

Baptist and Reflector

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Schools, student groups affected

U.S. Supreme Court upholds equal access act

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — Students in public secondary schools who wish to form religious clubs may have the same "equal access" to school facilities and privileges as students in other non-curriculum related activities, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled.

In an 8-1 decision, the high court upheld the constitutionality of the Equal Access Act, a 1984 law that prohibits public secondary schools that receive federal funds and maintain a "limited open forum" from denying equal access to students who wish to meet within the forum on the basis of the content of the speech at such meetings. The statute prohibits discrimination based on the "religious, political, philosophical, or other content" of the speech.

Under the law, a limited open forum exists when a public secondary school allows one or more "non-curriculum related" student groups to meet on school property during non-instructional time.

In writing for the court in *Westside Community Schools v. Mergens*, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the term "non-curriculum related" is best interpreted broadly to mean any student group that does not relate directly to the body of courses offered by the school.

"In our view, a student group directly relates to a school's curriculum if the subject matter of the group is actually taught, or will soon be taught, in a regularly offered course; if the subject matter of the group concerns the body of courses as a whole; if participation in the group is required for a particular course; or if participation in the group results in academic credit," O'Connor wrote. "We think this limited definition of groups that directly relate to the curriculum is a common-sense interpretation of the act that is consistent with Congress' intent to provide a low threshold for triggering the act's requirements."

Such a reading of the Equal Access Act allows schools and school districts

to retain a significant level of authority over the type of officially recognized activities in which their students participate, O'Connor said.

Schools and school districts, she explained, have the authority to determine appropriate subjects of instruction; prohibit meetings that would interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities; and assure that student attendance at meetings is voluntary. They also may escape equal access obligations by refusing federal financial assistance, she added.

"Congress clearly sought to prohibit schools from discriminating on the basis of the content of a student group's speech," O'Connor wrote, "and that obligation is the price a federally funded school must pay if it opens its facilities to non-curriculum related student groups."

A school or school district may not define as "curriculum related" anything remotely related to abstract educational goals, O'Connor wrote. "To define curriculum related in a way

that results in almost no schools having limited open fora," she said, "or in a way that permits schools to evade the act by strategically describing existing student groups, would render the act merely hortatory."

The court's definition of non-curriculum related activities "looks to a school's actual practice rather than its stated policy," she said.

O'Connor wrote for herself and three other members of the court — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Harry A. Blackmun and Byron R. White — on whether the Equal Access Act violates the First Amendment's establishment clause.

The high court's logic in *Widmar v. Vincent* — which applied the three-part test from *Lemon v. Kurtzman* to hold that an equal access policy at the state university level does not violate the establishment clause — applies with equal force to the Equal Access Act, O'Connor wrote.

"There is a crucial difference between government speech endorsing religion, which the establishment clause forbids, and private speech endorsing religion, which the free speech and free exercise clauses protect," O'Connor said. "We think that secondary school students are mature enough and are likely to understand that a school does not endorse or support student speech that it merely permits on a non-discriminatory basis."

In addition, the statute limits school officials' participation at meetings of student religious groups and requires that such meetings be held during non-instructional time, she said. Although the possibility of student peer pressure remains, she said, there is "little if any risk of official state endorsement

(See page 3)

Baptists bear witness in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — (BP) The City That Care Forgot was not forgotten by Southern Baptists Saturday.

Although this city is renowned for its nightlife and revelry — as the nickname indicates — Southern Baptists who arrived early for their annual convention here spent the day witnessing.

About 1000 Baptists braved 90 degree heat drenched in 63 percent humidity to conduct door-to-door surveys throughout New Orleans. As many as 35,000 Baptists from across the nation are expected for the June 12-14 convention in the Louisiana Superdome.

About half of those participating in the one-day witnessing effort came in early from 29 states. The other half were members of local churches who teamed up with the out-of-town volunteers.

The evangelistic thrust also extended outside New Orleans into southern Louisiana and parts of Mississippi. A total of 113 churches hosted canvassers.

A visiting pastor-teacher was enlisted to conduct two hours of evangelistic training in each of the churches Satur-

day morning. The teams then went out for five hours of visitation.

Jim Cooley of Chattanooga was assigned to Crescent City Church in Metairie, a New Orleans suburb.

"We found a warmth in the Catholic community this morning," said Cooley, although few in that area responded to the Baptist witness.

Cooley, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, came in response to a plea by SBC President Jerry Vines at the February Executive Committee meeting.

"My business demands that I'm there on Friday and Saturday. . . . But the Lord's work is first. He'll take care of your business."

"I felt like it would be a great opportunity and it has been," said Cooley.

The volunteers used a uniform religious opinion survey, which asked residents questions about religious preference, why American families are under stress and if it is possible to know for certain that a person has eternal life.

Tennessee volunteers included Morris Anderson, Maryville; C. Don Arwood Sr., Lake City; Bob Bell, Cleveland; David Cooper, Bolivar; Ira Cunningham, Gray; Rollin Delap, Nashville; Mark Drake, Maryville; Jimmy Furr, Mt. Juliet; William Hancock, Wartburg; Mark Hearn, Seymour; Ronald Lemmons, Wartrace; J. C. Lewis, Gallatin.

Others were D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director; Ross Maroney Sr., Smyrna; Rick Nelson, Knoxville; Ron Owens, Elizabethton; Ron Sorah, Calhoun; Kent Spann, Ooltewah; Patrick Still, Nashville; Paul Tirey, Waverly; Reuben Trussell, Memphis; Keith Walker, Hixson; Ray Warren, Chattanooga; and Sammy Wilson, Alcoa.



SIGNIFICANT DAY — Representatives of Rogers Creek Church, Athens, burned a mortgage for the church building June 3 after the congregation paid the debt two years early. From left, Paul Wade, trustee; Hoyt Bohannon, treasurer; Claude Irons, former pastor; Mack Huey and Charles Land, building committee; and Dillard Hagan, interim pastor. The 149-year-old church began a five-year program in 1983, built, and finished paying the loan in April. Several area churches helped Rogers Creek.

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Newspaper staff covering convention

As usual, the Baptist and Reflector staff plans complete and thorough coverage of the Southern Baptist Convention sessions in New Orleans this week.

The convention is in session Tuesday through Thursday, with a score of adjunct groups meeting also.

Three Baptist and Reflector editors will report on the convention with photographs, news articles, and features of Tennessee Baptists.

Coverage extends also to the WMU Conference, Pastors' Conference, SBC Forum, and several other meetings held before the convention began on Tuesday. Reports are being written on SBC Executive Committee meetings (Monday and Wednesday).

Next week's Baptist and Reflector is a special Southern Baptist Convention issue. — Editor

Editorials

The SBC meets for business — what's next?

Tuesday's elections and the SBC Executive Committee report will have been accomplished when this issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* is received and read.

This editorial is written in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in New Orleans. Messengers from Tennessee are among the thousands of participants.

And unlike most elections for governmental posts, the double-talk has softened somewhat. There may be small group meetings for planning and strategy, but the great majority of messengers know who will get their vote, and they know how they feel about the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

What are some consequences of the SBC sessions? Unless there is major healing this week, significant changes will not be forthcoming. But, here are some things that can happen:

(1) There will be a falling away — not falling away from God, from His Holy Word, not from faith in Christ. But there can be a falling away from participation in Southern Baptist events, plans, conferences, programming, giv-

ing. The longer the SBC continues without genuine forgiveness and healing, the more we are likely not to continue at all as a dynamic force for Christ.

(2) The impressions left with New Orleans people may give the wrong message — unless we treat others more Christian than we treat our Baptist brothers and sisters. Putting on a happy face in restaurants, hotels, taxis, on the streets is deceptive unless we return to being a viable family.

(3) Lack of concern for worldwide opinion of the SBC may continue to shackle our missions and ministry efforts. Assessment worldwide by cynics who delight in conflict among God's people could be negative. Fellow Christians in many places look to Southern Baptists as evangelical leaders, and that view may become obscure.

(4) When the week's sessions are over, will the battle lines be strengthened — or will there be some loosening of the ties that hold us from each other?

(5) When a large group of messengers meets, there are many, many ways Satan can cause us to stumble. This is no place for emp-

ty gestures and sugary but meaningless words. Messengers must watch for temptations that further divide us.

(6) The presidential election winner and other leaders will hold in their hands a golden opportunity to help us rediscover our love for each other and a determination to cooperate as equal, voting, participating, decision-making brothers and sisters.

This has not happened in recent years — but the opportunity is there.

(7) Southern Baptists must mean it when (and if) they say they trust God's will.



There is also opportunity for renewal — and the time is ripe for those whose hope has been rekindled and faith restored by hearing the marvelous reports of missions, ministry, and evangelism done by Southern Baptists. Let us then seize the day. — WFA

Double-barreled economic woes hit — but there's a solution

The *Baptist and Reflector*, as the official newsjournal for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is not a profit-making newspaper.

Though subscription costs and advertising bring in a major share of operating expenses, the paper still depends on the convention for supporting Cooperative Program funds.

Without those CP funds, and without substantial income from subscriptions and advertising, Tennessee Baptists would have no newspaper.

We find it necessary to address two dominant factors concerning financial support for the paper.

One is caused by United States Postal Service postage rate increases, and the other is

related to the economic condition of Tennessee Baptist churches.

The *Baptist and Reflector* last increased subscription rates in January 1986 — with a hike of \$1.00. This increase was caused by dramatic rate revisions by the USPS. Well, folks, it's happening again. USPS is holding regional hearings now, and almost certainly will substantially hike second class postage rates in January. The percentage is not yet determined, but probably will be at least thirty (30) percent.

The other factor can be explained by looking at TBC budgeting for 1990-91. There will be no additional funds for any agency or department as the new budget will be the same as the current one.

This means that additional CP money will not be given to the *Baptist and Reflector* to help pay for the thirty percent postage increase.

We are making a thorough study to determine our budget situation, and will share the plans with readers soon. However, we know there will be an increase in subscription rates, possibly as much as a dollar per subscription. Stay with us — we always have the readers' best interest at heart.

Alternatives to rate increases include publishing less papers and having fewer pages per week. We believe Tennessee Baptists deserve and want the best — a paper of excellence and quality, delivered to the home every week. — WFA

Two German groups Dockery named editor of new commentary

MUENSTER, Fed. Rep. of Germany — The Union of Evangelical Free Churches in the Federal Republic of Germany voted during its annual meeting in Muenster to join with Baptist brothers and sisters in the German Democratic Republic.

During their council meeting in May, East Germany Baptists voted to join West German Baptists.

In 1991, a joint meeting of both councils is planned, followed by a joint conference. A unification commission will be named that will prepare for the planned 1992 merger.

The departments of both unions will work on the details of unification, keeping in mind the unique experiences of both groups.

NASHVILLE (BP) — David S. Dockery, assistant professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has been named general editor of *The New American Commentary*, replacing Michael A. Smith, who resigned to return to the pastorate.

Smith, an editor of Broadman books at the Baptist Sunday School Board for five years, will become pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Hermitage, Tenn., effective July 1.

"My decision to return to the full-time pastorate is not a casual one," Smith said. "It is the result of long thought and prayer. I have come to see and admit that I am a pastor at heart, that the local church is the arena in which I do ministry best and that New

Hope Baptist Church is the particular place in which God wants me to exercise my calling."

The first two volumes of *The New American Commentary* are scheduled to be released in June 1991. Writers have been enlisted and are working on manuscripts which will be released between 1991 and 1995.

Dockery, 37, recently accepted a

position at the board as editor of academic books to be effective at the end of the school year. He was approved to assume leadership of the commentary project by Elder and Johnnie Godwin, vice president for general publishing at the board, to ensure a smooth transition in the plans and production of *The New American Commentary*.

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Friends group has anniversary

The International Friends organization recently held its 15th anniversary at Woodmont Church, Nashville.

The group, sponsored by several churches, has ministered to people from 81 nations through the years. Enrolled currently are 192 members from 25 countries.

Purpose of the organization is to minister to international wives and children living in the Nashville area.

Sponsoring churches include Belmont Heights, Bellevue, Brook Hollow, Hillsboro, Immanuel, Judson, and Woodmont of Nashville; Brentwood; Walker Memorial of Franklin; and Creeewood United Methodist.

Charter members include Lib Williams, Katherine Bean, Rani Malkani, Mary Ellen Stevens, Young Hee Cho, Mabel Beeker, and Gerry Cummings.

U.S. Supreme Court upholds equal access act . . .

(Continued from page 1)
or coercion where no formal classroom activities are involved and no school officials actively participate."

A school that permits a student-initiated and student-led religious club to meet after school — just as it allows any other student group to do — does not convey a message of state approval or endorsement of the particular religion, O'Connor said.

Nor does the school run the risk of excessive entanglement between government and religion, she said. In fact, she added, a "denial of equal access to religious speech might well create greater entanglement problems in the form of invasive monitoring to prevent religious speech at meetings at which such speech might occur."

In a concurring opinion, Justice Thurgood Marshall — joined by Justice William J. Brennan Jr. — warned that the statute's low threshold for triggering equal access raises "serious establishment clause concerns where secondary schools with fora that differ substantially from the forum in Widmar are required to grant access to

student religious groups."

Unless such secondary schools take steps to disassociate themselves from religious clubs' speech, Marshall wrote, they could appear to endorse that speech.

"The crucial question is how the act affects each school," Marshall said.

"If a school already houses numerous ideological organizations, then the addition of a religion club will most likely not violate the establishment clause because the risk that students will erroneously attribute the views of the religion club to the school is minimal.

"But if the religion club is the sole advocacy-oriented group in the forum, or one of a very limited number, and the school continues to promote its student-club program as instrumental to citizenship, then the school's failure to disassociate itself from the religious activity will reasonably be understood as an endorsement of that activity."

But Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, writing for himself and Justice Antonin Scalia, argued against the application of an "endorsement" test. Rather, Kennedy said, the court simply should

determine whether the statute gives direct benefits to religion to such a degree that it establishes a state religion or religious faith or allows government to coerce any student to participate in a religious activity.

The lone dissenting vote in the case was cast by Justice John Paul Stevens.

Under the Equal Access Law, he contended, an extracurricular student organization should be considered non-curriculum related if it has as its purpose the "advocacy of partisan

theological, political, or ethical views."

"A school that admits at least one such club has apparently made the judgment that students are better off if the student community is permitted to, and perhaps even encouraged to, compete along ideological lines," Stevens wrote. "This pedagogical strategy may be defensible or even desirable.

"But it is wrong to presume that Congress endorsed that strategy — and dictated its nationwide adoption — simply because it approved the application of Widmar to high schools."

In Indiana

Baptist men respond to tornadoes

PETERSBURG, Ind. (BP) — A series of deadly tornadoes in the Midwest has prompted the response of Kentucky and Ohio Baptist Men's disaster relief teams to assist two small Indiana Southern Baptist churches.

Southside Church in Bedford and Immanuel Church in Petersburg, each representing the only Southern Baptist church in its county, suffered little damage to their buildings. But each church must now minister in the midst of extensive tragedy.

Six Petersburg residents and three Bedford residents were killed. Another fatality was reported in Roachdale, Ind. Several people are reported missing.

"Petersburg is unbelievable," said Jim Furgerson, Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission national disaster relief director. "It looks like an arc light hit. That is when a B-52 drops a thousand, 1000-pound bombs. Half of the town is gone."

In Petersburg, estimated population of 3500, the tornado jumped over the home of Tom and Leigh Rush. He is the pastor of Immanuel Church which averages 35-40 people in Sunday School. No church members were killed, but up to five families lost their homes, said Rush.

David Swaney accepts Park Road pastorate

David Swaney, a native of Knoxville, recently joined the staff of Park Road Church, Jamestown, as pastor.

This is his first full-time pastorate. Swaney is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. He and his wife, Carolyn, have one child.

Rush was at the church Saturday night preparing the Sunday bulletins when the tornado passed over before ripping through surrounding neighborhoods. Sunday services were cancelled to help church members begin cleanup.

The Ohio Baptist Brotherhood's disaster relief feeding unit is stationed with ten men in Petersburg at the Red Cross command center. The crew is sleeping in vans and in Immanuel Church.

All emergency feeding was turned over to Southern Baptists. On Monday, 1200 meals were served to victims and disaster relief workers.

TBC churches show increase in CP giving

This is one of those "good news and bad news" stories.

Cooperative Program giving through Tennessee Baptist churches in May gained \$154,556.06 over May 1989 — but the overall total for budget based on seven months is more than \$600,000 under the goal.

Total CP gifts for May amounted to \$2,288,587.25, according to D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer.

CP giving for the year thus far amounted to \$15,000,060.37, which is a gain of \$692,521.21 (4.84 percent) over 1989.

The budget goal for November through May is \$15,632,085; thus CP gifts are under goal by \$632,024.63, or 4.04 percent.

Dunn satisfied with ruling

"The Supreme Court's decision that the Equal Access Act is constitutional validates the Baptist Joint Committee's approach to balance the 'no establishment' and 'free exercise' clauses of the First Amendment," said James Dunn, BJC executive director.

"We helped draft, pass, and defend the legislation," he said. In a statement for BJC and three other organizations, Dunn said "millions of American students are the real winners in this case. They can now claim the right of equal access for their religious, political, and philosophical speech."

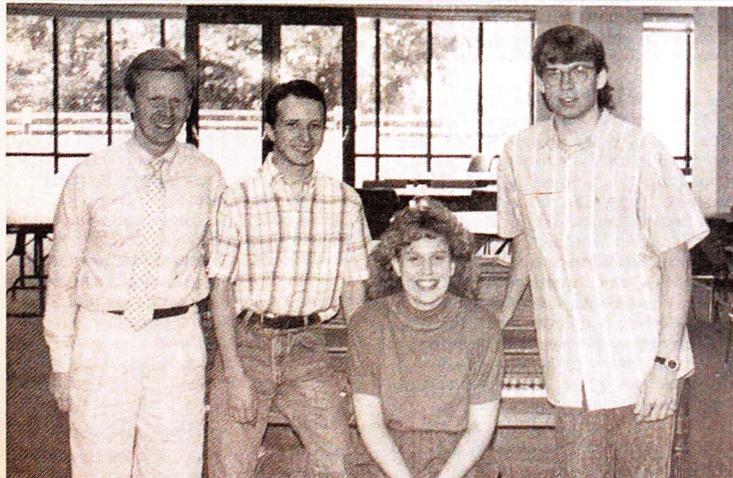
Dunn said confusion has existed for years on the issue of religion in the public schools. "An almost paranoid fear of faith has been created by overreactions to and misinterpretations of the Supreme Court's prayer decisions," the statement said.

"Some school districts have gone so far as to single out student religious groups for discriminatory treatment by telling them that they alone cannot hold on-campus meetings before and after school.

"The Mergens decision makes clear that such a policy of unequal access to public school facilities violates federal law. This decision restores a proper balance between the separation of church and state and the constitutional guarantees of free speech and free exercise of religion.

"For those like ourselves who believe the government should neither advance nor inhibit religion in the public schools, equal access is our best hope for resolving the 'school prayer debate.'"

"We recommit ourselves to facilitating its proper implementation."



SUMMER MUSICIANS — Ron Alley, left, program associate for the TBC Music Department, recently held orientation for summer music missionaries who will serve in churches throughout the state assisting in Vacation Bible Schools and various music projects. From left, Alley, Lewis Walling, Springfield Church, Springfield, UT; Martin; Faith Cooper, Woodmont Church, Nashville, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C.; and John Orr, Judson Church, Nashville, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo. Grace Cosmiano, a recent graduate of Union University, also will serve as a summer music missionary. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey



KNOX PASTORS MEET — Knox County Association's Pastors' Conference met June 4 at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville. From left, Hershel Chevallier, Cumberland Church, program chairman; James McCluskey, host pastor; Gary Swaggerty, Clear Springs, president; and Roy Medley, Hollywood Heights minister of music, song leader. Wm. Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector editor, was guest speaker.

Our Readers Write

Live by Bible

It's time we all read our Bibles for guidance and comfort instead of reading them to find something to argue about.

What if we were like some other countries that don't have any Bibles, or they aren't permitted. True, the Bible has come through many translations and revisions, but the basic ideas are the same.

What a better place this would be if the South, once known as the Bible Belt would set an example to the rest of the world by living the Bible instead of using it as a bone of contention.

May God bless Southern Baptists. We need it.

Cleo Loveday
Rt. 1, Box 300
Sevierville 37862

Questions support

I am thankful for the many things that the Baptist Joint Committee has stood for in the past. I am, however, much more thankful and excited about an opportunity to have a voice that is more representative of my personal views.

In my opinion, the works that have been done by the BJC to help Southern Baptists will continue with the Christian Life Commission and in addition we will have a clearer voice on many moral issues that must be addressed. That is my opinion and I am very thankful for the privilege to vote my convictions. I will accept the vote of the convention as part of a wonderful process among Southern Baptists.

One thing that I never will accept, however, is the negative campaign of misinformation and insinuation that I have been bombarded with in recent days. I enclose for your verification a recent publication from friends of the Baptist Joint Committee that basically states that if I do not support BJC I will, in effect, destroy the Cooperative Program, invite the government into our church business, eliminate large portions of my retirement, lose millions of mission dollars, and force my children to pray non-Christian prayers in school.

I deeply resent this negative campaigning and long for the day that I can at least respect those with whom I disagree. If we had not been open to change and improvements we would not have the Cooperative Program.

Charles D. Bailey
Rt. 1, Box 83
Louisville 37777

On evolution

In a recent letter, Mr. Pennington asked the following question, "Why are so many Baptists offended by the concept of 'theistic evolution'?" He then compares the Genesis account of creation to Jewish mythology.

Well, I believe so many Baptists are offended by "theistic evolution" because it is a compromise with an atheistic philosophy. One must abandon the literal account of Genesis to accommodate any kind of evolution. While there are many reasons why evolution cannot be harmonized with the Biblical record of creation, let me share the two most important to me.

(1) The Lord Jesus Christ taught that the Genesis record of creation was intended to be taken historically and literally (see Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9). Note especially His statement, "at the beginning of creation God made them male and female" not at the end of a four billion year process - making His command for man to have dominion over creation (Genesis 1:26) totally irrelevant.

(2) Evolution teaches that the fossil record indicates death and struggle before man finally evolved - so, then,

man's sin (the Curse) was not the cause of death and disorder in the world. Such a conclusion results in theological chaos, since the Scriptures clearly teach that "by man came death" (1 Corinthians 15:21) and "God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

I hope we all could recognize that the Creator of this world is also the Author of His Word, and "He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).

Bob Matthews
Berclair Church
4584 Summer Ave.
Memphis 38122

Doctrinal crisis

How can moderates say there is no doctrinal crisis in the SBC when in one May 30 issue of the Baptist and Reflector we have letters from: (1) a recent alumnus of Southern Seminary who doesn't feel abortion is the greatest issue facing Christians today, (2) a Southern Baptist pastor who feels that "boldly and fearlessly preaching the Word" may not always be best because it could "alienate people," (3) a retired chaplain who states that the first four chapters of Genesis are Babylonian and Egyptian mythology, (4) another writer who doesn't understand why many Baptists are offended by the concept of theistic evolution.

And we're to believe that the ineffectiveness of Southern Baptist in the world today is the result of power and politics?

Prentiss McReynolds
308 Governor's Lane
Knoxville 37922

Strong words

Matthew 12:22-37 has some strong words of admonition to us in our current SBC controversy. The passage deals with the legalistic Pharisee upon seeing an obvious work of God, the healing of a blind man, and saying that Jesus' origin of this power was because He was the son of Beelzebub. Because of their hardness of heart Jesus said they were committing blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Today we have modern day pharisees pointing their fingers at fellow Christians (i.e. seminary and college faculty and administrators, denominational leaders, pastors, etc.) and saying "they don't really believe the Bible." They are strongly implying that these people are not trusting and following God. If they are not following God's leadership then who are they following? Of course the implication is that they are following the leadership of Satan.

To accuse fellow Christians who have dedicated their lives to the study and application of Scriptures and imply they are the "sons of Beelzebub" is the same as cursing the Holy Spirit. It is the unforgivable sin because it shows their hardness of heart that will usually not lead to any repentance. They are "set in their ways" and even the obvious witness of God's chosen leaders will not be acknowledged by them.

These are hard words expressed by Jesus. It is a warning to our legalistic brothers and sisters who are seeking to tear fellow Christians down in order to gain and maintain their status (i.e. power) in the religious society. The Pharisees thought they were protecting the purity of the Scriptures and of their faith but they were committing blasphemy against God. God's Word is proclaimed; let them with ears to hear be warned!

Jim Wilson
Route 1, Box 130
Jefferson City 37760

Keep chaplains

The chaplain's position at Spencer Youth Center has been abolished. This is a grave error. The separation of church and state is a delicate matter indeed and someone trained to keep a proper balance of religious issues is needed to insure that student needs are met.

Death or serious illness in a student's family are events that usually started his road to crime and led to his drug and alcohol abuse. When these events occur while the student is incarcerated they are disastrous to him personally and the state financially when he/she acts out this trauma.

Research I have done at Brushy Mountain shows 71 percent of the inmates made professions of faith as children. Trauma such as divorce of parents or death of a significant loved one at the age of puberty was common to 90 percent of them. Values and the good ideas about God were shattered. No one ministered to that hurt then. The chaplain must do it now.

I have observed that criminal behavior is the way these men think life is supposed to work. This belief is strong enough for them to accept, live by, study, practice, and defend. I told one inmate once that it sounded like a religion. He agreed. The only thing I have seen effective for treating criminal behavior is a stronger religion. The most powerful religion of course is love. God is love. God loves Baptists, Baptists love God.

I wrote Governor McWherter and expressed my concern over abolishing the church within the state. I urge Baptists to write the governor demanding the chaplain's positions be reinstated in all correctional facilities.

Joe Crichton, chaplain
Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary
8035 Wilnoty Dr.
Knoxville 37845

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 six weeks 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.

Served 57 years

As organist at First Church, Greenbrier, for 57 years, Bonnie Belle Fisher received many calls to play for weddings, funerals, and on various other occasions. If she ever refused a request, it was because of sickness or because it would conflict with her commitment to her own church responsibilities. She regarded every request as an opportunity to serve her Lord.

On May 11, Bonnie was walking to her church to play for her 350th wedding rehearsal. Her nephew, Clyde Bedwell drove by and noticed that she was standing still. He stopped to investigate. "I guess I have overdone it today," she told him. He helped her to his truck and took her home. In less than 15 minutes she was with the Lord. Answered prayer. God's promise fulfilled. Rest from labor. Peace with God. Celebration!

Her church celebrated in a beautiful and worshipful way on that Sunday afternoon - the day she looked forward to, the day she prepared for each week.

She had earlier asked that "The

Hallelujah Chorus" be played at her funeral as her friends left the sanctuary. I feel sure that Bonnie has already played on Heaven's strings and that her Master has said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Anne A. Hackney
201 Draper Ave.
Greenbrier 37073

Calls for 'return'

I am writing in response to the recent attack on Southern Baptist Theological Seminary by trustee Jerry Johnson, which reflects deep divisions existing within the Southern Baptist Convention, but the continuing push by those Southern Baptists who cry "Peace, peace" when they apparently have no desire for peace.

Southeastern Seminary is an example of what shortsightedness can do to a seminary. The recent actions at SBTS indicate that there will be no room for diversity within the SBC.

Statistics on baptisms, church starts, money given through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings indicate that his movement has been successful. He has cut the jugular and for the last 12 years, the SBC has experienced gradual weakening and decline.

I live in a city with 1.2 million people. National statistics that in this city there are about 12,000 Christians. I grieve that for over a decade, certain people within what used to be a great missionary convention in America have been more concerned with enforcing rigid dogmatism than they have been for the million people in this city alone to hear the good news of the Gospel.

Did I always agree with my professors at Southern? Of course not; and they did not expect me to. They never demanded conformity to any one position; instead, they attempted to teach us to think for ourselves and not accept the position of any person or group without first making it our own. They challenged us to mature in our faith.

Before the SBC either fragments or dies, let's return to the business that called us into existence as a convention. Let's get on with the work of sharing the love of God shown in Jesus Christ to a world that is hurting, hungry, and dying in sin.

Gary Barkley
1-14-27 Momochi
Sawara-ku, Fukuoka 814
Japan

• Gary and Carolyn Barkley are from Old Hickory and have been missionaries to Japan since 1984. He joined the faculty of Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka in 1986. Editor

News good

Good News: Here's Hope revivals revives hope in diverse ways and places.

Good News: Southeastern Seminary trustees have adopted procedures that should insure incoming professors compliance with traditional Baptist beliefs. Great News: Conservatives now have a voice in directing affairs at Southern Seminary. Perhaps professor problems with these questioning professors could have been resolved had they been required to take some doctrinal instruction at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. Truly an institution with a heart for God.

In time we may see a more conservative Baptist press and more conservative Baptist state papers and editors. Good news, yes. And we pray the best is yet to come.

We'll welcome further good news.

W. T. Barner
3655 Rhodes #4
Memphis 38111

Tennesseans help

St. Croix volunteers restore family's dignity

FREDERIKSTED, St. Croix (BP) — Annette Gereau will never forget the storm at night — or the volunteers in the morning.

The 34-year-old St. Croix resident lives with her sister, Edith, who has six children. When Hurricane Hugo started, they huddled in a closet.

"The children thought someone was outside taking the roof off," recalled Gereau. "They didn't know the wind

had done it."

The hurricane pulled everything out of one room. Another bedroom saw everything go but the bed frame. Water stood knee deep in the house.

"I didn't know which way to turn," said Gereau, a schoolteacher. She couldn't afford repairs and they had no insurance.

St. Croix is in the U.S. Virgin Islands about 75 miles southeast of Puerto

Rico. As a U.S. territory, victims received grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But some contractors raised their prices and cheated residents. Gereau paid her grant money in advance. The contractor said he needed it for supplies.

She never saw them again. And they left only part of the materials. Several months passed with the family living under a plastic covering. During rain storms, the children, ages seven and younger, would sleep in two old cars.

"There was not a single room in the house that was dry," said Ben Purcell, a Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission volunteer from Clarkesville, Ga.

Brotherhood teams came from all over the United States to help. About 45 volunteers each week stay at Grace Central Church. The volunteers provide free labor for the people who can't pay for a new roof.

Recently a group of 57 volunteers were completing their work week when Gereau asked for help. M. B. Howard, on-site coordinator from Tennessee, agreed to assist but found more problems than expected. Rafters needed replacing. Wiring was fouled. Trash remained from the storm and the supplies weren't enough to finish the job.

The volunteers contributed about \$300 for the remaining supplies and arrived at 8:15 on Saturday morning. Four hours later the roof was on, the house was clean and even the family

grave out front was filled where it had sunk during the storm.

"It's like the good Lord put his hand down and said, 'OK fellows. We're going to do this quick,'" recalled Steve Thomas of Springfield, Tenn. "And that's how it happened."

"This project was one of the most emotional things we have done," said Howard of Covington, Tenn. "When we first looked at the project on Thursday night, Gary Kahler of Midland, Texas, had to get off by himself and cry that night."

"That four hours of work on Saturday morning was worth the whole trip," said Kahler.

A number of women volunteers cleaned the house, even polishing aluminum thresholds. They removed all the trash and debris, making a pile that would fill three pickup truck loads, said Howard.

"We gave that family dignity," he continued. "They had totally given up on that house."

But volunteers have not given up on St. Croix.

"Everyone paid their own way," added Harold Bailey, 66, from Dallas. Volunteers even left \$1000 to help other residents who lacked enough roofing materials.

The Brotherhood Commission's St. Croix project continues through July 31. Those interested in participating should contact their state Brotherhood director. In Tennessee, call Cameron Byler at (615) 371-2025.

WMU to coordinate missionary housing

RICHMOND (BP) — Housing arrangements for Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in the United States will be transferred from the Foreign Mission Board to the Woman's Missionary Union Sept. 1.

The change resulted from an arrangement between the board and the WMU that this function was one the WMU is ideally positioned to handle.

"Women of the WMUs have long been involved in the provision of housing, and often they are the ones who

are responsible for the equipping of the houses and receiving the missionaries upon arrival," explained Kistie Patch, the board's missionary housing coordinator.

The board has maintained a list of missionary housing sponsors from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, Patch said. "We serve as a resource to the missionaries and to those who wish to provide housing for missionaries. We work to get these two groups of people together," she said. In addition to furlough periods, housing is made available to missionaries during medical emergencies, when they have problems obtaining resident visas overseas or at other times.

Patch makes the lists available to missionaries, who contact sponsors directly to secure the housing.

Effective Sept. 1, Barbara Yeager at WMU will be the new housing coordinator. She can be contacted at WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010. Her phone number is 205-991-4021.

This responsibility will blend well with WMU's function of missions education, said Yeager. "We thought it would be a perfect avenue to further our own ministry here at WMU," she said.

The Foreign Mission Board has coordinated U.S. housing for missionaries since the early 1970s. Earlier, Southern Baptist sponsors and missionaries handled arrangements themselves.

Southern Baptist sponsors offering housing include individuals, local churches, church associations and state Baptist conventions. About 350 sponsors are registered with the board. Other Southern Baptists also make housing available on their own to missionaries.

Carson-Newman, Union host Centrifuge camps

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has joined Union University, Jackson, as a host of Centrifuge, the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored youth camp.

Carson-Newman expects about 4500 youth to visit the campus during the nine weeks of the camp which began June 2, reported Sherry Meredith, director of residence life. Carson-Newman has about 2000 students.

In preparation, a women's residence hall has been air conditioned and eight students have been hired to assist Centrifuge workers from the Church Recreation Department of the BSSB.

The camp provides worship, Bible study, recreation, and conferences on issues facing youth.

Centrifuge also is held at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.; Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M.; Panama City, Fla.; and Gulf Shores, Ala.

Meredith explained that the college has hosted other groups during the summer but is glad to provide its facilities to Southern Baptists.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

It is often a risk to give verbal opinions regarding Christian attitudes or morality. Doing so, one ventures into the world of dragons and cows.

The voice of God cries out through the ages to His children, "Be not afraid, for I am with you!" Sometimes we are afraid of God, and often we are afraid FOR God — as if He and His work would weakly fade into oblivion.

We are timid and we have no desire to really change the world or snap the lock securely on the gates of hell.

Isaiah 35, verses 5-8, tells us of a way worth seeking, the way of holiness. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall the waters break out, and streams in the desert.

"And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness . . ."

Many a pastor feels the strength of the church ebbing away because some people only live for social status, comfort, money, and power. The way of holiness is foreign to them. Christian renewal, in that way of holiness, takes a beating.

Cows in India feed while people starve. The beef could save thousands of people. But the cows are regarded as sacred and cannot be eaten.

Does that appall us? Quite so. And

yet there is a scranne arpeggio in American life, a cacophony played relentlessly upon the strings of our minds.

We have our own sacred cows. Distorted values they are. Money is sacred. "Getting and spending, we lay waste our power," said the poet. We have fat wallets and lean spirits. Material worth is the supreme measuring device.

The sanctum sanctorum of full stadiums and the emptiness of churches tell the story. Fans will broil in 90-degree heat to see a ball game, but refuse even to sit in an air-conditioned church house. We huddle in blankets in freezing weather watching football — but a slight cold keeps us from worshipping with the fellowship.

Add to our list of sacred cows endless gossip and unsaid prayers, X-rated movies and thirty at prayer meeting, sex appeal breath and sour attitudes, tanned bodies and bleached souls, television eyestrain and unread Bibles.

The church may be in peril because of the spirit of the age. Holiness is devotion to Christ, seeking perfectness, heart purity, seeking the kingdom, walking The Way.

The church cannot tolerate lurking dragons and sacred cows. They must be thrown aside



ALLEN

For Philippines

Germantown team leaves; other mission volunteers needed

A four-member team from Germantown Church, Germantown, left June 7 for a 12-day mission trip to the Philippines.

Team members include Germantown Pastor Ken Story, his wife, Liz, and Terry and Mary Ruth McNatt. They have been assigned to the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio City.

The team will lead the program for the yearly mission meeting where missionaries and their children gather for a time of fellowship and inspiration.

Worship services and the music will revolve around the theme of "God gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

In addition, another mission trip to the Philippines is scheduled for Aug. 2-14 and volunteers are needed.

Clarence Stewart, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions Department, and Murray Mathis, TBC president, will lead the group.

Volunteers will serve in churches and missions in the Mindanao area in the southern part of the country. They will lead evangelistic services in churches and missions and share their faith.

Persons interested in serving as volunteers should write Stewart at P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024, or call (615) 371-2063.

TBC business office solves 'problems'

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Who do you call when you have a problem? Well, if you work in a Tennessee Baptist Convention department, you'll probably pick up the phone and dial someone in the business office.

Whether it's "the copy machine is broken" or "I'm having a problem with my phone" the personnel in the business office are ready to respond.

Jim McDonald, director of the TBC's department of business and camps, acknowledged his staff have to be "problem solvers."

Our job is to work "behind the scenes" to help the departments have what they need to do their work, said McDonald, who has headed the business office since 1972.

But the business office does much more than simply handle problems or emergencies. Office staff perform the routine, but necessary, tasks needed to keep the Baptist Center in full operation.

According to McDonald, the office is responsible for making purchases for every TBC department, its agency (Baptist and Reflector), its auxiliary (Woman's Missionary Union), camps at Linden and Newport, Baptist Student Union centers, and various mission and historical properties.

To specifically help departments at the Baptist Center in Brentwood, the business office maintains a "supply store."

A typical order to a local business supply house might include 15 cases of copy machine paper, five dozen pens, and six dozen file folders.

The TBC business office also keeps up with maintenance and upkeep of the Baptist Center and all TBC properties in conjunction with Roger Johnson, properties maintenance director, McDonald said.

Other functions of the office include purchasing capital equipment and furniture over \$200, securing insurance for all TBC properties, maintaining an inventory of all equipment and furnishings, keeping a schedule for use of the conference center, and helping departments set up for meetings not only at the Baptist Center, but camps as well.

McDonald noted that "everything we do is in a support nature" for the departments.

Working under McDonald's supervision is a capable staff who have earned the distinction as "problem solvers."

Staff members at the Baptist Center include Mitchell Karnes, administrative assistant; Bill Howse, purchasing clerk; Ruth Preuett, secretary; Katy Reeves, receptionist; Andy Gunn and David Gerald, maintenance; and Nettie Goodloe, housekeeper.

Another important aspect of McDonald's work is his supervision of the two TBC camps — Camp Linden in Linden and Camp Carson in Newport. And while the camps are "business" in such that they bring revenue to the TBC, McDonald looks at them as ministries.

Camps are conducive to the spreading of the Gospel, McDonald said, citing a Christian Camping International survey that said 75 percent of young Christians under the age of 18 made their decisions for Christ in a camp environment.

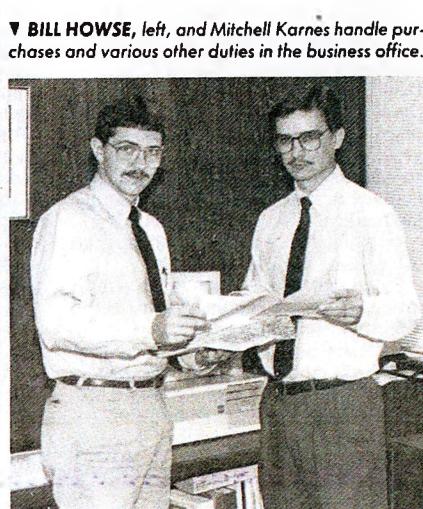
"Camps are not only a profitable



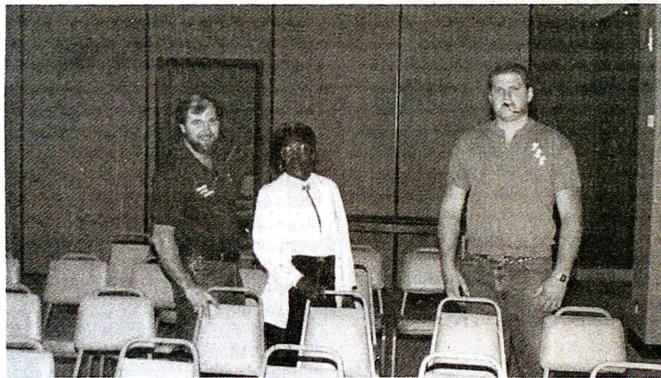
TBC BUSINESS director Jim McDonald and secretary Ruth Preuett discuss recent transactions.



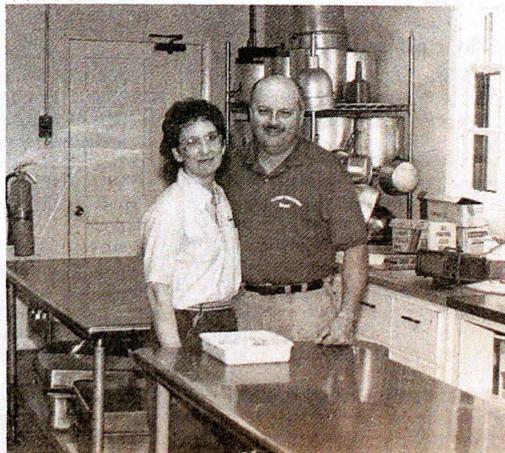
KATY REEVES, receptionist, is the first person people see when they enter the Baptist Center.



▼ BILL HOWSE, left, and Mitchell Karnes handle purchases and various other duties in the business office.



FROM LEFT, Andy Gunn, Nettie Goodloe, and David Gerald make sure the conference center is set up for meetings.



► CAMP CARSON is ably managed by Frank and Dean Green.



► TOMMY AND SHIRLEY Strong, managers of Camp Linden, stand in front of awards Tommy Strong was awarded during his 20 years as a recording engineer in Nashville for such stars as Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, and Roy Orbison.

venture for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, they are a vital ministry."

McDonald affirmed, adding that camps are "another tool used to reach young people."

McDonald's understanding and love for the camps reaches beyond his tenure as business manager for the TBC. A former high school English and history teacher for 21 years, McDonald served for ten years as summer manager at Camp Carson in Newport.

The Monterey native explained that at the time TBC camps were operated only during the summer months.

McDonald, a graduate of Cumberland University in Lebanon (when it was a Baptist college) and Peabody College (now a part of Vanderbilt University), recalled he discussed the future of the camps with the missions committee of the convention when he joined the TBC staff in 1972.

He noted they soon winterized the camps, placing heat in the rooms, so they could be used for church retreats during the winter months. "It has paid off," McDonald said, noting there are few weeks during the winter when the camps are not in use.

McDonald said the camps receive \$50,000 in Cooperative Program funds, but otherwise "pay their own way." He noted they try to keep the camps affordable for the average Tennessee Baptist. This year the rate for a week of camp (Monday noon through Friday noon) is \$65. McDonald observed the rate is among the lowest of any state convention-owned camp.

Each camp has a manager who lives on site. In addition, local residents, normally high school or college age

1990 Tennessee B

BROTHERHOOD	
Regular Camp	
Adventure Float Trip	
Man/Boy Weekend	
CHURCH MUSIC	
Youth Music Week	
Children's Music Week	
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING	
MISSIONS	
Ethnic Camp	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Special Friends Camp	
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Historian launches centennial for BSSB

NASHVILLE (BP) — Historian Leon McBeth characterized the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as the “shaper of a denomination” during the May 25 launch of the board’s centennial celebration.

“Sundayschoolandchurch” were described as “one word and one experience” for McBeth as he grew up in Cross Roads Church in Fisher County, Texas. McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, also is the author of *Celebrating Heritage and Hope*, a historical account of the board’s first 100 years.

“No other agency or organization has done as much, I am convinced, as the Sunday School Board in shaping Southern Baptist activities and outlook,” McBeth told employees gathered for the annual Anniversary Day Celebration.

“You have helped mold what we think and how we feel,” he continued. “You have shaped our worship, our convictions, even our social lives.” McBeth said Southern Baptists “are to a large degree the collective result of your ministry over the past century. You have determined what we read and what we sing. You taught us what the Bible is and what it teaches.”

He said his Sunday School quarterly provided “glimpses of how to draw out from the Bible a message for today,” long before he had ever heard the term Bible commentary.

In fact, McBeth said he had never been to Nashville or heard of the Sunday School Board when it was affect-

ing him so profoundly through use of quarterlies, hymnals, and training materials.

“No other Southern Baptist or agency directly touched the rural church where I grew up,” he said. “The Sunday School Board was our only direct line with the larger Southern Baptist family.”

“No Southern Baptist missionary ever spoke in our church, nor did anyone from the state convention or any agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, including the Sunday School Board,” he said. “But, in that one-room church, we had our quarterlies, the ‘Sunday School Builder,’ and a Standard of Excellence banner for Sunday School.”

“What the board did for me individually, it did for millions of Southern Baptists,” he said. What the board did for our rural church, it did for thousands.”

“Sunday School Board quarterlies blanketed the South, taking careful pains to discover and explain what the Bible says and what it means for our daily lives,” he continued.

“Every president from J.M. Frost to Lloyd Elder has been firmly committed to the authority of the Bible, and not one of them has ever wavered about keeping the Board and all its publications true to the Bible,” he added. “We often hear Southern Baptists described as a Bible-believing people. I believe that description is accurate, and as a historian I credit the Sunday School Board for helping make it so.”

“The Sunday School Board shaped the educational ministry of our church-

es and our denomination,” McBeth explained. “Independent programs were tested, honed, streamlined, restructured, and ‘baptized’ to sharpen the focus, develop suitable literature and train needed leadership.”

He said the board took an eighteenth-century Sunday School and changed, molded, and adapted it to a new shape, reinventing it for Southern Baptists. In the process, an independent parachurch appendage inherited by the board was converted into a church school for all age groups “firmly anchored to the denomination.”

McBeth gave much credit to the Broadman Hymnal for affecting the quality of worship in churches, because it was the first standard worship guide for Southern Baptist churches. He said this was the first introduction to worship aids for many churches and it brought the element of commonality.

Roane County hospital accredited

Baptist Hospital of Roane County has achieved accreditation for three years from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), Chicago, as a result of its demonstrated compliance with the Joint Commission’s nationally recognized healthcare standards.

The Joint Commission’s on-site survey of Baptist Hospital of Roane County occurred in January.

Baptist Hospital of Roane County is a part of the Baptist Health System of East Tennessee.



students, are employed during the summer.

Camp Carson in Newport is managed by Frank Green who is assisted by his wife Dean. Camp Linden is managed by Tommy Strong who is helped by his wife Shirley. They maintain the facilities, cook meals for the campers, and keep the grounds in good condition.

And, the hard work needed to make the camps an attractive retreat setting has paid off. In 1989, about 11,000 people attended the camps. McDonald noted approximately 1000 decisions were made for the Lord during the summer months.

McDonald said he gets personal pleasure from being able to help the TBC departments. It is satisfying when department leaders tell us that things we’ve done to improve the facilities have helped their particular camp. McDonald said.

He noted that since 1972 the TBC has spent about \$1.5 million to renovate the camps, with the majority of the capitol fund expenditures coming from the Golden State Missions Offering.

McDonald said his one disappointment is that an adult conference facility has not been built at each camp. “We can’t have a lot of adult functions at the camps because all the buildings are dormitory-type structures,” he said.

But, McDonald, who is known around the TBC for his sense of humor and his fondness for his Scottish ancestry, has not let that disappointment hinder his enthusiasm for his particular ministry at the TBC.

Without McDonald and his staff, a lot of “problems” might not be solved.

ist summer camps

Camp Carson	Camp Linden
June 18-22	July 2-6
June 25-29	July 9-13
	July 16-20
June 22-24	July 6-8
July 23-28	
July 30-Aug. 3	Aug. 13-17
Aug. 6-10	July 23-27
	July 30-Aug. 3
	July 16-20
Aug. 13-17	Aug. 6-10
July 2-6	June 11-15
July 9-13	June 18-22
July 16-20	June 25-29

Contact the business office at (615)

Rightness of church extends over 30 years

NASHVILLE — “I hear the trumpets everyday here at this church,” Bob Mowrey observed on his 30th anniversary as pastor of Park Avenue Church, Nashville.

It is a feeling of comfort or rightness, Mowrey explained, comparing his feelings to a similar statement made by R. G. Lee concerning Bellevue Church, Memphis, which Lee served for 32 years. And those feelings extend to his denomination.

However, during his tenure he did not escape hard times — including integration of schools and the neighborhood.

As the city’s schools “become more and more black and less and less white” the neighborhood continues to be impacted, said Mowrey.

Other West Nashville churches have closed their doors, moved out, or have declining memberships. Park Avenue Church is the only large church left in the area, he said.

Mowrey took a “strong stand” supporting racial integration even when the neighborhood’s mostly white high school was closed. He proudly reported the church has had black members for the past 19 years.

Mowrey led the church to start Park Avenue Christian School, but it was strictly in response to humanistic philosophies taught in public schools and not to integration, said Mowrey, noting it is integrated. The school provides classes for four-year-olds through eighth graders.

Another reason the church remains in the community is its emphasis on evangelism, said Mowrey. Park Avenue, one of only a few Tennessee churches which on an average has baptized over 130 each of the past 30 years, said Mowrey.

The church’s membership since 1960 has increased from 1700 to 4000 though its high was 5000 about five years ago. “It’s a struggle to keep a vital church,” said Mowrey, who often spends his Saturday evenings making phone calls to prospects, reported a member of the church.

One evangelistic tool of the church is its bus ministry. Twelve buses bring people, especially children and senior adults, each Sunday to Park



IN OFFICE — Bob Mowrey’s church office is filled with memorabilia from his career.

— Photo by Connie Davis

Avenue. The church provides a special worship service for those children who attend without adult supervision.

Changes Mowrey has observed during the last 30 years include increased mobility and dissolution of families. Singles should be the target group of every church and churches must emphasize outreach because congregations turn over about every eight to nine years, observed Mowrey.

“Keep loving people, even people who oppose you,” said Mowrey, who is a native of Chattanooga. The graduate of University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., also served as pastor of First Church, Ft. Payne, Ala.; First Church, Summerville, Ga.; and Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain.

He is currently a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and has been a member of the SBC Committee on Committees and a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes.

“When I’m tempted to quit, I just remember God is on the throne; He is king of all the earth. If I just remember that ... and if I’ll be patient, then everything will be fine. ... It’s the big things that are important. ... Success is being faithful.” — Connie Davis

Tennesseans included

Task force defines need for new VBS materials

NASHVILLE (BP) — The ideas of a ten-member task force will help determine the direction of a redesign for Southern Baptist vacation Bible school materials for use beginning in the summer of 1994.

During a recent task force meeting in Nashville, people from six states and representing varied relationships to VBS suggested changes in music, activities, promotional themes, and other areas for VBS, mission VBS, and backyard Bible club materials produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School division.

"We wanted the task force to give us broad directions on where we need to be going with VBS material. Now it's up to us to work out the details," said Louis Hanks, Sunday School youth curriculum section manager and convener of the task force.

Materials from the Sunday School Board as well as other publishers were displayed for comparison. Based on that review, task force members encouraged stronger promotional themes that churches could use to encourage participation in VBS.

Some task force members have had experience with materials from other publishers. At least two task force members do not use Southern Baptist

VBS materials. "We chose to select people who represent our diverse constituency," Hanks said.

Members also represented large and small churches, Baptist state conventions, various regions of the country, ministers of education, and VBS writers, Hanks added.

Task force members suggested music for VBS that is contemporary and "catchy" while still maintaining a Biblical foundation. The relationship of crafts or activities to Bible study was discussed by the group, with varying views on whether a crafts or activity time should be directly related to the Bible study time.

Suggestions included different lines of VBS materials, with perhaps basic and expanded plans, five-day and ten-day plans, or small-church and large-church plans.

Hanks noted the emotional impact of suggesting changes in VBS materials. "VBS is right up there with Sunday School as a priority Bible teaching program in the churches," he said. "We need to be sensitive to the desires of the churches while maintaining sound educational standards."

VBS traditionally has been a strong evangelistic emphasis for Southern Baptist churches. In 1989, more than

3.4 million people were enrolled in VBS, mission VBS and backyard Bible clubs. Churches recorded 54,611 professions of faith during VBS in 1989 and transferred 521,086 prospects to Sunday School prospect rolls.

A first draft of recommendations for changes in VBS materials will be completed by September, with product format design to begin in November. Recommendations will be presented for approval in spring 1991, with a writers conference planned in October 1991. Production and editing will be completed between September 1992 and summer 1993 for release of new materials in the fall of 1993 for use in

Swain accepts pastorate

Patterson Church, Rockvale, recently called David Swain as pastor.

Swain was most recently pastor of Macedonia Church, Harrisburg, Ill., where he served for six years. He also served as pastor of Hagarstown Church, Vandalia, Ill.

A native of Vandalia, Swain was ordained in 1980 at Hagarstown Church.

He and his wife, Nancy, have three children.

the summer of 1994.

Tennessee Baptists on the task force include Gayle Haywood, minister of preschool and children at Brentwood Church, Brentwood; Linda Bass, VBS director at Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia, and VBS director for Maury Association; Lou Heath, Nashville, children's VBS writer; and Gene Lovelace, minister of education at Immanuel Church, Nashville.

Powell church calls R. C. Harless as pastor

Fair Havens Church, Powell, recently called R. C. Harless as pastor.

Harless had served the church as interim pastor since last December.

During his 25 years as a pastor, Harless served New Corinth Church and Buffalo Church, both in Rutledge; Block Springs Church, Blaine; Cedar Ford Church, Luttrell; and Third Church, Knoxville. In addition, he served as director of missions of Northern Association from 1973-1979.

The Corryton native and his wife, Mary, have five children and four grandchildren.

Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

The Holy Spirit, a necessity

"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" — Romans 8:9.

In this one verse Paul calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of God and of Christ.

Thus he speaks of the triune God. But our present interest is on the above-quoted portion of verse 9.

There are those who teach that at some point after a person is regenerated, he reaches a state of righteousness, when the Holy Spirit comes upon him/her in what they call "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" or the "second blessing." But Paul says, "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13). Note



HOBBS

"all," not a select few. This refers to the moment of regeneration when by the Spirit we became a part of the fellowship of believers (see John 14:17).

Acts 19:2 in the Greek text reads, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Paul did not ask if these people had the "second blessing." He wanted to know if they were saved. When they said they had never heard of the Spirit, Paul preached Jesus to them. They believed in Him, and the Spirit came upon them (Acts 19:2-6).

These passages support Paul's statement in Romans 8:9. If the Holy Spirit is not indwelling you, Paul says you are not a Christian. (There is a difference between "indwelling" and being "filled" with the Spirit.) So the Holy Spirit in your life is not an extra but a necessity.

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TENNESSEAN HONORED — Jerry Breazeale, director for the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, presents Shelly Tingle with the Student Wives Merit Award during a recent seminary chapel service. Tingle, of Memphis, was among seven student wives who completed six or more classes offered on Tuesday nights, free of charge. Tingle's husband, Karl, is in the master of divinity degree program at NOBTS.

ander led music. There were two additions to the church by baptism and two other professions.

James Smith accepts Bethel Springs post

First Church, Bethel Springs, called James J. Smith as pastor, effective May 20.



SMITH

Smith most recently served Trinity Church, Bolivar. In addition, he has served First Church, Whiteville; First Church, Gleason; New Bethel Church, Middleton; First Church, Pocahontas; and churches in Mississippi and Texas.

He served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board from 1976-1983 and was Hardeman County Association moderator from 1986-1988.

Ordained in 1957 at Ebenezer Church, Bolivar, Smith is a graduate of Union University, Jackson; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, Margaret, have two children.

Associations ...

All formerly married and never married adults are invited to the Nashville Singles Cookout June 23, sponsored by Nashville Association. The cookout will be held at Cook Recreation Area, Shelter 1, Percy Priest Lake, 4-8 p.m. It is open to the public and children are welcome. For more information, call Charles McMinn at 259-3034.

Baptist Student Unions ...

Fifteen Union University, Jackson, students recently spent one week in Americus, Ga., helping build low cost homes with Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical Christian housing organization. The work group was coordinated through the Baptist Student Union.

The Cumberland University, Lebanon, BSU will send Lourae Cook, Crossville, to Flint, Mich., and Scott Lester, Lebanon, to the Boy's Camp in Millington, for one week in June for a summer mission project.

Chris Jackson has been named BSU director at Tennessee State University, Nashville, effective July 1. He is a graduate of University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Jackson served for nine years as campus minister/director at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Mo. He was also associate minister at Second Church, Jefferson City.

Churches ...

Members of Green River Church, Waynesboro, will celebrate homecoming June 29.

The choir at Glendale Church, Nashville, performed "The Weaver" June 3. Soloists for the musical were Dan Landes, assistant professor at Belmont College, Nashville, School of Music; and Marjorie Halbert, minister of music and associate professor at Belmont College.

Steve and Christie Bradford, Memphis; Solid Gospel, St. Louis; and The Durbins, Fredericktown, Mo., will perform in concert and record a live video June 30 at Leclair Church, Memphis. In addition, a Christian music talent search will be held at 2 p.m. that afternoon. For more information about the talent search, call the Bradfords at 373-5786 or 386-5444.

The 60th anniversary of the church and homecoming were celebrated June 3 at Berclair Church, Memphis. E. B. Bowen was guest speaker.

Members of Bellefounte Church, Cleveland, held dedication services and open house for their new sanctuary May 20.

A note-burning and dedication service was held recently at Brookhill Church, Etowah, in recognition of paying off all indebtedness on the church building.

The congregation of Eads Church, Eads, will hold a 75th anniversary celebration June 17.

Leadership ...

Members of First Church, Huntland, recently honored Eva Daniel for serving as church organist for 66 years.

Ridgeview Church, Cleveland, called Luther Eslinger as pastor.

Woodmont Church, Nashville, called Jana Whittle as director of weekday ministries.

Jackie Lee recently joined the staff of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, as director of preschool ministries.

Everett Cooper will be honored June 17 by Rosedale Church, Nashville, for 22 years of service. A reception will be held at 2 p.m.

Duane Swanson has been called as minister of education and outreach to First Church, Old Hickory.

Madison Creek Church, Goodlettsville, called Mic Morrow as interim pastor.

Shawn Parker has been called as interim pastor of Oak Grove Church, Milan. He was recently ordained at First Church, Michie.

East Lake Church, Chattanooga, called David Webb as minister of youth and outreach.

First Church, Franklin, called Craig Fry as minister to students.

Revivals ...

First Church, Mt. Pleasant, held revival recently with evangelist Benny Jackson. There were 20 professions of faith and four rededications.

Walter K. Ayers will speak at revival services June 24-26 at Lakeview Church, Selmer.

Revival will be held June 24-28 at Pleasant View Church, Clarksville, with evangelist Curtis Coleman leading services.

First Church, St. Bethlehem, will hold revival June 17-23. John Christian will be evangelist.

Center Grove Church, Tullahoma, held revival May 20-25 with evangelist Ray Newcomb, First Church, Millington, leading services. Wayne Alex-

RETREAT FOR SPECIAL PERSONS

— Participating in the Sunday School Retreat for Persons with Mental Retardation and Parents, Teachers, Church Staff, were, photo to left, Tony Barnaclo of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, and, photo below, from left, Dianne Kyle, Lakeview Church, Selmer; Denise Coleman, Waverly; and Wayne Hastings, Highland Heights Church, Memphis. The retreat drew 100 to Camp Linden near Linden May 4-6 and 124 to a similar retreat held May 25-27 at Camp Carson. Both were sponsored by the TBC Sunday School Department.

— Photos by Jarvis Hearn



TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Does your mission money get to the work? I received an encouraging letter from Concord Association this past week. It was signed by James Powers, director of missions, and Eugene Cotey, moderator.

They wrote, "On behalf of the churches and ministry of Concord Baptist Association we want to say thank you. The generosity of Tennessee Baptist Convention churches has made it possible for us to develop new work in critical areas of our association. To date we have been able to purchase land for three new churches and expect to purchase land for three other new works in the future."

The money that has assisted Concord

Association came through the Cooperative Program and the Golden State Missions Offering. The faithfulness of your church to give makes the difference.

Many other letters like this one could be written. Your mission dollars are at work.

You might be interested to know that our Cooperative Program giving continues to grow. Our giving is up 4.84 percent over the first seven months of our budget year. However this level of growth does not give us what we need to move forward. Essentially it means that we are barely keeping pace with inflation.

As your church moves through the summer months, let me encourage you to be faithful in your giving. Your church is able to give only when you are faithful in giving.

There is a great challenge before us!



LOWRIE

Correcting wrong attitudes

By W. Elzie Danley, pastor; Malesus Church, Jackson

Dangers of Selfishness and Pride
James wrote to churches where there was conflict among the members. He asked questions about the cause of such quarrels and conflicts (wars and fighting), then he answered his own questions. The problems were caused by the excessive desires of individuals who wanted to have their own way and fulfill their own desires.



DANLEY

Such self-seeking just can lead to sinful behavior. James implied that some of these Christians had even committed the sin of murder in their hearts. They spent time in conflicts and quarrels because of their envy and selfishness rather than in prayerful petitions to God. Sometimes even those who prayed do not receive answers from God because they do not pray with proper motive. Their prayers are selfseeking; they look for God to supply their desires in order to enhance their own pleasures.

When James spoke of adultery of the church, he spoke much as the prophets spoke of Israel when she strayed away from worshiping the true God. Thus the feminine term, adulteress, used in most translations, is appropriate. This charge led James into the position that individually and collectively members of the church should not be intimate friends with the enemies of God. The church is in the world, but is not of the world (John 17:15, 16).

Reward of humility (4:7-10)
James described and commanded humility when he charged the readers to submit themselves to God. When the Christian submits to God and resists the devil, the result will be that the devil will flee from him. The problem with many of James' readers was that they were attempting to live as close to evil as possible and were failing to submit their lives to God. He charged them to recognize where they were in relation to God and to realize they would not find joy in their lives unless they turned back to God. But if they did humble themselves before God, He would lift them up in spirit and in life (v. 10).

Admonition against judging others (4:11-12)
James admonished Christians to not judge one another. That is the work of the one and only lawgiver, God. Christians are to refrain from speaking against their brother. Being judgemental is assuming the role of God and it is a serious sin.

Admonition against arrogant boasting (4:13-17)
Apparently some to whom James wrote were active in commerce and other business encounters. They made their plans as if they were in charge of their own destinies. He stopped them short with a phrase (go to now) that in today's language might have been "Come on now" or "Who do you think you're kidding?" James made it clear that our life here on earth is transitory and fleeting. He used a beautiful

metaphor in which he implied that life is like a vapor (mist or fog) that lasts only briefly and then dissipates or vanishes. Given life's fragile nature, the readers were admonished to stop their sinful bragging and acknowledge the will of God when they did their planning. Furthermore he pointed out that those who know God's will and ignore it also sin.

Condemnation of the rich (5:1-6)
James brought charges against the rich who were making life miserable for his Christian readers, most of whom were poor. The ill-gotten wealth of the rich would be of little value to them when they had to stand before God and answer for the methods used to obtain that wealth. In verse four-six, James made it clear that if in the pursuit of wealth we cause others unjust pain or ignore the misery of the poor, we are not following the will of God and for that we are accountable.

Summary

James left a lesson for us. As Christians, we must avoid the sin of arrogance and seek humility that causes us to be constantly open to learning from God and others. Too we should be very cautious in obtaining wealth. Our methods of obtaining riches and also the use of wealth should enhance the life of the poor, rather than adding to their misery. We must plan for this fleeting life, but it should be done with a view toward doing God's will.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

June 17 Lesson

Basic Passage: James 4:1-5:6

Focal Passages: James 4:1-4, 7-9, 13-17; 5:1-4

metaphor in which he implied that life is like a vapor (mist or fog) that lasts only briefly and then dissipates or vanishes. Given life's fragile nature,

Security only in God

By Liz Thompson, layperson; First Church, Blountville

The human soul craves security. There is nothing wrong with planning for the future and we are admonished to be good stewards of all we possess. We as Christians understand we have no guarantees. We need to be ready to allow our possessions to flow through us to others at the Lord's command, and trust Him to protect what He is pleased for us to have. The key to God's economy is to seek first God's Kingdom and everything else will find its proper place (Matthew 6:19-21, 33).



THOMPSON

The struggle for security is a deceptive pursuit. There is no real security in this world system. We all seek security in some measure in relationships, education, business contracts, insurance, and investments, and we know how all can fail us. Only the Christian has solid security, not from adversity, but in all that really counts.

Relationships, no matter how hard I work, may fail, but not my relationship with Christ. Education - the Holy Spirit's teaching and training are adequate for life and eternity. My meditation and study of Scripture has not been a waste of time, but a practical manual for living and serving. Business contracts - none can compare to God's covenant promises. Savings and investments - there are treasures in Heaven where moth and rust cannot corrupt or thieves break in and steal. I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day. "Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).

As a Christian, I believe we have what we have by the grace of God. His sovereignty over my total being is my security. If Philippians 3:9-10 is my life

verse, it will mean that I must cease my human grasping after the temporal, to realize a loose attachment to all things and remember that these are not the measure of my life.

Those who do not value a relationship with God see religion as only a part of their security, not enough to change their life or place demands, but just enough to enhance their life in the community and secure paradise after they live life their way. The rich young ruler went away sad when he discovered the cost of discipleship was total yielding of all he was and had. God's grace is freely given, but not cheaply provided. It will cost you everything in terms of commitment.

Our view of death and beyond the

grave affect our philosophy of life. In college I was required to write my philosophy of life. It was a difficult assignment, but very enlightening. If I gained the world and lost my soul what a fool I would be. Wealth and popularity are a poor substitute for the riches of walking with the Creator. No one lives a life without fear, problems, disappointments, and suffering, but the Christian has the Lord to walk with every step.

Compared to heavenly treasures, earthly treasures are seen for their real character and value. No wonder the psalmist wanted to set this wisdom to music and sing to all people both low and high, rich and poor (Psalm 49:1-4).

Why should the Christian fear the day of adversity or envy those who boast in the abundance of their wealth? (5-6). Money can buy a great deal of happiness and good times if that is all you are looking for, but it can't satisfy an empty hole that grows bigger as one gets older, nor provide joy and peace that passes understanding. The psalmist seemed to be relating to the rich who feel they can buy their way through life. "The redemption of a soul is costly" (7-8). Every man is important in his own eyes and we cannot escape entirely from this. That which we accumulate and the prestige we earn put us in various levels of honor in our society. Ego and pride drive us to egotism if we are not careful. Those who are public figures are most vulnerable. It is painful to see someone alter a ministry we initiated and built up, or to leave a project for another to continue. We want our dwelling places to last forever just as we created them. To have a street or some landmark or even a classroom in church named after us is an honor that destroys our humility (10-13).

Death is a shock to us. The wise, foolish, rich, and poor all die and leave everything behind except the memory and effect their lives had on society.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

June 17 Lesson

Basic Passage: Psalm 49

Focal Passage: Psalm 49:1-15

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"As sheep they are appointed for Sheol and death is their shepherd." But Christ is our Shepherd and eternal life is our appointment. "God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol. For He has received me" (14-15). Now that is security!

Erwin church calls Jacobs as pastor

Herman Jacobs recently accepted the pastorate of Ninth Street Church, Erwin, after serving the church as interim pastor since September, 1989. Jacobs retired four years ago from Southwestern Church, Johnson City. In addition, he served Creeveewood Church, Nashville, from 1957-1979. His first pastorate was at a church in Kentucky.

He was ordained in 1942 at Temple Church, Memphis.

The Memphis native graduated from Union University, Jackson, with a bachelor's degree, and from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with a master's degree.

He and his wife, Betty, have three children and eight grandchildren.

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Going on with life

By *Kenny Cooper, pastor; Bellevue Church, Nashville*

After a tragedy of great magnitude, picking up the pieces and going on can be the hardest task imaginable. For Judah, the exile of the elite to Babylon in 598/597 B.C. was that generation's great tragedy.

Jeremiah responded in chapters 27 and 28 to those remaining in Jerusalem following the defeat and removal of their kinsmen. In chapter 29, Jeremiah addressed the exiles themselves in two letters. His message countered those predicting a speedy return of the captives. In the first of these letters



COOPER

(vv. 1-23), Jeremiah took a revolutionary position by encouraging them to settle there and make Babylon their home. There they were to go on with life.

Handling life's second bests (vv. 4-7)

Harry Emerson Fosdick's sermon "Handling Life's Second Bests" provides encouragement for less than ideal circumstances. The exiles, hav-

ing brought captivity on themselves by their iniquity, did not have the first option of a peaceful existence in their homeland. They found themselves in a foreign land. No doubt their sentiments were those expressed by the psalmist: "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (Psalm 137:4). They were left with something other than first choice; how could they handle second best?

As already mentioned, Jeremiah addressed this question with a very radical solution. Since their stay was not going to be temporary, but would last for a long time, they were instructed to "build houses and live in them." Tents are well-suited to traveling and temporary accommodations, but no one desires them as a permanent dwelling. The advice to build suggested both a long period of exile and a sense of settling down.

The exiles were also told to plant gardens (which would include vineyards). This defines even more the need for them to settle in. Gardens and vineyards take time to become productive. But the people were to be in Babylon long enough to make this worthwhile. Indeed, it was necessary to their survival. In other words, they were encouraged to go on with their lives and what they would do just as if they were still in Jerusalem.

Yet another word of advice to those exiled in Babylon was that they marry and have children and that their children marry. To wait until the return to Jerusalem would mean the

virtual extinction of the exiled families. Instead, they were to follow the creation admonition to "be fruitful and multiply." This important aspect of life must go on.

Most radical of Jeremiah's instruction in this letter was that the exiles seek the welfare (literally the peace, shalom) of the city where they were dwelling. Babylon had been the enemy, but the welfare of the exiles was dependent upon its welfare. Even the enemy was to be seen as a cooperator in the continuance of the people of God.

Part of seeking the welfare of their captive land was to pray for it. Singing the Lord's song in a strange land seemed impossible. How could they pray? Jeremiah's words of encouragement to go on with life were rooted in his theology that worship of God is not

prediction of an exile of 70 years duration proved correct. Depending on how one dates the events, the return occurred between 66 and 72 years later. But even in predicting a long captivity, he shared God's promise of an eventual return. God was still presented as the faithful partner whose love remained steadfast. Even as they were beginning their exile, the people were very much on God's heart and His desire was for their ultimate welfare. God wanted them to know hope and have a future.

The exile proved to be a formative time for the people of God. There in Babylon a new appreciation for the law and the message of the prophets grew. Some of our Old Testament books were collected and given their present form while there. In looking for that time when God would restore them, they were learning that their relation to Him was a matter of the heart. God's promises come even in the midst of life's second bests and can be depended on.

Fellowship Church calls Harris as pastor

Ronald Harris recently accepted the call of Fellowship Church, Allons, to serve as pastor.

Harris was most recently pastor of Westel Church, Rockwood. In addition, he served as pastor of Memorial Church, Livingston; First Church, Allardt; Pine Orchard Church, Oakdale; Volunteer Church, Bristol; Isoline Church, Crossville; and Pleasant Hill Church, Sparta.

The Morristown native was ordained in 1972 at Oak Hill Church, Crossville. He and his wife, Geneva, have two children and one grandchild.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

June 17 Lesson

Basic Passage: Jeremiah 29:1-23

Focal Passages: Jeremiah 29:4-7,

10-14

confined to a certain place, Jerusalem or Temple, but is possible anywhere because God is everywhere. Even Babylon had been subject to God's great, overarching will. They could sing and pray in a strange land after all. Eventually the exiles learned this for it was in Babylon that the synagogue concept was developed providing a place for instruction in the law and prayer.

The promise of God goes on with life (vv. 10-14)

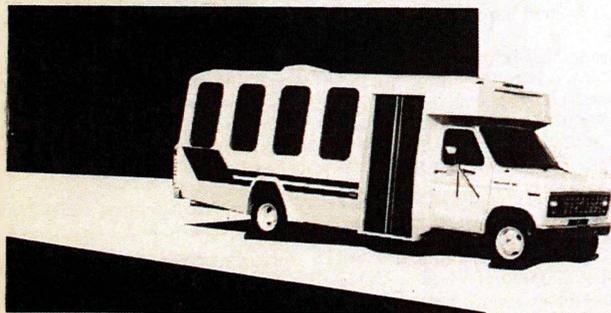
The false prophets had proclaimed a quick return of the exiles. Jeremiah had to counter that wrong notion. The

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Vandals damage Seoul church, site of kindergarten fire

SEOUL, South Korea — Difficulties continue to mount for Seoul Memorial Church, the site of a kindergarten fire last Oct. 16 that killed six children and left seven others critically burned. Thugs broke into the church May 26 and vandalized the auditorium and other facilities. Nearly every pane of glass in the building was broken. Damage to furniture was extensive.

Police reportedly were slow to respond to a call for assistance because of political protest demonstrations elsewhere in the city, but took the gang leaders into custody. Later two of the vandals were released. The next morning several people blocked the driveway of the church building, preventing worship services from being held there. Services were held outdoors on an athletic field in the area.

Han Myung Guk (David Han), pastor of the church, expressed concern for the injured children and their families. "We understand their pain and sorrow and we are doing all we can to help them," he said. "This situation has exhausted our financial resources." Church members do not want to fight family members who are carrying out a vendetta against the church, he added, responding to allegations that families of the injured children hired the thugs.

The church has paid thousands of dollars to the families of the six children killed in the fire that swept through the church's educational building. The congregation also pays monthly hospital bills for the seven children still receiving medical care, as well as living expenses for each child's family. The church was forced to secure bank loans to meet mounting debts related to the tragedy, although more than \$350,000 has been donated by church members, missionaries, and other Korean Baptist churches. Pastor Han sold his house and moved the family into living quarters in the church. Southern Baptist missionaries are working to secure rehabilitative surgery in the United States for the seven injured children.

Officials have yet to determine the cause of the October blaze. But church kindergarten principal Ohm Hyun Suk, pastor Han's wife, took personal responsibility for the tragedy although she was not present at the time. She was jailed for three months before being released on parole. The 150-student kindergarten has not been reopened.

High court agrees to hear abortion-counseling case

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether regulations that bar federally funded family planning clinics from providing any information on abortion are constitutional. The high court will review a federal appeals court decision on federal regulations issued during the Reagan administration to implement Title X, a 1970 law that established federal funding for family planning clinics. Title X currently provides about \$200 million each year to more than 3900 clinics nationwide serving almost five million low-income women.

The rules prohibit family planning clinics that receive federal funds from offering abortion counseling or referral. Clinic employees are barred from discussing abortion even when asked about it directly or from providing a list of abortion providers even when asked for that information. The regulations also require that any Title X organization that uses its own money for abortion services must provide physically separate facilities for that purpose.

The American Civil Liberties Union — which is representing a group of family planning clinics and doctors — was joined by the city and state of New York in challenging the regulations in court. They argued the rules — which were adopted in 1988 — place an impermissible burden on women's constitutional right to abortion and violate the First Amendment's free speech guarantee.

The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York upheld the regulations last November. But in March the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals struck them down on First Amendment and privacy grounds. Two district courts also have ruled against the regulations. The Supreme Court is expected to hear the case and issue an opinion during its next term.

House passes bill to protect disabled from discrimination

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives has passed legislation that would extend broad anti-discrimination protections to the estimated 43 million Americans who have physical and mental disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act would give the disabled the same civil rights protections given to women and minorities under the 1964 Civil Rights Acts.

The House approved the bill 403 to 20. The Senate passed a similar measure last September by a 76-8 vote. The legislation will go to a House-Senate conference for resolution of the relatively minor differences between the two versions. Following that process, President Bush is expected to sign the measure into law.

The ADA bill would prohibit most employers from discriminating against any qualified individual with a disability. Employers would be required to make "reasonable accommodations" to such individuals unless those accommodations would impose an "undue hardship" on the business' operation. The legislation, however, would allow religious organizations to exercise religious preference in hiring. It also would allow a religious organization to require all applicants and employees to conform to the organization's religious tenets.

The bill would ban discrimination against individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, such as stores, restaurants, theaters, and office buildings. But the measure excludes "religious institutions or entities controlled by religious organizations, including places of worship" from the public accommodations section.

The ADA bill would protect people who have AIDS or the related HIV virus.

It would not, however, include coverage for a wide variety of sexual practices, including homosexuality, or for current users of illegal drugs.

1000 respond during Czechoslovakia crusade

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia — About 1000 people — one-tenth of the audience — stepped forward to express interest in accepting Jesus Christ as Savior during a May evangelistic crusade in Prague led by former American astronaut James Irwin and British Baptist evangelist Vic Jackopson.

It was one of the largest evangelistic crusades held in Czechoslovakia since democracy was established last December. Baptists joined Methodist, Brethren and other groups in sponsoring the event in a Prague sports hall. Most of those responding checked cards indicating, "I want to accept Jesus as my Savior" or "I would like my spiritual life to be deeper."

Czechoslovakian Baptist Union leader Pavel Titera joined Jackopson and Irwin, a Southern Baptist, in a visit to Hradcany Castle in Prague, where they presented national President Vaclav Havel with a Czechoslovakian flag that had been to the moon. The three also prayed with Havel.

Midwestern Seminary's first president dies after long illness

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mallard J. Berquist, president emeritus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died May 22 at the Delmar Gardens Nursing Home in Overland Park, Kan., after a five-month illness with cancer. He was 88.

Berquist was the first president of Midwestern Seminary, accepting the position in October 1957 — before seminary facilities even existed.

He returned to his birthplace in Kansas City, Kan., to oversee the opening of Southern Baptists' youngest seminary. During the previous 15 years, he had been pastor of two Florida Baptist congregations: Riverside Church, Jacksonville, and First Church, Tampa.

When he became president, the site where the seminary now stands was open pastureland. Under his leadership, the campus was developed to include academic and administrative buildings, as well as student residence facilities.

Berquist officially retired from the presidency in July 1972, but continued administrative duties until his successor, Milton Ferguson, assumed office in February 1973.

Russian immigrant's son will be first to work full time in USSR

RICHMOND, Va. — Southern Baptists are assigning veteran missionaries George and Veda Rae Lozuk as their first full-time workers to the Soviet Union. He is the son of a Russian immigrant.

The Lozuks, of Fort Worth and Corpus Christi, Texas, respectively, are among some 25 full-time workers who have been selected or are being sought by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for full-time positions in Eastern Europe. The board's Eastern Europe mission has worked with Baptists there for some 20 years; ten career missionaries and two other full-time workers now are assigned to the area.

Deploying additional personnel is one of the many ways Southern Baptists are working to undergird Eastern European Baptists in the wake of monumental events that have given the region hope for freedom. Altogether, the Foreign Mission Board has earmarked more than \$2.5 million for the region. A total of \$1 million is being used for Bibles, Gospel films, and other resources to help Eastern European Baptists evangelize their nations and strengthen their churches. Another \$1 million, from Southern Baptist hunger relief donations, is buying seeds and related supplies for needy Romanian farmers. More than \$500,000 from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions will bolster such projects as the first Baptist seminary in Moscow and Albanian gospel broadcasts.

The Lozuks will begin work in Moscow after wrapping up their duties in South America, where they have worked 34 years, and after three months of intensive Russian language study. Lozuk currently is associate to the director of Southern Baptist work in Spanish-speaking South America. His father, Sylvester Nicholas Lozuk, came to the United States to work for several years before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and never was able to return to his Russian homeland.

SBC statistician J. P. Edmunds dies

NASHVILLE — J. P. Edmunds, retired secretary of the Research and public relations, based at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center. Memphis at age 90.

A 31-year employee, Edmunds served as associate editor of *The Sunday School Builder*, editor of *The Quarterly Review* and *The Southern Baptist Handbook* and headed the research and statistics department for 12 years. At his retirement in 1968, he was Sunday School Board representative in the office of public relations, based at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Before joining the board in 1937, Edmunds served as Training Union secretary for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and with the Florida and Arkansas convention.

Appeals board reverses compensation ruling

SAN FRANCISCO — Reversing an earlier decision, the California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board ruled a Southern Baptist church does not owe compensation to a transient injured while working at the church in exchange for financial assistance. After reconsidering its 1989 opinion on appeal, the state board decided Thomas A. Hoppmann was not an employee of First Southern Church of Cupertino while performing odd jobs in 1987 as part of a funds-for-work relief ministry operated by the church.

The relief ministry allowed transients to perform various tasks in exchange for assistance, said Scott Southard, who was pastor of the church at the time. Hoppmann was working on the church roof and fell to the ground, fracturing his heel and elbow, Southard said.

Rendering the reversed decision, workers' compensation Judge John R. Sullivan ruled Hoppmann was excluded from being an employee, according to labor codes.