Father.

# Atlanta meeting 'maps out strategy' for Chapman

By Dan Martin and Bob Terry  
 ATLANTA (BP)— More than 250 conservatives from 21 states mapped strategy in Atlanta Feb. 22 for the election of Morris Chapman as next president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, recently announced his willingness to be nominated. John Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston, said he plans to nominate his fellow Texan as the conservative standard bearer.

The 256 conservative pastors and laypeople were invited to the meeting by Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, and former president of the SBC.

Another former SBC president, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, presided over the gathering, and current SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, gave greetings to participants over a telephone hookup.

"The meeting was to reaffirm our

goals and directions," said Fred Powell, senior associate pastor of the Atlanta church and the organizer of the gathering.

"We wanted to assess the situation as to where we are and what we can expect in New Orleans," site of the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC, Rogers told Baptist Press.

"There were three basic things we feel we need to do," he added. "First, we need to refocus the issue on the Word of God. The central issue is the Bible. It is not a matter of separation of church and state, the priesthood of the believer, women ministers, or anything else, as important as they might be.

"The issue is ... the theological issue, and the heart of the theological issue is Holy Scripture. We need to keep the focus on that, because there are those who are trying to shift the issue.

"The second thing is the duplicity of the moderates (who are) crying out against political maneuvering and who

are doing more and at greater expense than has ever been done."

He quoted a statement made by moderate candidate Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, that politics is "immoral," and said: "There is talk of exorbitant amounts of money being spent ... with flying around, whistle stops, organizations with paid full-time workers.

"I don't say they don't have the right to spend their money; the point is they are doing the very thing they decry so much. They can't have it both ways."

The third point of the meeting, Rogers said, "was that we talked about Morris Chapman, and that he is indeed the one we felt was surfaced after prayer and discussion. Fred Wolfe was there and very much encouraged support for Morris as the candidate."

"Little rumors have been floating that Fred (Wolfe) was bypassed for Morris (Chapman). The moderates would like to believe there is division in our camp, but assurance was given there is none."

Powell said the meeting "wasn't so much a pep rally for Morris (Chapman) as to keep our act straight, to keep on target."

Chapman was called a "thoroughbred conservative" by Rogers, who urged participants to "get behind God's man." He predicted several prominent Southern Baptists from the "broad middle" will unite behind Chapman's candidacy.

"Some who have heretofore been in the middle of the road, but who have had conservative beliefs, have made it known they are going to support Morris Chapman. Not the least of these is John Bisagno," Rogers said, predicting a "great number of people," similar to Bisagno "will do the same thing."

He declined to list possible supporters because "we felt it would be

better for them to surface their own names."

Rogers told the gathering, "I believe we will see in New Orleans the greatest victory ever seen" (for the conservatives), and added that another conservative victory — to go with 11 years of electing conservative presidents — will mean an end to the SBC conflict.

However, he added, "Conservatives realize they cannot take anything for granted and will do everything they can to have every messenger possible present in New Orleans."

James Hefley, a freelance writer from Hannibal, Mo., told the Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, Stanley announced to the gathering he will nominate Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church in suburban Atlanta for vice president. Hefley said several other names were discussed but no candidate agreed on.

Hefley also said conservative leaders expressed concern about the announced candidate of Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler as moderate candidate for first vice president. He said fear was expressed she would attempt to establish a precinct type organization in each state through Woman's Missionary Union since she is the former executive director of the WMU SBC.

Leaders pledged to monitor WMU to make sure it is not used for political purposes, Hefley said.

Also announced during the meeting, the Memphis pastor said, was establishment of a new publication, The Southern Baptist Communicator.

Powell, who will be editor of the publication as "a moonlighting thing," said the first issue has been mailed to the churches of the SBC. He said funding for the new publication is being provided by "an individual who feels that something should be done." He declined to name the "individual" without permission from the person.

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Come with me to the mountain of God.

The way there is difficult, hard, and the path is arduous and rocky; it is dusty and in another season it may be snow-covered. The wind is harsh and biting.

The mountain itself seems distant and forbidding. But we need not fear, the booming thunder is but the voice of God. The stark and craggy peaks are symbols of His strength, and even the wind becomes His caressing warmth.

He will come to meet us, even before we see all the rare and beautiful wild flowers. He will come to meet us.

On what wild mountain have you met God?

I met Him once, as did Moses and the ragged wanderers of Israel, near Sinai. We had landed in the desert after a fitful journey from Jerusalem. We disembarked from the aircraft and boarded an ancient bus. We were given water and food to take with us, and we were told not to let greed entice us to eat it all at once.

The desert was hot, dry, dusty. After what seemed hours, we rounded a curve in the trail — and there was Sinai. The purple shades of rock and brush had appeared suddenly — Sinai, the place where God was "at work" for Abraham's children.

In quiet reverence, we walked to St. Catherine's Monastery, to the famed library where holy scriptures were kept, tattered and torn. We met God.

What was the name of the mountain where you met God? Sinai? People of Israel later met Him at Mount Zion. He was at Calvary, and Ascension.

I have met Him on the peak of Burundi's Banga, Switzerland's Monte Bre, Hood of Washington, and Mount Carmel. The Israelites — and all of us — have learned that geography is incidental to the coming of God.

The Bible is filled with testimonies of His coming. The news of His coming and the consequences of His coming form the essential heart of the Bible's message, and relay to us the many ways in which that message is presented.

I have heard the message in the churches — and so have you. I have pondered its meaning for me in hundreds of places — and so have you. I have pondered its meaning for me in hundreds of places — and so have you. Sometimes the mountain is not a geographical mountain at all, not famous anyway — but simply a place where I find peace and rest.

Whatever place that mountain might be, I know that God is there and I know that He is acting on your behalf and mine. We are in need of His working out plans for us.

I climbed such a mountain on a recent day, a mountain of the past. A long-saved note was rescued from obscurity.

The note was from a dear friend. She penned words of thanks for something I had written about my father. "I read with deep appreciation your tribute to your father," she said. "So often children do not understand at the time lessons which a devoted parent is trying to teach, and more often they fail to realize that only loving discipline will give a child a sense of security and trust."

She closed with appreciation for "the virtues your father taught you."

I remember her as one sent by God to brace me up for the hard times of college. Her husband had been generously giving me financial help for those days until his death. She learned about his helping, and continued the support.

The note, sent years later, was a bonus and a reminder.

All the while, God had been on the mountain, working out His plan for me, laying out lessons, giving security and trust, teaching virtues.

Because we have met God on some mountain, we have opportunity to become.



ALLEN

## Youth Evangelism Conference set at Vanderbilt University gym

The 21st annual Youth Evangelism Conference is scheduled March 9-10 at the Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville.

David Ring, an evangelist from Orlando, Fla., will deliver the Friday afternoon and evening messages.

Rick Caldwell, a full time youth communicator from Little Rock, Ark., will speak Saturday morning and afternoon.

Music will be provided by Harbor, a group from Franklin, and the Tennessee All-State Youth Choir.

Tennessee youth on the program include Juli Jones, Acteen Panelist from Knoxville; Melissa Stark, state speakers' tournament winner from Trimble; and Kyle Stewart, Royal Ambassador State President from Nashville.

Youth from Middle and West Tennessee are asked to attend the Friday (March 9) session from 4:30-6:00 p.m. East Tennessee youth will meet from 8:00-9:30 p.m.

On Saturday (March 10) the session for Middle and West Tennessee will be 9:30-11:00 a.m. Those youth will then attend personal witnessing conferences at area churches from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

The schedule is reversed for East



CALDWELL



RING

Tennessee youth. They will attend the personal witnessing conferences from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and the general session from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Times stated are Central Standard Time.

For additional information, contact the Evangelism Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, at (615) 371-2058.

## Union Church calls Ray Wiley as pastor

Ray Wiley recently joined the staff of Union Church, Newport, as pastor. Wiley was formerly pastor of Holders Grove Church, Newport. He was ordained in 1983 at Rays Chapel Church, Newport.

I WILL TELL THE GOOD NEWS



# Legacy of Annie Armstrong supports missions in Nevada

By Joe Westbury

RENO, Nev.—When Don Ledbetter moved to Nevada to help start a mission in 1965, he didn't know the legacy of Annie Armstrong would follow close behind.

Although their ministries are separated by more than 100 years, Ledbetter and Armstrong both took steps of faith in response to what they

considered to be God's call.

Armstrong was the first national executive of Woman's Missionary Union, holding that office without pay for 18 years. Because of her influence in missions, Southern Baptists named their annual home missions offering for her.

That offering made a difference for Ledbetter when he made a financial sacrifice to start a Southern Baptist mission in Elko, Nev.

"I went there from Texas with no salary, and I painted houses so I would have an income," Ledbetter said. "It wasn't until a year later that I started receiving a small stipend from the Home Mission Board to help subsidize my expenses!"

That \$100-a-month stipend, then called Church Pastoral Assistance, was funded in part by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

In numerous instances across Nevada, the offering has made the difference between whether or not a mission would be started, said Ledbetter, who is now director of evangelism for the Nevada Baptist Convention.

"We couldn't have ever made it without Annie and the Home Mission Board's church loan department," he said as he looked back on the early days of Calvary Baptist Church in Elko.

When he first arrived on the church field, the congregation numbered 10 members—four from

## Prayer requests

- Pray for God's anointing on the Here's Hope simultaneous revivals scheduled for Nevada March 18-April 8.
- Pray for the Calvary Baptist Church in Elko as they begin a building program. Pray that God will provide the resources to fund the building. New facilities will double the space of the church. The church needs additional space in order to minister to a community which is growing rapidly.
- Pray that God will provide an experienced, evangelistic pastor to begin a new church in the McQueen area of Reno.
- Pray that God will send pastors for the missions and churches in Nevada currently without pastors. About one-tenth of the convention's missions and churches do not have a pastor.
- Pray that the small churches in the Northeast and Lahonton associations will be able to participate in statewide simultaneous revivals. Many of the churches are strapped financially. Ask God to provide revival teams for them.



Home missionary Don Ledbetter (left), as director of evangelism for Nevada, helps pastors and churches as they try to reach the unchurched within the state. His role is sometimes that of encourager to pastors such as Lloyd Byers (right) of East Sparks Neighborhood Baptist Church in Sparks, Nev. Ledbetter's work is funded by gifts through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

## One Woman's View

By June McEwen

There seems to be a flood of stories among my acquaintances regarding events of last year in their personal lives. These stories are dominated by crises, sickness, suffering, untimely death. Most were glad to see the year and the decade end, and look forward to a better year and a better period ahead. This is one of the chief advantages of the new year and the start of a new decade. Humans need a point at which to put the past behind and to look forward to new goals, new events, new beginnings. I suppose this sums up a lot of what is meant by hope. Hope is essential to well-being.

A cousin asked me over the holidays about how I had survived a year which included the death of a grandchild, illnesses in the family, many changes for people I love, and other of life's ups and downs. Her question is one we can all ponder to personal advantage and as an aid to spiritual growth. "What have you learned from all this?" Perhaps imbedded in the question is the truth that all of life's happenings — both the good and the bad — should result in learning and growth.



McEWEN

My answer to "What have you learned this year" requires some thought and prayer along with reflection and reappraisal of myself and the events of the year. I have learned that there are problems which may not have solutions; we may need to learn to bear burdens and to endure situations. I have learned that there are situations which cannot be fixed but must be accepted. I have learned that life events cannot be controlled. If control is ever possible, the only person one can control is one's self. Life has to be lived by faith in God and by trust in the essential goodness of life in Him. This living by faith takes courage but the courage can come if we trust. All this is easy to say and hard to practice.

An aid to endurance and courage that may not be used very often is the hymn book. The poems which are the hymn lyrics reveal the experiences of great saints of God who have been there. Just think of the words and the meanings of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Rocks of Ages," "Sweet Hour of Prayer" just to mention only a few.

Images of Jesus in the Gospels also provide comfort and give courage and faith.

With faith in Jesus Christ we can learn, we can change, we can grow. We can face the new year and the new decade. We can make the changes in ourselves that we long to make.

his family. When he left almost 18 years later, the church was averaging 225 in Sunday School and had grown into one of the strongest congregations in Nevada.

Ledbetter baptized 95 percent of the congregation, including John Randolph and his wife, Barbara. Today Randolph is the church's pastor.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is a life-or-death issue for Nevada Baptists because the state remains a new-work area for Southern Baptists, Ledbetter said. Since the state convention is only 12 years old, it continues to receive a majority of its funding from the Home Mission Board.

"Annie Armstrong is our livelihood as far as the state convention is concerned. For every \$12 we budget, the Home Mission Board sends \$88 through Annie Armstrong, Cooperative Program and other funds Southern Baptists have provided," he explained.

"When I came to Nevada 24 years ago, we had 40 churches and missions. Now, largely due to the Annie Armstrong offering, we have about 120 throughout the state," he said.

Ledbetter helps churches develop an overall evangelism strategy that motivates congregations to greater missions involvement.

"We now go beyond the regular one or two revivals a year to include a variety of witnessing and discipling programs to equip the laity to share their faith," he said.

As Southern Baptists found during their door-to-door witnessing emphasis at the 1989 annual convention in Las Vegas, "Residents of Nevada are very receptive to the gospel—their main concern is to see if you are real or not, if you believe and practice what you preach," Ledbetter said.

"Our history shows that our potential for growth remains solid. We're one of the fastest-growing states by population due to the influx of industry and the mining boom," he said.

"The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the key to the growth of the Nevada convention."

**WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR HOME MISSIONS  
March 4-11, 1990**

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING  
National goal: \$41 million  
Tennessee goal: \$3 million**

## Southern Baptists to re-enter Nicaragua

RICHMOND (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted Feb. 14 to re-establish a missionary presence in Nicaragua.

The trustees' vote authorizes the board to fill a new position of Foreign Mission Board liaison in Managua, Nicaragua's capital. The liaison will "minister in partnership with Baptist communities in Nicaragua," said Joe Bruce, area director for Middle America and Canada.

The liaison missionary will "coordinate and provide logistical support for volunteers, projects, and ministries provided by the Foreign Mission Board to the Baptists of Nicaragua," Bruce said.

No Southern Baptist missionaries have been assigned to Nicaragua since 1983, when the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua advised furloughing missionaries not to return because their physical safety could not be guaranteed. At that time, political tensions were mounting between the United States and Nicaragua following the 1979 Sandinista revolution there.

Since then, the Foreign Mission Board has maintained contact with Nicaraguan Baptist leaders and provided funds for disaster relief and hunger relief and literature ministry, Bruce said. He and other board officials have visited Nicaragua several

times, including a disaster survey trip following Hurricane Joan in 1988.

Two teams of Southern Baptist volunteers have just returned from a construction project on Corn Island, Nicaragua, where they rebuilt historic Ebenezer Church, demolished by Joan.

## Retired editor Richard Owen dies

Richard Owen, editor of the Baptist and Reflector from 1950-68, died Feb. 26 at Westside Hospital in Nashville.

Owen, 91, had been hospitalized since Jan. 27 when he suffered a stroke at his home in Nashville.

A native of Covington, Owen held degrees from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Owen was pastor of four Tennessee churches — First Church, Milan; First Church, Elizabethton; First Church, Paris; and First Church, Clarksville. He held several state and national denominational positions during his tenure.

Owen was an active member at First Church, Nashville, until his recent illness.

He is survived by a son, Richard Owen Jr.

# HMB, BSSB announce joint church growth efforts

**By Linda Lawson and Jim Newton**  
**ATLANTA (BP)**— Plans to develop a comprehensive, coordinated approach to church growth that includes Sunday school, evangelism, ministry, church extension, music and discipleship training were announced by the presidents of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

Lloyd Elder of the Sunday School Board and Larry Lewis of the Home Mission Board described the cooperative new effort in a press briefing at the close of the Southern Baptist Press association in February.

Lewis pointed to research done by the Sunday School Board that indicates two-thirds of Southern Baptist churches are either declining or have plateaued and are not growing at a rate exceeding ten percent over a five-year period.

"Our goals at the Home Mission Board are clear," Lewis said. "Working with the Sunday School Board, we want to help our churches grow and reverse this trend. By the year 2000, our goal is to see the statistics reversed and to see 75 percent of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention growing, not just 33 percent."

Elder said church growth must

become a top priority in the last decade of the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust evangelism/missions campaign. "We believe this joint agreement will enable us to speak with one voice on the priority of church growth and, in the process, better meet the needs of churches," he said.

Lewis said the key to the cooperative relationship between the two agencies is "serving the churches more effectively." He added that some churches are crying for help, and they don't know where to turn.

Both Elder and Lewis said that every person involved in the process for both agencies had sought to lay aside concerns about "turf protection" and work together to better serve the churches.

In his presentation, Elder announced plans by the Sunday School Board to begin a new quarterly magazine called *Growing Churches* starting in October. Edited by Gary Hardin, the new 64-page magazine will include church-growth ideas, stories about growing churches, interviews with church-growth leaders, and inspiring testimonies, Elder said.

Lewis announced plans for a National Church Growth Conference to be held Dec. 3-5, 1990, in Phoenix, Ariz.

The conference will feature addresses by some of the fastest-growing churches in the convention, offering practical suggestions on how other churches can grow effectively, Lewis said.

Both Lewis and Elder told the editors their agencies had each established church growth councils comprised of staff members to coordinate what units within the two boards are doing regarding church growth.

In addition, a nine-member coordinating team from the two agencies developed a definition of church growth and common characteristics of growing churches. They also developed strategies by which the two agencies will respond to church growth needs within the denomination.

Elder said the two agencies address church growth through joint projects such as church starts, new Sunday Schools, witness training, bus outreach and evangelism, church and associational planning, Scripture distribution, and others.

Elder read to the editors a definition of church growth that each agency had approved as the common basis of understanding. The definition states:

"Church growth is God at work through His redeemed people in adding to a church those who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and helping inactive believers come to renewed commitment. It is new believers added to existing churches or gathered into new churches and equipped to become responsible church

members who minister and witness as personal soul-winners to others. It is strengthening the churches in fellowship, organization, and in world missions commitment."

Lewis identified ten common characteristics of growing churches, pointing out that the list was not all-inclusive but includes general, descriptive traits of a growing church. The ten characteristics are:

- Priority commitment of believers to winning non-Christians to faith in Christ.
- Pastor, staff and laity commit to, and plan for, church growth.
- Places an intentional emphasis on a prayer ministry.
- Use of the Sunday School as the primary outreach and assimilation organization of the church.
- Worship that is joyful, celebrative, expectant, with a spirit of revival.
- Centrality of the Bible in preaching and study.
- Equips believers for spiritual growth, personal evangelism and ministry.
- Provides an effective plan to nurture and assimilate new members.
- A fellowship that expresses acceptance, concern and love for all.
- A Christian concern that understands and responds to the needs of its community and the world.

Both Elder and Lewis stressed the commitment of the two agencies to work together in the area of church growth. "The job is too big for us to try to do it alone," Lewis said.

## At Annuity Board

### Trustees honor Morgan, elect Powell

**DALLAS (BP)**— Southern Baptist Annuity Board trustees honored their retiring president, elected his successor, and changed the board's abortion-insurance plan during their February meeting.

Trustees, employees, and friends donated nearly \$27,000 to establish the Darold and Elizabeth Morgan Fund as a part of the board's Adopt an Annuitant program.

The fund, which honors the board's outgoing president and his wife, will perpetually provide an extra \$50 per month for life for three retired ministers or ministers' widows with inadequate retirement incomes.

Morgan established the board's endowment department in 1978 and founded the Adopt an Annuitant Fund in 1984. More than 600 annuitants are receiving financial assistance from the program.

Trustees elected Paul W. Powell as president and chief executive officer to succeed Morgan. They unanimously chose Powell as president-elect last October. He was pastor of Green Acres Church in Tyler, Texas, for 17 years. He will be installed as president March 15 in Dallas.

Powell pledged continuity with the past administration and said the board will "embrace flexibility to change with changing times."

The board's insurance committee approved benefit changes in the insurance plans. One change eliminates benefits for an elective termination of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger.

The previous policy would have considered benefits for an elective abortion when the pregnancy was caused

by rape or incest. Morgan said the policy change was more symbolic than real, noting, "Our participants simply don't file claims for elective terminations."

Insurance committee Chairman Bob R. Howard of Independence, Mo., reported stability in the group medical plan but noted that the church medical plan continues to suffer losses despite an increase of premiums Jan. 1.

"Church medical claims paid exceeded premiums collected by \$700,000 in the first month. We hope this is a first-month abnormality," Howard said.

Harold R. Richardson, treasurer and executive vice president, reported another record financial year. Total assets were \$2.7 billion, up \$400 million over 1988.

Retirement and relief benefits paid totaled \$83.8 million, a gain of \$12 million over 1988.

Contributions to retirement funds were up \$15 million in 1989 to \$170.4 million.

Investment income increased \$128 million. The total was \$356 million for 1989.

### West Paris Church calls Crossnoe as pastor

Tony Crossnoe recently accepted the pastorate of West Paris Church, Paris. He comes to the position from Enon Church, Halls. He has also served Fort Hudson Church, Dyersburg, and Three Way Church, Bells.

He was ordained in 1970 at First Church, Dyer.

He and his wife, Jane, have three daughters.



CARROLLS

COLEMANS

DIXONS

## HMB appoints Tennessee couples

**RICHMOND**— Three Tennessee couples, all natives of the Volunteer State, have been appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Bob and Faye Carroll were appointed as missionary associates and will live in Trinidad where he will start to develop churches. Together, they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

The Carrolls are now attending New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Carroll recently was pastor of Bethlehem Church, Springfield, where he served for 18 years. He also has been pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Lebanon; Smyrna Church, Chapel Hill; and Hickman Church, Hickman.

Carroll is a native of Old Hickory, Tenn. He considers Lebanon his hometown and Fairview Church there as his home church.

Mrs. Carroll is a native of Waterbury, Conn. and considers Bethlehem Church in Lebanon as her home church. They have three grown children.

Dale and Gayle Coleman were appointed as missionaries in Zaire. Coleman will work in agricultural evangelism and together they will be

involved in outreach ministries.

A native of Jackson, Coleman grew up in McKenzie and considers First Church, McKenzie, his home church. He is a graduate of University of Tennessee, Martin, and has attended New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Coleman is a native of McKenzie and also considers First Church as her home congregation.

The Colemans have two children, Rebekah Lynn, and Jacob Dale.

Don and Billie Dixon will serve in equatorial Brazil where he will start and develop churches. Together, they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1987 Dixon has been pastor of Waddy (Ky.) Church.

Dixon and his wife are natives of Knoxville and both consider Buffat Heights Church as their home church.

Dixon is a graduate of University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The couple has two children, Donny Wayne II, and Douglas Matthew.

The Carrolls and Dixons will go to Rockvale, Va., in May for a seven-week orientation before leaving for their respective places of service.

The Colemans will attend orientation in March.



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

## Who Will Stand in the Gap?

Ezekiel said, "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30). Here is a vital need in a crucial hour with no one to help.

The children we are privileged to serve need someone to stand in the gap in their lives. Their "gaps" are voids left when a family unit falls apart and a substitute home and parents are needed.

Fortunately, many God-called people have responded to a critical need at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

These vital team members are our social workers. They are known by many names — such as friend, counselor, and professional.

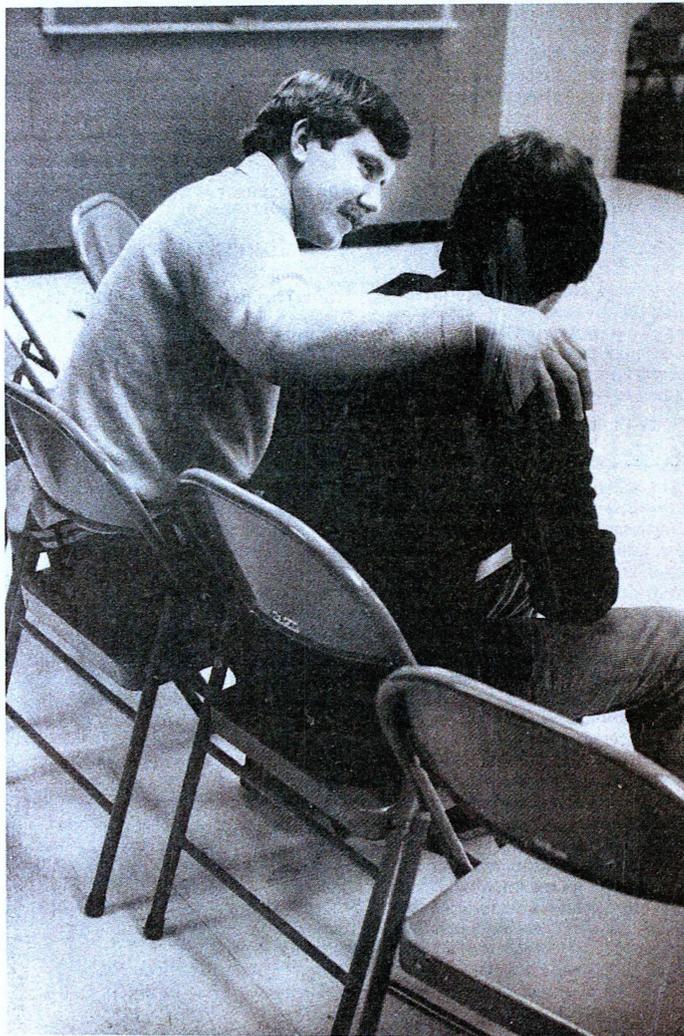
The services that these caring counselors render are essential in providing support and guidance to our children and their families. In many instances, the social worker is the only TBCH representative that family members, other than the child, will ever meet. They serve as an invaluable liaison between the child, the families, churches, and other agencies.

Countless hours are spent listening to

the children and in guiding them through the rough times in their young lives. How fortunate we are to have those who serve our Lord and our children with such dedication.

When you pray to our Father in Heaven, don't forget to lift up those who "stand in the gap" for the children. We also give thanks that our people and churches across the state "stand in the gap." Your provisions make it possible for TBCH to continue this vital ministry to children and their future.

*Gerald L. Stow*



Alcoholism, physical abuse, neglect — all are tragic family problems that have been faced by young children and teenagers prior to their placement in the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. To help each child overcome the emotional scars from past abuses, TBCH social workers take time to provide individual guidance and counseling. (TBCH photo by Jim Whitmer)

## Hurt Overcome By Loving Counseling

She's only eight years old.

There are a lot of things that could have happened to Jenny\* during that short span of life. She could have learned about laughter, about love, about friendship.

Instead, she learned to survive in a world of distrust and fear.

"When Jenny first came to the Children's Homes, she cried almost all the time," recalls Susan Eller, a TBCH social worker. "She had enormous fears that the man who harmed her would come back, cut through the window screen, and kill her."

The man — who has since been convicted of child sexual abuse — had entered Jenny's life when she was six years old. He gained the confidence and trust of her mother — a single mother — and had offered to take Jenny on special outings. He was a respected man in the community, and Jenny's mother had no reason to believe he was not a good person.

But he wasn't.

"Jenny's main problem is that she feels responsible for what happened to her. She feels that these bad things happened because she is not a good person," explains Linda Luddington, a TBCH social worker.

"Our job is to let her know that God is not punishing her. She is suffering the consequences of someone else's sin."

Jenny's story is all too typical of the children who are brought under the protection of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Sadly, more than half of the children on TBCH campuses have been sexually abused by a parent, step-parent, or family friend.

"We had one teenage girl who had been abused by both her father and mother for years. She didn't know the difference between a maternal hug and a sexual hug," recalls Susan. "With all of these children, we try to help them understand what a normal, loving relationship is."

Each child brought into the TBCH ministries is interviewed by a social worker, and placed in a cottage to live with seven other children and their houseparents. Sometimes the houseparents have children of their own, bringing the boy-and-girl total in some cottages to ten.

The mother and father in each cottage provide guidance, love, and discipline for the children. They take time to comfort each child, and to listen to any problems. In addition, professional counseling with a clinical psychologist is offered in group and individual sessions.

"I have such respect for our houseparents, because there aren't any children who come here who come here who don't have problems," says Susan. "If you can imagine trying to blend a family from nine different backgrounds — and some of them from very troubled backgrounds — then you have an idea of the challenges facing our houseparents."

By living in a TBCH cottage and visiting Baptist families in special weekend programs, children like Jenny are able to see beyond the dysfunctional families in which they were raised.

"And really, it is surprising how well these children survive," says Susan. "As adults facing the same experiences, I don't know if we could do as well."

\* The child's real name has not been used.



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# TenneScene

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## Associations ...

A singles seminar, sponsored by churches in the Nashville Association, will be held March 3 at Temple Church, Old Hickory. The seminar for formerly married and never married adults will include topics on single parenting, search for self worth, winners in a world of change, and developing a singles ministry. It is free and open to the public. For reservations, call 259-3034.

Duck River and Central Associations are sponsoring "Reaching Families Through the Sunday School" March 5-6 at First Church, Manchester. John and Margaret Sizemore of Shreveport, La., will lead the conferences. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. each night.

## Churches ...

The congregation of Westwood Church, Nashville, will dedicate their new family life center March 4 following dinner on the church grounds. Bill Wade, a former professional football player will speak.

Members of East Ridge Church, Chattanooga, will celebrate the church's golden anniversary April 8.

## Interfaith workshop set on cult, The Way

The Way International is a cult that primarily recruits members on and around college campuses. Its members form Twig Fellowships rather than churches and follow the teachings of Victor Paul Wierwille.

In order to train Baptist Student Union directors, students, pastors, directors of missions, and laypersons to conduct conferences on this cult, an Interfaith Witness Associate Training Workshop will be held March 16-17 at First Church, Goodlettsville.

The workshop leader will be Gary

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A groundbreaking ceremony for a new church parsonage will be held March 4 at Clear Creek Church, Crossville.

## Leadership ...

James Castleman was recently called as pastor to Sand Hill Church, Gleason. He was formerly pastor of Northwestern Church, Martin, and Gearin's Chapel Church, Greenfield. His wife, Fane, is Weakley County Association Woman's Missionary Union Director.

Michael Blackwood recently joined the staff of Grace Church, Springfield, as director of youth. He is a student at Belmont College, Nashville.

Lonnie Dupuy has been called as pastor of Demory Church, LaFollette. He formerly served as interim pastor of the church.

Brentwood Church, Brentwood, will honor Bill and Creely Wilson March 4 in recognition of their 20th anniversary with the church. A reception will be held at 2 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

Leazer of the Home Mission Board Interfaith Witness Department.

The Missions Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will provide foods, lodging, and some travel expense for those who attend.

The workshop will begin with registration at 2:30 p.m. on March 16 and close with lunch on March 17.

Interested persons should register by sending a check for \$10 to James Redding, Missions Department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728. The check should be made out to the Home Mission Board, SBC. Only those who plan to attend all sessions of the workshop should apply.



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**A Wise Woman Builds**  
**A conference for today's women**  
The conference, sponsored by First Church, Hendersonville, will be held Saturday, March 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the church. Jeanette Henry of Orlando, Fla., will lead the conference which is based on Proverbs 14:1.  
Registration fee is \$13 and includes luncheon, seminars, and conference kit. For additional information, contact Cathy Warren (615) 824-7611 or Brenda Packard (615) 822-0847. Registration deadline is March 4.

Moodyville Church, Byrdstown, called Danny DuBall as pastor.

Allen Livengood has been called as interim pastor of Lick Creek Church, Linden. He is the son of Charles Livengood, director of missions of Alpha Association.

Niles Kitzmiller was recently called as pastor to Sunrise Church, Bluff City.

Damon Corley, pastor of First Church, Celina, has announced his retirement from full-time ministry.

Mike Owens recently accepted the pastorate of Roan Hill Church, Johnson City. He was formerly pastor of East Watauga Avenue Church, Johnson City.

Eagleville Church, Eagleville, called Ben Martin as pastor.

Keith Johnson recently joined the staff of Unity Church, Maryville, as pastor.

Lincoln Avenue Church, Newport, called Don Olive as interim pastor.

## City-wide lock-in set for Knoxville youth

Many Christian and non-Christian youth in Knoxville will stay up all night March 23 at the Knoxville Convention/Exhibition Hall during an all night, city-wide lock-in, called "All Out All Night."

The event, sponsored by the Knox County Baptist Youth Ministers Fellowship in cooperation with the Knox County Association, is an effort to get area churches involved in youth ministries, affirm Christian youth, and tell non-Christian youth about the gospel of Christ, said Program Coordinator Roger Orman, who is minister to youth and students at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville.

"We hope teenagers will come to know the Lord," Orman said. "We hope teenagers who are Christians will identify other Christian teenagers who may go to their school, but not to their church, and develop a stronger network of Christian friends."

Orman expects 1200-1800 youth to attend the lock-in, with approximately 80

Clear Branch Church, Erwin, called Bill Valentine as pastor.

## Ordinations ...

Bethlehem Church, Greenfield, ordained Ronnie Hollis, Vernal Houston, Donnie Leyhue, and Richard Marcus as deacons Feb. 11.

Troy Peak was recently ordained as deacon at Point Pleasant Church, Newport.

Allen Davis was ordained Feb. 4 at Central Church, Chattanooga.

## Faith Church calls Thrasher as pastor

Kenneth Charles Thrasher has joined the staff of Faith Church, Loretto, as pastor, effective Dec. 17, 1989.

A native of Alabama, Thrasher has served churches in Mississippi, North Carolina, and Alabama. He was most recently pastor of Calvary Church, Waynesboro.

Thrasher earned a bachelor's degree from William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss.; a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; and a doctorate from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

percent being Christians. Secular advertising has been used to attract non-Christian youth. While the lock-in is sponsored by Baptist churches, information was mailed to 761 churches of all denominations in a four county area near Knoxville.

More than 50 youth leaders will lead programs during the night. Four discipleship study segments will focus on quiet time, prayer life, Bible study, and worship.

The program will feature a concert by contemporary Christian artist Billy Crockett and a Paragon Pictures multi-media presentation, "Love In a Twisted World."

Adults from area churches will provide security. Once youth have registered between 9 and 10 p.m., no one will be allowed to leave until the lock-in concludes at 8:15 a.m., March 24.

Anyone interested in attending the lock-in must purchase a \$5 non-refundable admission pass.



**CENTRAL GIFT** — Carson-Newman College President Cordell Maddox, center, recently accepted a \$75,000 gift to the college from Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville. The gift was part of C-N's church endowment campaign. Presenting the check were Pastor Larry Fields, right, and Mack Bingham, minister of education and administration. Fields and C. E. Harris, a member of the church, have served on C-N's board of trustees.

# Gideon delivers Israel

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

The story of man never changes! Circumstances change; materials change; environment changes. Basically, however, the human race is the same throughout our history.

In the time of the judges of Israel we see the pattern of life as it repeats itself over and over again: evil,

despair, repentance, good, not so good, evil . . . It is a wonder that God's patience does not wear thin. We never learn our lessons for long. He must continually chastize and correct us for our disobedience and unbelief.

But, lest we forget, the Bible is mainly about the graciousness of God and the sinfulness of man. Such can be observed in Judges 6:1-9:57.

For seven years the Midianites raided Israel, destroying crops, killing animals, and causing great upheaval in the lives of the people. All of this occurred because of the evil which the Israelites had done in the sight of God. They had forgotten the lessons of the past, how their Lord had forgiven them and provided leaders to bring them out of despair. After the death of Deborah who led the people in a mighty victory, Israel found it necessary to "enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

An anonymous prophet was sent by God to remind them of the past. Had not the Lord delivered them out of the

bondage of Egypt? Had He not warned them against bowing down to false gods? The answer was obvious! The indictment was the same: "But you have not listened to Me" (chapter 6:10b NIV). Every parent knows the frustration resulting from the failure of children to listen. Every school teacher has experienced the neglect in the classroom. But God has dealt with such failures throughout man's residence upon the earth!

In spite of the continuous cycle of disobedience, the Lord appeared unto Gideon, son of Joash, instructing him to lead the Israelites again against their enemies. The response of Gideon was to question why this disaster had befallen his own. If the Lord had been with them, reasoned Gideon, then why had all of this misfortune come to them?

We should note that God did not reply to this line of questioning; rather, He told Gideon to "go in the strength you have and save Israel out of the hand of Midian" (chapter 6:14). However, Gideon argued that his clan was the weakest in Manasseh and that he was the least able in his own family. This brings back the response of such great men as Moses and Jeremiah.

After Gideon "tested" the message from the Lord by seeing a sign of God's power, he finally realized that the Lord was speaking to him. The place to begin a renewed relationship with the Lord always centers around the altar. Gideon built an altar to God and then was told to tear down his

father's altar to Baal. There is no room for anything else in our worship of the one, true God of the universe. The Lord instructed Gideon not only to tear down this useless altar to Baal, but also to use the wood materials to burn a sacrifice to Him.

## BIBLE BOOK SERIES

### March 4 Lesson

Basic Passage: Judges 6:1-9:57  
Focal Passages: Judges 6:12-14,  
25-27a; 7:7, 19-21

One of the heart-warming aspects of this account is the positive reaction of Joash, Gideon's father. When the men of the town appeared to ask for his son's life, Joash responded by telling them that Baal should fight his own battles, if he were really a god! Evidently, the bold action of Gideon had opened the eyes of his own father. As the New Testament has indicated, not even our families are to have priority over God!

After this serious confrontation, the Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern tribes joined forces to attack Israel. Gideon asked for his "fleece" not once, but twice, still unsure of the calling of God.

Because of the bravery of this man the people named him, "Jerub-Baal," one who fights against Baal. Thirty-two thousand men volunteered to serve under his command but the Lord was not interested in winning a victory by the might of man! Instead, He instructed Gideon to lead the 10,000 re-

maining men to the water to drink and to then select the ones who lapped the water with their hands. Just 300 men were chosen. Is there not a modern application concerning military might to be learned in this story? It is not the size of the army, but their obedience to God which determines success.

Gideon and his band of 300 men surrounded the camp of the enemy during the night and armed only with trumpets and lamps created such confusion that the enemy turned on one another in the darkness and brought defeat upon themselves! "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon" (chapter 7:20)! The sword of the Lord is not weapons invented by man, but the Word of God. Under His leadership the enemies of Israel fell; and so will our enemies!

Gideon, however, did not always do right in the sight of God after this great victory. Judges 8:27 tells a sad story: "Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family." The lessons of the past again were forgotten and one of Gideon's children, Abimelech, brings disgrace to his father's name and to Israel, by slaying all of his family except Jotham who escaped. As before the time of Gideon and afterwards, the chosen people of God, so favored and blessed, turned back to the old, sinful ways! Only God's grace would save such a stiff-necked people!



MOODY

# When love abides

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

Fruit. Love. Friend. These three terms dominate Jesus' teaching in John 15. In the 13th and 14th chapters, Jesus instructed the disciples concerning heavenly things. In this text, He returns to the present with a very practical lesson for daily Christian living.

A natural progression is seen in Jesus' discussion of fruit. His thoughts move from bearing no fruit (v. 2a), to bearing fruit (v. 2b), to bearing much fruit (vv. 5, 8), to bearing fruit that continues (v. 16). This emphasis on fruit gave rise to several other spiritual truths.

One, Jesus insisted that no branch could bear fruit unless it abided in the vine. Small sterile branches often put out from the vine, detaching themselves from the life-giving nourishment. These branches were of no use to the vinedresser. They bore no fruit; they detracted from the beauty; they served no purpose. The vinedresser simply removed, bundled, and burned them.

The branches that were productive remained attached to the vine. The inner source of vitality came directly from the trunk. As long as they were not severed from the vine, they were healthy, productive, and useful. As Christians, our inner source of vitality

comes directly from God. The purpose which gives us strength and significance comes through His Word which cleanses us (v. 3), and through prayer which sustains us (v. 7). Any branch which neglects these disciplines will wither away.

Two, branches that bear fruit must be pruned to bear more fruit. In order for the sap that fills out the clusters of grapes to produce the fullest fruit, the small "sucker" shoots must be pruned off. The vinedresser, knowing the ultimate end is to produce as much fruit as possible, prunes back the branches. In our Christian life, God (the Vinedresser) purifies us by pruning back the unproductive and unnecessary entanglements of our lives. This pruning is often painful, but it is always necessary.

Three, the aim of having vines in the vineyard is that they productively bear fruit. Some question what kind of fruit Jesus meant. Is it the Fruit of the Spirit gracing the life of the believer? Is it the Fruit of winning souls to faith in Christ? Is it the Fruit of faithful service to God? Jesus would have answered: "Yes!" It is all of these, and more!

God does not have a supply of "super-saints" sitting around looking pretty. He has a supply of "serving saints" whose primary purpose is to bear fruit. Anything less is abnormal Christian growth.

The second significant term which Jesus stressed is love. Previously, He emphasized the need to love God. The

measure of this love was obedience to His commandments. Here, He stressed the centrality of love for one another. In verse 12, He stated: "This is My commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you." This was repeated in verse 17: "These things I command you, that you love one another."

## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

### March 4 Lesson

Basic Passage: John 15:1-17  
Focal Passage: John 15:1-17

The standard of our love for each other is Jesus' love for us. His love is a self-giving, self-sacrificing love. He told the disciples that He loved them enough to lay down His life for them (v. 13) — and He did! To that same degree, He calls upon His children to love one another.

A third important word Jesus gave is the word friend. Are you a friend of God? Aristotle insisted that mortals could not be the friend of the gods. Jesus, however, gave us God's wisdom

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(which is wiser than the wisdom of men)! He told the disciples that they were no longer simply servants; they were friends!

Friendship is the willingness to set aside selfish wants and to truly love one another. It is recognizing that Christ in us makes us new creations. We are no longer bound by the desires of the sinful, selfish flesh. We have been born again to walk in newness of life.

Fruit, love, friend! These terms are significant for the Christian. They are essential qualities of Christian growth. They are characteristics that ought to be found in our lives as God's children. Are we bearing fruit? Do we love as Christ loved? Are we the friends of God? Let us hear His Words — and be changed!

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OLDHAM

# Serving by giving

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

We enter a new four-session unit of study in the Gospel of Mark under the theme "Ways to Minister." The first lesson in the series gives us a study in contrast as we observe the rich young ruler and the poor widow. He was rich in material benefits, but ended up very poor spiritually. She was poor by the standards of the world, but ended up extremely wealthy in the eyes of Christ.

We have two examples, one negative and the other positive, to teach us how to serve Christ with our economic resources. A committed Christian will serve God and others by giving sacrificially. With many churches struggling financially, this lesson would challenge more adults to serve Christ with their tithes and offerings.

The Master's challenge (10:21-22) One of the tragic stories in the New Testament is the rich young ruler who came to Jesus with great enthusiasm and anticipation only to turn away in disappointment and defeat. Of all the

people who came to Jesus, this man is the only one who went away worse than he came.

He had it all, wealth, power, prestige, and youth. Yet something was missing. He came to Jesus with the desire to do or give whatever it took to earn eternal life.

The truth is that we can never earn eternal life. It is the gift of God's grace and once we receive it we will want to do whatever we can to share that truth and love to help others.

Jesus challenged the young man to demonstrate his faith in God by giving up what was presently his god — money.

This demanding challenge does not mean it is to be applied to all Christians. Jesus was addressing the specific needs of the rich young ruler; however, we are responsible for using a portion of our finances to support the Lord's work and help those less fortunate than we.

The young man's face fell. He was sincerely saddened. He could not part with the money which represented his pride of accomplishment. He was unable to turn his whole life and heart over to God.

It is also difficult for us to become a

disciple of Christ when our fist is clenched around money and things money can buy. Whatever is keeping us from giving our all to God must be sacrificed if we are to be true disciples with the assurance of eternal life.

The Master's lesson (10:23-25)

It is important to note that Jesus did not say it would be impossible for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God, but that it would be difficult for him to do so. Wealth can become a barrier to true discipleship.

## LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

March 4 Lesson

Basic Passage: Mark 10:17-31; 12:41-44  
Focal Passages: Mark 10:21-25; 12:41-44

This passage of Scripture concerning a willingness to give has more relevance to Christians in America than it does to those in third world countries where income is meager and material benefits are limited. Of all people, we should be generous and sacrificial with our resources. We are among the wealthiest people in the world. It is a sad commentary that while many flourish in wealth, their local church is strained to meet a budget and consider increasing missions and ministry.

The Master's praise (12:41-44)

A perfect contrast to the rich young ruler is the widow who gave sacrificially in the temple as Jesus watched.

Jesus found a place to relax in an area of the temple where 13 offering jars were located. He observed the people bringing their offerings. What we bring and the spirit in which we

bring it is important to Jesus.

He observed as several wealthy people gave their large sums with much fanfare. They had developed a technique of spinning their coins around the trumpet shaped offering chests to call attention to their offering. This was called "sounding the trumpet."

In contrast, a poor, humble widow, unnoticed by others, quietly dropped in her two copper coins (leptas) valued at about one eighth of a denarius. It was the thinnest, smallest, and most insignificant coin in their monetary system.

He called His disciples to observe the contrast. He claimed that she gave more than all the rest. She was a destitute peasant. They gave out of their wealth. She gave out of her poverty. Jesus had divine perception about her condition.

Her gift was special because it was generous. It is not how much you give that is important, but how much you have left over after you give. She had a generous heart. She gave joyfully, not with reluctance or resentment. She stepped out in faith believing that God would have her give it all and that somehow He would supply her needs.

When we give to the Lord's work through our local church, the amount is not as important as the attitude of our heart. In 26 years of preaching, I have never had a church member who faithfully and cheerfully tithes and gives beyond the tithe to complain about a stewardship Sunday School lesson, a budget campaign, or a sermon on tithing and giving. If anything, these faithful followers feel that we should emphasize giving more often. They have learned the valuable lesson of serving by giving.



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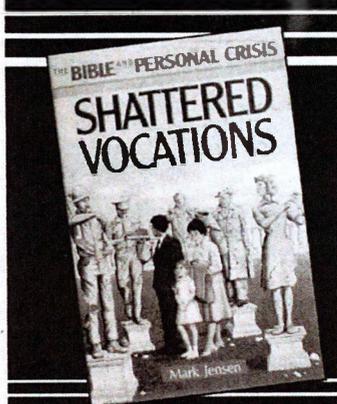
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Mark Jensen is director of Pastoral Counseling, Baptist Health Systems of East Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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BROADMAN

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Baptist state paper editors hold annual meeting**

LAKE LANIER, Ga. — Effective evangelism is the result of a balanced church life, Darrell Robinson told Southern Baptist state paper editors during their annual meeting. Robinson, vice president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, spoke to the editors about his philosophy of evangelism during the meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

He affirmed editors for their support of evangelism in the state papers. As a young man, Robinson said, he learned to preach by reading the Bible and the Baptist Standard, the Texas Baptist newsjournal. "You can do as much as any one group in America to influence our people to reach America for Christ," Robinson said. "I want to express appreciation to you as editors for your mission in getting the Gospel to every person."

Editors also heard a presentation by Gustav Niebuhr, religion writer for the Wall Street Journal. Niebuhr told the editors that religion "is an extraordinary story today" and is shaping the world. He encouraged them to search out truth, noting, "Truth is like a blind date; you have no idea what it will look like or how it will act."

Also on the editors' program were John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, and a panel of four Baptist state editors with the longest tenure. The panel, comprised of John Roberts, Baptist Courier (S.C.); Hudson Baggett, Alabama Baptist; Don McGregor, Baptist Record (Miss.); and Julian Pentecost, Religious Herald (Va.), discussed their observations of Baptist journalism over the past 20 years.

New officers of the press association are J. B. Fowler, president, editor of the Baptist New Mexican; Wm. Fletcher Allen, president-elect, editor of Tennessee's Baptist and Reflector; and Quinton Lockwood Jr., secretary-treasurer, editor of the New York Baptist.

**Groups ask court to reject 'clergy malpractice' claim**

WASHINGTON — A group of religious organizations has asked the Ohio Supreme Court to reject the legal theory of "clergy malpractice." Filing a friend-of-the-court brief with that state's high court, the organizations argued such a theory is "fraught with insurmountable practical and constitutional problems."

At issue is whether clergy malpractice suits may be filed against pastoral counselors.

Last fall, the Ohio Court of Appeals reversed a trial court decision that dismissed charges of professional negligence against Richard P. Faber, a

Seventh-day Adventist pastor. The appeals panel held legal action may be taken against a pastoral counselor if that counselor is negligent in treating a patient. The dispute arose when Leroy and Garnet Byrd, a Knox County, Ohio, couple, charged Faber with using information he gained during counseling sessions with them to induce Mrs. Byrd to have sex with him against her will. The Byrds also claimed the Seventh-day Adventist Church knew or should have known of Faber's inclination to commit such acts and thus was negligent in allowing him to assume the role of pastor.

Filing the brief were the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, American Jewish Committee, Christian Legal Society, National Association of Evangelicals, and National Council of Churches.

**NBC broadcasts ethics documentary**

FORT WORTH, Texas — A Southern Baptist-produced documentary exploring the decline in ethical values and the trend toward introducing ethical codes into business, politics, sports, and education is to kick off an NBC television series titled "Horizons of the Spirit" presented by the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission.

The one-hour documentary produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission aired on several NBC affiliate stations Feb. 25 and is scheduled for showing at later dates throughout the year by other NBC stations.

Dick Van Patten, who played the father in "Eight is Enough," narrates "Choices," which was written by Robert Thornton of the Radio and Television Commission staff. Featuring interviews with personalities from various walks of life who stress the importance of placing ethics and moral values over personal gain, "Choices" was filmed in New York, Washington, Dallas, Fort Worth, Atlanta, and Baltimore.

**WMU names Joyce Mitchell associate executive**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Joyce Mitchell has been named associate executive director at Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, effective March 1. She will direct the work of the missions services system in WMU's national office in Birmingham.

Mitchell will fill the position formerly held by Catherine Allen who left the WMU in October to become executive director of the Samford University Sesquicentennial Commission.

In her new position, Mitchell will oversee the staff services and publishing services sections. Staff services includes personnel, travel, facility maintenance, and catering functions. Publishing services includes circulation and subscription services, procurement, and distribution.

Mitchell has been director of the WMU interpretation section. She originally is from Michigan, where she worked as state WMU executive director from 1979 until 1984.

**BSSB's Keith Mee took a task and kept it**

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE — When Keith Mee retires from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board March 1, he may have set something of a record.

Mee, senior manager of the field services section in the board's church media library department, will leave 30 years from the day he began work in the same job.

A native of Grants Pass, Ore., Mee trained at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Kentucky at Lexington to become a high school teacher. In fact, he did teach a

variety of subjects for two different Kentucky school systems.

But in 1952, a desire to enter the ministry led him to Immanuel Church in Lexington, Ky., where he was minister of education for eight years. Part of that time, Wayne Todd, later to lead church library work at the board, was pastor.

Mee had a master's degree in education and had read many of the seminary textbooks of the day. A man in control of his future, he had worked out a way to go to seminary — until a Nashville church sent a committee to

interview him for a church staff job. And if that were not complication enough, Wayne Todd called him at about the same time to consider a job at the Sunday School Board.

"The board looked to me like an education as well as a job. I could learn as much about religious education as I could at the seminary, and I could make sure something was happening on the West Coast in library work," Mee said.

Thirty years later, Mee evaluates his job as "pretty much the same, except concepts have changed in library work."

While processes and technical knowledge are vital to operating a media library, the emphasis has shifted to witnessing and ministry through resources.

In the 1970s, Mee led in producing the first of the highly successful "Choice Creations" tracts that continue to be published by the board.

During his tenure, the department

initiated curriculum labs in the Southern Baptist seminaries and in 27 colleges and assumed responsibility for media centers at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers. He has seen the evolution of applied technology in media libraries, from filmstrip projectors of the 1960s to satellite dishes, VCRs, and computers for the 1990s.

Publishing projects over the years have made him an author, magazine contributor, and, on occasion, a ghost writer.

Mee isn't about to give up his task at retirement. As media library director at Nashville's Two Rivers Church, he will continue to affect lives. Other churches will benefit as he directs the central region of the Tennessee Baptist Library Organization.

While retirement may change his life, Mee's job will remain intact. "My concern will continue to be strengthening churches and developing members," he said.

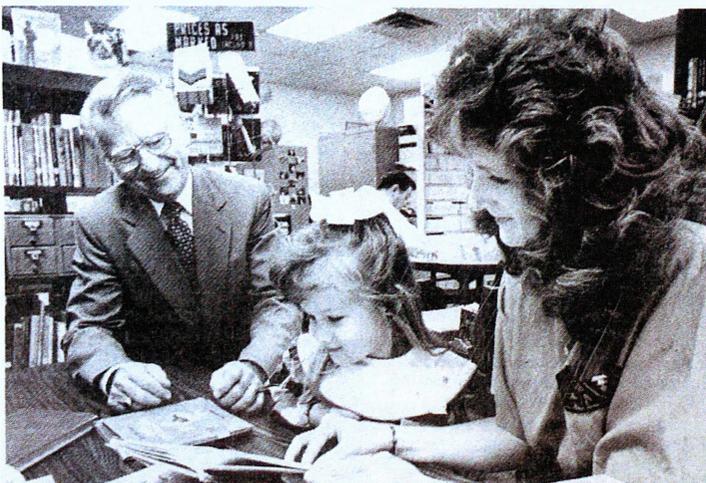
**Hymnal discounts, gifts announced**

NASHVILLE — Special prices and gift incentives are pre-publication offers announced for Southern Baptists who order and pay for copies of The Baptist Hymnal prior to its March 14, 1991, unveiling.

For those who order and pay for copies before the hymnal's debut, a five percent discount will be deducted from the graduated pricing by quantity of \$7.95 for up to 50 copies down to \$6.75 for more than 2000 copies. Purchase made before Dec. 29, 1990, will be reduced by ten percent.

For orders paid in full by Sept. 30, 1990, gifts will be given in addition to price discounts. For quantities of 50 to 499, a free copy of the Minister of Music Supplement Edition (\$34.95 value) will be included. Orders of 500 to 1499 will receive at no charge a copy of the minister of music edition and an organ edition which sells for \$49.95.

For orders of more than 1500 copies of the hymnal, a piano edition (\$49.95) will be given, along with the organ and minister of music editions.



**STILL MINISTERING** — Though retiring from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Keith Mee still makes resources accessible in the media library at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, as Jan Newell, right, and her daughter, Kristen, browse through children's books.

— Photo by Jim Veneman