

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Missionaries react with calm

Embassy advises of threat in Philippines

By Mary E. Speidel

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries were among about 20 mission groups told by the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines that they could be targets of attacks by communist guerrillas.

Embassy officials told missionaries that the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Philippines' Communist Party, had reportedly issued a threat to an American missionary organization July 3 in Manila. The organization is not affiliated with Southern Baptists, according to officials of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The U.S. State Department has declined to identify it.

The warning came during a meeting at embassy headquarters in Manila July 5 with about 45 representatives of American missionary organizations in the Philippines, said Phillip Anderson, treasurer of the Southern Baptist mission, organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the country.

Embassy personnel are taking the threat seriously, said Sam Waldron, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission. But for now, at least, mission work will be affected only minimally.

with missionaries planning to stay in place and projects by volunteers from Tennessee expected to go on as planned.

"At this time, we don't think the situation is dangerous enough to remove any of our missionaries," said Waldron. "We're continuing with almost normal operation." Missionaries are being "as cautious as possible and we're trying to keep a low profile. We're just going on with our work as best we can."

Anderson said the meeting had a "very serious" tone. "They didn't say

we were targets. They did say we might be considered targets now." Until now, Southern Baptist missionaries have repeatedly said they have not felt they were being targeted by the NPA, despite threats to other Americans.

U.S. Embassy officials advised missionaries to "keep a low profile" and to take precautions, such as avoiding traveling alone, at night, or in areas of known NPA activity.

After the meeting, mission administrators notified the 170 Southern Baptist mission workers of the situation, said Waldron. Missionaries in

more remote areas were offered the option of moving into missionary housing in areas considered more secure if they felt in danger, he said.

Missionaries and Philippine Baptists plan to host a Tennessee Baptist volunteer group headed for the southern Philippine island of Mindanao Aug. 2-15. Also, eight Foreign Mission Board journeymen are scheduled to begin two-year terms of service in the Philippines in early August.

John Ingouf, a Foreign Mission Board administrator for Southern Asia (See Embassy, page 5)

Volunteers in Kenya

Crusade nets 20,814 new Christians

By Craig Bird

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP) — During the first half of the Kenya Coastal Crusade, 27 Southern Baptist missionaries and 256 American volunteers reported 20,814 "commitments for Christ" and organized 24 churches — including one for the deaf.

"No matter what the future holds we can say, because of these two weeks, at least one time in our lives we saw

what God can really do," said Ralph Bethea, a Southern Baptist church developer in Mombasa, during a July 8 wrap-up rally for the first group of volunteers.

A second team arrived July 9 for the final two weeks of what has been called one of Southern Baptists' largest volunteer evangelistic projects. Neither an isolated rock-throwing incident at a preaching site nor unrelated political unrest in the east Africa nation has affected the crusade.

Also at the rally volunteers gave approximately \$1500 and pledged \$8500 over the next four months to fund a follow-up push to ground the new converts in the Christian faith.

"We've had a lot of victories, but we've created a lot of problems, too — more than 20,000 of them," James T. Draper told the volunteers. Draper, who spearheaded the Kenya Coastal Crusade, is pastor of First Church in Eules, Texas, and a former SBC president.

"One of the valid criticisms of evangelistic efforts like this and a reason some folks react with less than enthusiasm is the lack of follow-up," Draper explained. "We have conserved some of the gains — there are 24 new Baptist churches in Kenya. But there's an obvious need to help these new Christians to mature as believers after they pray the sinner's prayer."

To address that issue Billie Hanks, a well-known discipleship seminar leader and evangelist in the United States, met with Kenya missionaries to develop a follow-up strategy and field test it.

"We think for about 50 cents a person we can finance a program of training and discipleship that includes two small tract booklets, 12 lessons of the Bible Way correspondence study and a 14-week series of Bible studies led by Kenyan Christians," Hanks explained.

"That's a bargain — but the Baptist Mission of Kenya doesn't have \$10,000 lying around to pay for it," said Hanks, who developed the follow-up Bible studies. "All of its budget is

already committed, plus, as you have seen these past two weeks, every missionary Southern Baptists have in this



BASKIN

FENDLEY

GILMORE

LAMMERSFELD

Gilmore, Baskin on program at pastors' retreat at Carson

The annual pastors' retreat, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department, will be held Aug. 27-30 at Camp Carson in Newport.

Larry Gilmore, pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin, will serve as camp pastor. Gilmore was elected last November as president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Bill Baskin, pastor of New Way Fellowship Church, Miami, Fla., will serve as Bible study teacher for the week-long camp.

Baskin will lead the study in the book of Acts, the focus of the 1991 January Bible Study emphasis throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Music during the week will be provided by Floyd Lammersfeld, a voca-

tional evangelist from Gleason, and Marty Hennis, a member of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

Other speakers during the retreat include Tom Lee, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director; Murray Mathis, TBC president and pastor, Third Church, Murfreesboro; and Glenn Weekley, pastor, First Church, Hendersonville.

Archie Fendley, minister of activities at Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville, will serve as recreation director for the camp.

Jerry King, director of the TBC Evangelism Department, is camp director.

For additional information regarding the pastors' retreat, contact the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058.

Executive Committee meeting coverage set next week

This issue of the Baptist and Reflector went to press prior to the SBC Executive Committee meeting yesterday in Nashville.

The meeting was to have been held "to consider the termination" of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin, director and news editor of Baptist Press.

A meeting of the Administrative and Convention Arrangements subcommittee was to have been held at 8 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. meeting of the entire Executive Committee.

It was not known at press time whether the meeting would be held in executive session. A large crowd of interested Baptists was expected.

Specific charges had not been expressed by Executive Committee officers who called the special meeting, other than "irreconcilable differences" coming from a difference in perception of news.

Read next week's Baptist and Reflector for details on the outcome.

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

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
I've seen these past two weeks, every missionary Southern Baptists have in this
Historical Commission

Editorials

Summer, time for relaxing and planning church budgets

It's vacation time.

The lakes beckon, the mountains and the beaches, or a visit to relatives' home, or painting the house.

We spend vacations in a variety of ways. Among the most important things to remember and plan for — are rest and relaxation. This does not mean separation from God and church life, prayer and meditation. Our spiritual selves need respite from the daily hub-bub of modern living.

But we must never overlook or neglect those places in our inner selves where dwells the Holy Spirit of God. All members of the family should be considered in planning for vacation. Every effort should be made to come back home feeling restored and renewed — in spirit, body, mind.

For Tennessee Baptists as well as others, we should remember that the church must continue to function in our absence — but we can give our tithes and offer our prayers continuously. Leaving God "at home" is no way to spend a vacation.

A second important fact about summer-time is that fall comes on the heels of vacations and hot weather.

That means that church activities crank up again with increased vigor and there is more than enough for everyone to do. Church budgets should be studied, planned well before "back to school" time.

Budgets should not be planned or acted on hastily. The whole church family should be involved, and sufficient time should be taken to allow input from all. Efforts should be made to

interest the church family in budgeting and Christian stewardship.

Budgets should be reviewed — nothing should be exempt from scrutiny. Pastor and staff salaries should be discussed from viewpoints of need, merit, inflation, Christian stewardship, leadership ability — and not measured by salaries of budget committee members.

Where is the church headed? That determination has much bearing on what a church budget should be. Is the church membership dreaming — or praying for God's vision to be

fulfilled through the church there in the community?

It's vacation time now — but it is also time for getting down to serious work on the church budget. Prayers for the budget process should be at least as strong as the will of the people to work.

With prayer, proper planning, inclusion of the church in the process, and an open line to ministry and missions — the church budget will challenge and strengthen the church to be the most powerful salt and the brightest of lights. — WFA

How Baptists can get by on a 'Shoe String'

In the July 25 issue, the Baptist and Reflector will introduce a new feature. We believe it will be accepted and appreciated by thousands of Tennessee Baptists.

Though the new feature was created and designed specifically for younger Baptists — it probably will have appeal for all ages.

For some months it has been our dream to have a regular feature in the Baptist and Reflector for our younger audience. We have never expected them to be overjoyed by reading of meetings, events, conferences, conventions, and other matters aimed at adults.

But children are vital in any family of which they are a part — and beginning next week, we will give them something more on their level of understanding and participation.

Thanks to the collective genius of Rob Sauls, Darrell Vandergriff, Lib McCluskey, and our own staff, we introduce "Shoe Strings,

the Kid's Fun Page." We plan this children's oriented feature to appear in the fourth issue each month.

The stories will be Biblically-based. There will be art work — and things to do, such as puzzles, mazes, fill in the blanks, complete the Scripture verse.

This is an exciting venture for us, and we are pleased to present it to the children (young and old) in Tennessee Baptist families. As they read and use this page month by month, we hope they will be taking part in an important family ritual — using their state paper, the Baptist and Reflector.

We expect to make new friends, and we encourage children and parents to give us their thoughts and ideas. And — adults can sharpen their skills also. We offer "Shoe Strings" in the hope it will bless our readers. — WFA

HMB president outlines plan to increase baptisms

RIDGECREST (BP) — It is possible, Larry Lewis claims, for every Southern Baptist church to baptize at least 120 people a year.

Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, outlined a plan to accomplish that objective during the annual home missions conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. Conference registration reached 2352 the second day of the meeting.

Lewis said most churches have at least ten groups or programs which could lead one person to Christ each month. At that rate, the church would see 120 people a year make professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

One such group is pastors. Lewis said pastors need to be model soul winners because "the sheep won't go where the shepherd does not lead."

He said he does not believe that the average Southern Baptist pastor is a soul winner because "we are winning

so few." He noted that last year almost 8000 Southern Baptist churches reported no baptisms, and the average Southern Baptist church baptized seven people.

The church's staff must also be soul winners, Lewis said. Whether their job is music minister or education director, Lewis said the staff should have a burden for the lost.

Soul-winning should be a requirement for deacons, Lewis said. "A street cleaner who is a soul winner is better qualified to lead in the church's business than the bank vice president who is not a soul winner," Lewis said. "We have gotten caught up in the idolatry of talent."

Sunday School workers should understand that "reaching and teaching are dual responsibilities," Lewis said. "Sunday school teachers do not teach the Bible. Put a Bible in that chair and try to teach it. You teach people."

"Break out ministries" are what

Lewis calls programs such as food pantries, job placement and literacy training. "The best way to win somebody to God is ministering to his needs," Lewis said. Churches should ask people in their communities, "where do you hurt and how can we help?"

Bus ministries, visitation teams, and youth and recreation programs must be centered around evangelism, Lewis said. "Our family life centers are great and wonderful, but are they winning people to God?"

Churches where he has served as pastor have had "fishermen's clubs" where members meet to pray for and visit lost prospects.

Starting mission churches is the final soul-winning method Lewis mentioned. "There are two ways for churches to grow: expansion and extension. Church extension is the most fruitful," he said.

One Home Mission Board Bold Mission Thrust Goal is to have 50,000 churches and church-type missions by the year 2000. In 1989, there were 43,694 such churches and missions.

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EUDORA BAPTIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS

Mother's Day offering nears goal

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has reached 91 percent of its goal for the 1990 Mother's Day Offering. By July 16, \$869,068 had been received by the TBCH central office toward the goal of \$950,000.

The books will remain open on the offering until July 31.

"Since there was no increase in Cooperative Program funds in the Children's Homes this year, we are counting on the Mother's Day Offering to help make up some of the dif-

ference," said Gerald L. Stow, TBCH executive director.

About one-third of the TBCH annual budget is funded through the Mother's Day Offering, taken by Baptist churches across the state. The money is used to provide care, counseling, and spiritual guidance to abused and neglected children at four regional campuses.

Stow said churches are encouraged to send their offering before the end of the month so it can be counted toward the goal.

Baptist and Reflector

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Memphis churches merge, will begin new black mission

By Connie J. Umstead, news assistant

After changes in the immediate community and a decline in membership prompted members of Lamar Heights Church, Memphis, to vote to merge with another church, the congregation officially joined Cherry Road Church, also in Memphis, July 1.

Charles Dill, pastor of Lamar Heights Church, said the community surrounding the church began to change in the 1960's. Church members moved from the neighborhood, which in some estimates, is now 98 percent black.

Membership in the 75-year-old church has declined at a 13 percent rate each year since 1982. In 1988-1989, it declined more than 20 percent. Attendance went from 900 during the church's peak to only 85-90 on Sunday mornings. The average age was 70-75 years old and no youth or children attended.

The merger was "not only inevitable, it was God-oriented," Dill said. "I feel very comfortable about taking my people to Cherry Road."

The decision to merge was not made overnight.

In January 1989, Dill discussed the situation with the congregation. A survey was done later in the year to determine what members thought

should be done — whether the church should disband, merge with another, or give the property to Shelby Association. Dill said more than 70 percent wanted something to be done rather than go on as they were.

In October, the membership voted to discontinue ministries at the Lamar Avenue location and seek to merge with another church, all to be accomplished within two years.

Dill mentioned the members' decision at a pastors' conference in Memphis, and also sent letters seeking invitations.

The church received eight invitations and considered six.

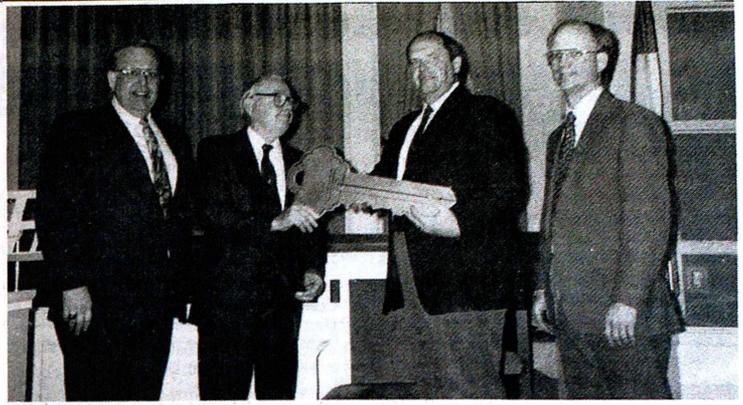
Cherry Road Church Pastor Reuben L. Trussell said he heard Dill mention the merger at the pastors' conference, but didn't act on it.

Then Rob Finley, member of Bellevue Church, Memphis, and son-in-law of a Cherry Road Church member, approached Trussell and encouraged him to respond to Dill's request.

Finley had been a supply preacher at Lamar Heights Church and felt the two churches were similar and would make a good match, Trussell said.

The next day, Trussell received a letter from Dill.

"I responded immediately and that's where it began," Dill said.



JOINING TOGETHER — During the final service held June 24 at Lamar Heights Church, Memphis, a symbolic passing of the key took place with representatives of Cherry Road Church. The two churches merged and held their first joint service July 1. From left, Charles Dill, pastor, Lamar Heights; Noel Lazenby, member of the transition committee and trustee from Lamar Heights; Reuben Trussell, pastor, Cherry Road Church; and Tommy Crocker, minister of education at Cherry Road and a member of the transition committee.

— Photo by James Redding

After studying the other churches, in January, 1990, the Lamar Heights Church congregation voted to talk specifically with Cherry Road Church about a merger.

Committees were formed and a recommendation was made to phase in the merger which was completed July 1.

Wednesday evening activities were combined in May, and Sunday evening services in June. Letters of Lamar Heights Church members were received into the Cherry Road Church

membership July 1, and ownership of the Lamar Avenue property was deeded to Cherry Road Church.

Dill said Cherry Road Church was an ideal church for his congregation to join.

"Their people are much like our people, and are in the same socio-economic group. Many Cherry Road people are former Lamar Heights people."

In addition, many elderly members still live near the neighborhood and Cherry Road Church is only three miles from the Lamar Avenue location. Cherry Road Church also has better facilities for the elderly who cannot manage steps.

"I really believe the Lord led and we've done it right," Dill said. "We wanted our people to feel good, and I think they do. We've obeyed the Lord. We've prayed. He's opened doors."

Another reason the congregations are suited to each other is that both are interested in starting a mission at the Lamar Avenue location.

Trussell said several in his congregation are concerned about churches relocating to the suburbs and abandoning mid-city churches because no ministries were replacing them. Approximately half of the population of Memphis is black and there are only four or five black Southern Baptist congregations, Trussell explained. He added that, through talking with people in Houston, Dallas, and Atlanta where work with black missions is more in depth, he has learned that black people prefer to worship with black congregations.

"There is no Southern Baptist work in the vicinity of Lamar Heights with the black population," Trussell said. "We felt this would be a golden opportunity to help the community by establishing a mission. Our laypeople felt strongly about this."

In a report of the joint committees of the two churches, it was stated that Cherry Road Church, as the primary sponsor of the mission, will seek resources from the Home Mission Board, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Shelby Association, and other churches.

There is one big drawback to the merger. It will leave Dill without a pastorate.

"People say, 'What's going to happen to you?' I don't know. I'm just going to stand in faith... and wait until the Lord opens the door for me," Dill said.

Atlanta meeting to study SBC funding

DALLAS — "Moderate" leaders within the Southern Baptist Convention have called a national meeting, to be held in Atlanta Aug. 23-25, to draft an alternate funding plan for those dissatisfied with the way the SBC Executive

Committee divides the Cooperative Program budget.

Dan Vestal, unsuccessful candidate for the SBC presidency, called the meeting after he was defeated by Morris Chapman in the New Orleans con-

vention. Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Church, Atlanta.

At a July 12-13 meeting in Dallas, Vestal and the executive committee of Baptists for the SBC were joined by leaders of Southern Baptist Alliance and SBC Today.

The Atlanta meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Sheraton Atlanta Airport Hotel, adjourning at noon Aug. 25. The meeting is open to the public.

At the Dallas meeting, Vestal said, "We don't envision another political network to promote a presidential candidate in 1991. We are not out to create a new denomination."

"We just want to get on with the kingdom, with like-minded people. We need to come together, to talk about how best to cooperate for world missions in the future, in keeping with historic Christian and Baptist principles."

The Dallas meeting resulted in four major proposals to be made in Atlanta next month: an alternate funding mechanism put in place immediately, "so churches unhappy with SBC budget allocations will have an optional vehicle for the SBC portion of their Cooperative Program gifts;" an interim budget for division of funds received through the alternate funding program; a structure for a new fellowship to give ongoing leadership to those who support the fellowship; and creation of an executive committee to plan for a national convocation next spring to recommend ongoing budgets, programs, and structures.

Joining Vestal in presiding over the August meeting will be Jimmy Allen, president of Baptists Committed and former SBC president. Allen said, "Our agenda is open. The blackboard is blank at the moment. We want input from concerned moderate/conservative Baptists across the country." — from news reports.

Participants question SBC attendance

RIDGECREST (BP) — Southern Baptists attending a week-long missions festival wanted to know why messengers to the denomination's annual convention couldn't give one hour to hear a mission board report.

That was the most common — and most applauded — question asked of four SBC agency heads by participants in a town hall meeting during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

About 200 people attended the question-and-answer session July 1 with Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis, Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellana O'Brien, and Brotherhood Commission President James Smith. More than 2000 people registered for the missions festival, which is sponsored by those four agencies and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

During the one-hour town hall meeting, participants twice asked about low attendance for reports of the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board during the annual Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans June 12-14. A total of 38,465 messengers registered for the convention. Attendance at the HMB report on Tuesday was estimated at less than 3000 while attendance at the FMB report on Wednesday night was estimated between 8000 and 10,000.

"Is this a barometer of the spiritual fervor of our convention?" one partici-

pant asked.

Parks responded: "I think it indicates that the people who are there do not understand who we are as Southern Baptists and are not focusing on what has brought us together, what has held us together and what is our hope for the future."

"I wouldn't translate it into a spiritual barometer," he added. "I would characterize it more as a lack of understanding of the inherent nature of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"If by indifference and neglect, the enthusiasm and support of our missions agencies dwindles away, the Southern Baptist Convention will die," Parks warned. "I don't think they understand that."

When asked by another person about the same issue, Lewis said he too was disappointed at the small crowd.

"The format of the convention is such that people are absolutely worn out by the end of Tuesday," he explained. "Most of the major business has been put on the agenda for Tuesday."

"People come in very early to get a seat, and they don't leave even for lunch. When the Tuesday afternoon session is over, they are mentally and physically exhausted."

"A lot of it, too, reflects priorities," Lewis added. "Is the real concern of the convention missions and evangelism? Or is it a political agenda?"

"I think the most important thing we're about as Southern Baptists is to reach our world for Christ."

Our Readers Write

Special friends

My husband and I were invited to Camp Linden in May by Margaret Mason and the Special Friends Ministry from our church. I wasn't sure that I wanted to go, but I prayed a lot about it and I went along.

The sun didn't shine until we started home. It was a little too cold, the wind blew most of the time, and the sky was cloudy and gray all weekend.

But we had all the sunshine we could use and it came from the faces of our special friends. From their hearts came all the love we could use, and then some. I have heard the most beautiful prayers, and seen perfect faith for the first time in my life.

These special people sure blessed my heart. Now I pray that I will get to go next year. Rain or shine it doesn't matter. When our special friends meet at Camp Linden, rays of sunshine came from their faces and true faith and love from their hearts.

God has blessed me by allowing me to share this time with them. I believe God chose Margaret Mason for this ministry. She is perfect for it. May God bless our Special Friends Ministry and our church and especially Camp Linden.

Mary Carr
4964 Metro Rd.
Eads 38028

Getting together

Jerry Clower's comments in a June 20 article in the Baptist and Reflector were interesting. I had that same personal experience with Jesus Christ at eight in 1925. For 65 years as a loyal Baptist, I have done my best to be a cooperating and good follower and member. This business of a "power struggle" bothers me. We ought not be using "inerrancy" and "how to interpret the Bible" as reasons to throw out about half of us that do not always agree with the "bosses."

It has been my attitude always to stay on the level with people, counsel with them and have an attitude of serving. Power, prestige, and personal gain should not be a part of us if we believe in Christian, brotherly love, and service to others.

If we encounter problems, 99 percent can be worked out if we get with those concerned, show personal interest, and have an unselfish attitude. People should not be fired because they do not agree with "the boys in power." Those in power ought to be more humble than anyone and work for the good of the entire organization. The Bible should be left up to every individual and his Christian beliefs.

Some of our actions remind me of politicians, and politics has no place in a good Christian fellowship church. Vicious and vindictive actions only tear up and split an organization. I pray to God that our leaders will bury the hatchet and get together in a spirit of unity and helpfulness to all.

Henry Wattenbarger
114 Loveliss Ct.
Kingston 37763

Observations

To those who seek power, position, and control of the Southern Baptist Convention, whether they be conservative, moderate, or liberal, these observations seem to be in order:

1. Quit trying to make a corporate body out of a cooperative assembly. Read Matthew 20:25-28.
2. Quit using the Bible as a club to beat people over the head with. It is to be used as a guide for our faith and practice. Read Luke 5:20.
3. Love the Bible, it is a very challeng-

ing book. It reveals to us the incarnate, infallible, and inerrant Word of God which is Jesus Christ. Read John 1:1 and 2 — and Revelation 19:13.

When the psalmist wrote in Psalm 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in my heart," he wasn't talking about the Bible, for he didn't have the Bible as we know it. He was talking about an experiential relationship with the true word of God.

Thank God! There will be no conventions, Southern Baptist or otherwise, in Heaven.

E. Smith Robertson
404 McDonald Dr.
Nashville 37217

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.

Integrity cannot be purchased

Regarding the proposed firing of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin and the continued "purging" in our agencies, integrity cannot be purchased and is not for sale. Not for six months salary, not for the promise of less persecution in exchange for silence. These two wonderful Christians have given devotedly and unselfishly to serving Jesus Christ, letting His truth be known. Many, many Baptists want to say thank you with continued appreciation and prayers of encouragement. Grace be with you.

Jack C. Bishop Jr.
Signal Mountain Church
939 Ridgeway Ave.
Signal Mountain 37377

Near liberation

I have read the various comments concerning the proposed action of the Executive Committee concerning Baptist Press. People have responded emotionally rather than rationally to this issue.

There were comments comparing the proposed action to dictators denying basic human rights. What some have never realized is that conservatives have rights too. It would be different if there were two state papers or two sources of press releases. I would be very happy to choose the other one but there is no choice. I believe things have improved since the Peace Committee report. I'm thankful that I no longer read open endorsements of moderate candidates but there is still, in my opinion, a definite moderate slant coming from Baptist Press.

I do not feel as if conservatives have taken over anything as much as I feel that we are on the verge of being liberated. It excites me to think that convention events may be reported with a different slant. I say it is long overdue and if fairness is our goal, let's have conservative slanted reporting for the next 20 years and then negotiate after that.

We do not have self-appointed leaders or dictators but we do have Godly leaders who have heard the voice of a clear majority of Southern Baptists and

are attempting to carry out our wishes. After all that is the American way and the Baptist way.

Charles Bailey
3073 McCarty Rd.
Louisville 37777

Earlier training helps

July 11 edition of Baptist and Reflector demonstrates why a change must be made not only at Baptist Press but also Baptist and Reflector. Ten letters were printed in the "Our readers write," section and all gave one slanted opinion of the moderate — liberal faction. So too did the articles of the paper. The inerrantists of the convention (which are clearly in the majority) are tired of the biased press including yours. We are not a "take-over" group, we are traditional Southern Baptists. I agree Baptists have a "right to know," the problem is you write a slanted version of what you want them to know. They have a right to know that as a student at Southern Seminary, (I graduated in 1984) I was told by a professor that "There are no conservative scholars." He and other professors led students to believe if a man believed inerrancy he could not be "a scholar." If it had not been for earlier training at Clear Creek Baptist School and reading scholars' material from Dallas Theological Seminary and others I might have believed them as other students did. Baptists have a right to know the whole story, why don't you tell it!

Carl Simmons, pastor
Cornerstone Church
Rt. 10, Box 390A
McMinnville 37110

Astonished

I was absolutely astonished at the revelations in the July 4 issue of the machinations of the Executive Committee in the efforts to suppress information about the Shackleford, Martin dismissal from Baptist Press. And even worse, the attempt to "buy" off the men.

And further, their willingness to use the SBC treasury to pay them off. It seems to me this is a sad commentary on the character of those now in positions of power in the SBC. I hope they never get their plans in place in the TBC and muzzle our press. Please continue to report it when an attempt is made to keep us uninformed.

Helen Garrigan
Union City 38261

Love the Lord

A writer on the letters page July 4 said truth must be spoken in love. He also wrote that Southern Baptists are first a people of the Book.

Is the Book where we came in first? My first commitment has always been to the Lord of the Book. I first said "yes" to the Lord. I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins. I felt it was the Lord of the Book that was first. He set me free from sin and death. He poured out his life's blood for me.

Jesus said the greatest commandment of all is that we should love the Lord God. I don't mean to imply that others haven't had the same experience that I have had.

The writer said that truth is the basis of cooperation. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all knew all the "truth."

I think we are first a people of the Lord, committed to His church, stewards of His Holy Word.

Joseph Scalf
Route 2, Box 53GG
Edenton, N. C. 27932

Original purpose

I thought it was appalling when a prominent member of the SBC made public statements in support of the racist regime of South Africa, but the actions of the SBC Executive Committee to fire two

honorable employees of the Baptist Press without giving them a public hearing is abhorrent.

As far as I can tell, their "crime" was to report BOTH sides of issues that should be important to all Southern Baptists. Shame on Mr. Pace and the other members of the Executive Committee who support this clumsy and unfair handling of this matter.

I thank God for the courage of the editors of the SPBA who have gone on record in support of the rights of Southern Baptists to hear and read news produced by a FREE press. These actions by the Executive Committee in this matter have sickened and angered me and a number of my fellow Southern Baptists.

And worse, I am beginning to fear that the effectiveness (and even the existence) of the Southern Baptist Convention is in grave jeopardy. Let's quit "labeling," let's quit "politicking," let's get back to witnessing and serving.

That was the purpose of the formation of the SBC. Is it too much to ask that we get back to that original purpose?

Bill Joe Nix
P. O. Box 924
Shelbyville 37160

Letters about BP staff

• Regarding letters about the SBC Executive Committee's call for resignation or termination of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin: all letters received by press time last week were published in that issue. In this week's paper, because of space limitations, all are published except for nine which favor Baptist Press as it is. — Editor

Pastor qualifications

As one unknown author discovered, choosing a good pastor is difficult.

"One member of a pastor search committee lost patience as one applicant after another was rejected. Recognizing the need for a bit of soul searching by the committee, he stood and read a purported letter from an applicant.

Brethren: Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I've been a preacher with much success and some success as a writer. Some say I've been a good leader most places I've been.

I'm past 50 years old. I have never preached in one place more than three years. In some places I've left town after my efforts have caused disturbances or riots. I confess I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrongdoing.

My health is not good, yet I still get a great deal accomplished. The churches I pastored have all been small, though located in several large cities.

I've not gotten along well with religious leaders in the places where I've preached. In fact, some have attacked me physically. Admittedly I am not too good at keeping records and I've been known to forget whom I have baptized.

However, if you can use me I am available and I shall do my best for you.

Well what do you think, shall we invite him for an interview and hear him preach? 'What, consider an unhealthy trouble-making, absent-minded ex-jailbird,' they responded. Who would have such nerve to apply?

The spokesman replied — It's signed, The Apostle Paul."

In some cases, getting an opportunity is difficult also.

J. L. Miller
130 Porter Rd.
Dickson 37055

Embassy advises of threat in Philippines . . .

(Continued from page 1) and the Pacific, has sent a detailed advisory explaining the Philippine situation to journeymen and to Clarence Stewart, the Tennessee coordinator for the volunteer project.

"Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines are continuing their work but being more cautious in light of recent developments there," the advisory states.

Stewart plans to give background information to the volunteers, but said he expects them to go to Mindanao as scheduled. The 24 volunteers from Tennessee and one from Texas will divide into eight teams working in about ten churches on Mindanao in crusades and various outreach ministries. Stewart will make the trip himself.

Ingouf has explained to Stewart and to journeymen that their work will be in areas not considered major risks, but "no one can guarantee any area is

without risk," he said.

"We're taking the advice and the counsel of the leadership at the Foreign Mission Board and of our missionaries in the Philippines," said Stewart.

Including this volunteer group, Tennessee Baptists will have sent 152 volunteers to the Philippines since the partnership began in April 1989. Previously, Tennessee Baptists "who have gone in have had great experiences and have come back feeling no insecurity or no threats," said Stewart. "We're looking toward having the same experience. Also we're looking to minister to people even though there may be some unrest."

Waldron said the Tennessee project has not been cancelled because volunteers plan to work directly with missionaries in areas considered safe. The cancelled summer missions project included mostly "inexperienced

college students" who would have lived in Filipino homes in more remote areas, he said. "There was just too much risk."

Waldron traveled recently on Mindanao and said he found missionaries there feeling "quite safe and confident in the areas where they are and where most of their work is being done."

The State Department has issued travel advisories for certain areas of the Philippines, but travelers have not been advised to stay away or leave.

For two decades, the NPA's guerrilla units have conducted raids in an effort **In Israel**

to disrupt the Philippine government. Activity has increased during the recent renegotiation of contracts for U.S. military bases in the country.

The Philippine military said in late June that rebels in Manila plan to target Americans and other foreigners for assassination and kidnapping during the next six months. A month earlier, the NPA had targeted American service personnel and was linked to killings of two U.S. military personnel, according to news reports.

— *Foreign Mission Board Staff*
Writer Donald D. Martin contributed to this story.

Baptist properties under dispute

JERUSALEM, Israel (BP) — Baptists are disputing with two city governments that have laid claim to parts of two strategic Baptist properties in Israel.

Negotiations with government offices have grown more tense in recent weeks following publication of articles in two major Hebrew-language newspapers which express strong criticism of Baptists.

The disputes center on the seizure of land occupied by Jerusalem House, a Baptist ministry center near the Mandelbaum Gate in the historic center of Jerusalem and of land at

Baptist Village, a retreat and conference center near Tel Aviv. The two actions apparently are unrelated.

About 20 percent of Jerusalem House's land will become part of a four-lane road, and a portion of the Baptist Village land will become part of a trash processing center.

Jerusalem House is on the border of Eastern Jerusalem, which is Arab, and Western Jerusalem, which is Jewish. Nearby Mandelbaum Gate was used as a main passageway between the two sectors from 1948 to 1967. Included in Jerusalem House are offices for Southern Baptist representatives.

Crusade nets 20,814 new . . .

(Continued from page 1) in Zambia but now has hundreds of thousands of students around the world.

In Mombasa, names and addresses of all those who made decisions were entered in a computer. They will receive the tracts and Bible Way application through the mail and an invitation to the Bible studies in their neighborhood. Pastors in neighborhoods also will receive computer print-outs of the names for personal follow-up.

The volunteers were also challenged to look upon their African experiences as a starting point.

"We're loading these missionaries beyond belief," said Bob Clements, a Foreign Mission Board trustee and

evangelist from Austin, Texas. "I can't help but believe there are people here tonight that God wants to call out as career missionaries."

In other news from Kenya, a Southern Baptist missionary family, a volunteer couple and the married daughter of a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrator were harassed by roving gangs during flare-ups of violence in Kenya July 9.

None of them were harmed in the confrontations, and the city seemed to be back to normal on July 10.

Six other missionary families arrived home safely after driving to or through Nairobi from a major, four-week evangelistic campaign, the Kenya Coastal Crusade, which has not been affected by the political situation in the east African nation.

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

I'm sharing the opening and closing words of a little book written by Paul B. Smith called *The Church on the Brink*.

"God may not choose to do things tomorrow in exactly the same way He did them yesterday. The Bible stresses . . . that God does not change, but it is quite obvious that He does not deal with all of us in the same manner."

Those words open the book. Then he goes on to discuss revival among God's people. About the "old" revivals preached by such giants as Wesley, Whitefield, Finney, Moody, Sunday, and others — he emphasizes that we may never see revival in exactly the same way again.

There are exciting side effects. Beer halls closed down, crime diminished, and it is said that in Wales, for example, the mules that worked in the mines had to learn a new language because their drivers suddenly stopped cursing. Thrilling stories are repeated to us. In the Hebrides revival, drunkards, of their own volition, threw down the bottle and went to the churches as saved people. Gambling stopped because there was a unique oneness in spirit among the Christians. They were praying!

"As Christians," says Smith in his conclusion, "we must follow and model our lives after someone. We may choose to follow the sinner whom Paul describes in detail, or we may choose to follow the saint with whom Paul associated himself. May God grant that we will make the right choice."

"This decision is vitally important, not only because of its effect on us, but also because of its influence on others. We will follow someone and someone will follow us.

"The Apostle Paul seems to be saying that religion is not enough — regeneration is necessary. That there will be a 'Damascus Road' experience when our inadequate righteousness shrivels up into a pile of dung and we are wrapped in the righteousness of Jesus. Then after we have been born again, we find ourselves on the race-course of life, trudging toward the mark.

"But that race may be a sort of super marathon mostly involving walking, plodding from day to day — often out of sight of the grandstand — until we finally find ourselves, by the grace of God, back in the arena surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses and ready to receive our crown."

Now it comes to living the Christian life as an individual, as a community, as a single church. These can have renewal. And there may not be hundreds or thousands of souls won to Christ. But there can be renewal. For every person who has been saved — and then is really renewed — there will be a brighter light shining for Christ and leading men to Him. There will be a concerned witness loose on the way.

It must be one on one. Each life, lived for Christ, is an adventure, and revival.

History will arrive at its goal. The message comes to us from Christ Himself that He has run the race, has finished His work, has turned to His witnesses for the redeeming ministry of telling others of precious salvation.



ALLEN

SBC president

Chapman encourages CP giving

Southern Baptists must not be deterred from the gigantic task of winning our world to Christ. Missions and evangelism, along with church growth, have always been at the heart of our faith in action. Bold Mission Thrust is a vital strategy for planting churches and for reaching the unsaved. I enthusiastically encourage every pastor and church leader to review the goals and methods of Bold Mission Thrust and to ask the question, "How can our church better participate in this historic challenge?"

Now is the time to enhance our cooperative spirit through substantial participation in the Cooperative Program. We must be certain that we do not damage our world mission effort to present the claims of Christ to the five billion people around the globe. In instances where churches currently give a minimal amount through the Cooperative Program, I urge that prayerful consideration be given to an increased participation.

I strongly disagree with and discourage anyone who would call for withholding Cooperative Program funds or who would call for negative designations (selective designations) to be directed around

the Cooperative Program.

I caution churches against choosing to bypass certain national agencies and seminaries and likewise caution state conventions against choosing to selectively designate funds on a national level. Such action could lead local churches to decide to support the national organizations to the exclusion of state organizations. I do not think this generation of Southern Baptists wants to engage in unraveling the methods of funding which God has so greatly honored.

Southern Baptists are now poised to enter the 90s with hearts tuned to expanding our witness for Christ around the world. Now is the time for reduced rhetoric, for Christ-like attitudes and for gracious communication. Now is the time to focus on spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now is the time to boost our world-wide missions enterprise. Now is the time to encourage cooperative participation. We need to pray that God will grant us wisdom and courage for the facing of this hour.

— *Morris H. Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Southern Baptist Convention president.*

Sponsors needed

Tennesseans involved in ministry to Soviet refugees

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — "Soviet Pentecostals" are the newest group of refugees seeking Baptist sponsors in the United States.

Soviet Pentecostal is a catch-all term for Protestants who were not members of Russian Orthodox, Catholic or registered Protestant churches in the Soviet Union, said William Rutledge, assistant director for refugee church growth with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The term is not related to highly emotional religious groups Americans equate with Pentecostalism.

Rutledge is seeking churches or associations to sponsor such families.

The focus on Soviet Pentecostals is an extension of the Home Mission Board's refugee resettlement program which previously has centered on people from Asia and Spanish-speaking countries, he said.

The number of refugees from Soviet bloc countries is "literally in the thousands each month," Rutledge said. For example, in April, Church World Services handled 376 refugee cases from the Soviet bloc. But, Church World Services only processes about ten percent of refugees seeking sponsors in the United States, Rutledge said.

The Home Mission Board is not a member of Church World Services, but

works with the organization to place refugees.

Despite expanded religious freedom in the Soviet Union, Jim Powers, director of missions for Concord Baptist Association in Murfreesboro, said Russians "live with the fear that the liberties will be taken away."

As long as the government denounces a belief in God, "there is no hope," said Liubov Mormul, a Russian refugee who moved to the United States last year with her parents and her three children.

To be classified as a refugee, a person must have experienced persecution or the threat of persecution. Mormul's family experienced death, imprisonment and poisoning because of their Baptist convictions, she said.

Michael Thomas is pastor of New Vision Mission in Murfreesboro which, along with Concord Association, sponsored Mormul's family and another Soviet family. "Our people did the hands-on work, but we could not have done it without the association's help," Thomas said.

Powers said joint sponsorship is almost essential with Soviet families because of family size. "It would be very hard for any single church to sponsor one family with 12 or ten people," Powers explained.

Powers estimates the cost of sponsoring a large family at \$1000 a month, which includes renting a house and paying utilities. Cost depends greatly on the size of the family and donation of items such as linens and furniture.

When a church or association agrees to sponsor a family, it agrees to provide food, clothing, and shelter for at

least three months. However, Thomas said sponsors should be prepared to support the family for six months.

The obligation includes running a number of errands, from getting Social Security cards for the family to enrolling children in school and taking the family to the local health department for screenings. Thomas said the paperwork at first can be overwhelming, as everything has to be documented with refugee resettlement officials.

One of the sponsor's key responsibilities is to help the adults find work. Rutledge said many of the refugees are highly skilled but must take entry level jobs until they master the language. For example, he said a doctor from Romania is working as a nurse's aid until he can pass the medical exams in English.

Sponsoring refugees is an investment that can return eternal dividends, Rutledge said. He noted that about 380 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention are "refugee churches" composed primarily of refugees from a certain country.

Thomas said his church, though only 18 months old, agreed to help sponsor the families because they "have a broader vision than fostering our immediate needs."

Powers, who has personally sponsored three families, said refugee resettlement is "a tremendous experience. I feel like we're saving lives, literally."

Churches or associations interested in sponsoring refugees should contact Rutledge at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30367.



HONOR STUDENTS — Three adult ministerial students were awarded the School of Biblical Studies and Ministry's highest honors at the end of the 1989-90 academic year at Belmont College. From left, Randy Sledge, pastor, Riverdale Chapel, Murfreesboro, Tabor Ministerial Award; Lloyd Mullens, First Church, Donelson, Roy C. Helton Award; and Robert Maxwell, Eagleville Church, Eagleville, Landis and John D. Freeman Christian Leadership Award.

Segraves, Williams win state Bible drill, speakers' tournament

Carrie Segraves of First Church, Huntingdon, proved to be the fastest Bible driller in the state July 2 by capturing first place in the State Youth Bible Drill sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department.

Segraves, representing the northeastern region of the state, out-drilled seven other regional representatives and an at-large driller.

Second place in the Bible drill went to Lori Bradley of Northport Church, Newport, while third place was earned by Mary-Margaret

Moore, Belle Fonte Church, Cleveland.

The finalists at the drill earned their way "up the ladder" winning Bible drills at the church, associational, and regional levels, according to Mary Allen, director of youth work in Discipleship Training.

Allen said Bible drills enable youth "to learn to use their Bibles and memorize Scriptures that will stay with them and help them in their daily decisions."

Laurie Williams of Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville, captured the state speakers' tournament. Sec-

ond place went to Karen Scott, Blairland Church, Loudon, and third place to Chad Segraves, First Church, Huntingdon.

Segraves is the brother of Carrie Segraves, winner of the Bible drill.

Allen said that to her knowledge this was the first year in which a brother-sister duo were in the finals of the two respective events at the same time.

Williams, as a result of her first place finish, earned a \$3600 scholarship which can be used at any of the state's three Baptist colleges — Belmont, Carson-Newman and Union. The scholarship can be used as a

freshman entering college and will be given \$450 per semester for four years.

Prior to this year, all nine participants in the state finals received \$400 scholarships. The state winner will now receive an additional \$3200 while the other participants will receive \$400 scholarships as before.

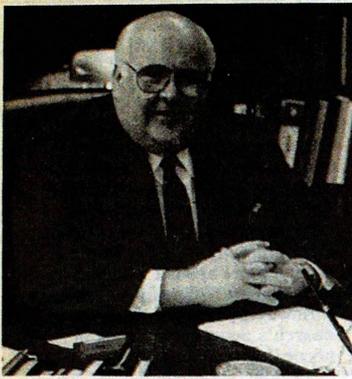
Both Williams and Segraves will represent Tennessee at Discipleship Training Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center Aug. 18-24. Williams will deliver her speech while Segraves will represent the state in a demonstration Bible Drill with other state winners.



BIBLE DRILLERS — Participating in the youth Bible drill state competition held recently at the Baptist Center in Brentwood were, from left, front row, Angela Webster, First Church, Whitwell; Mary-Margaret Moore, Belle Fonte Church, Cleveland; Emily O'Neal, Auburntown Church, Auburntown; and Carrie Ann Segraves, First Church, Huntingdon; back row, Ashley England, Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg; Lori Bradley, Northport Church, Newport; Shay Coker, East Maryville Church, Maryville; Michael Brashear, Ellendale Church, Memphis; and Laura Friel, First Church, Mt. Juliet.



YOUTH SPEAKERS — Participants in the youth speakers' tournament included, from left, Karen Scott, Blairland Church, Loudon; Laurie Williams, Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville; Leigh Farrow, Central Church, Oak Ridge; Chad Segraves, First Church, Huntingdon; Amy Belford, Parkway Church, Goodlettsville; Travis Caldwell, First Church, Whitwell; Jenny Emerson, First Church, Counce; Michael Brock, Welchland Church, Spencer; and Angela Cameron, Fernwood Church, Morristown.



JERRY KING



BILLY HINES



ANN EMERY, LOUISE FOX



CLARENCE STEWART, DORISE HAYNES

Witnessing is focus

Evangelism/Partnership Missions touch every facet of TBC

By *Connie J. Umstead, news assistant*
 While all departments within the Tennessee Baptist Convention have the same goal — to provide opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ — the Evangelism and Partnership Missions Departments both focus on witnessing. The Evangelism Department offers pastors and laypeople witnessing training, and Partnership Missions allows them to actually go to the field and witness.

Both departments are in the TBC Convention-Ministries division, which is directed by Bill Wilson.

Jerry King, director of the Evangelism Department, said his department's key role is teaching church and association members how to witness to others.

"My desire is that our department permeate every facet of life in the local Tennessee Baptist church," King said. He added that this is done through programs coordinated by members of his department: Billy Hines, program associate; Louise Fox, administrative secretary; and Ann Emery, secretary.

The Evangelism Department sponsors three major programs each year — the state evangelism conference, the youth evangelism conference, and the pastor's retreat.

The state evangelism conference, held in January, and the August pastor's retreat are planned two to three years in advance, King said. The department is responsible for programming, enlisting speakers, and staffing. The Bible study leader and a key speaker have already been scheduled for the 1992 state evangelism conference.

The youth evangelism conference, the largest of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention with an attendance of more than 30,000, is organized in less than a year. Since the event is held at Vanderbilt University Gymnasium, Nashville, the department must work around Vanderbilt's schedule.

In addition to the larger events, the department also promotes and implements programs sponsored by the Home Mission Board's evangelism section. The department is currently involved in enlisting six pilot churches to try the HMB's Total Church Life Seminar, which will emphasize outreach, witnessing, and discipleship.

Another program the TBC department is assisting the HMB with is Con-

tinuing Witnessing Training (CWT), which certifies pastors as CWT leaders. King helps lead the three national seminars provided each year by the HMB in the eastern, central, and western sections of the country.

"We cover all facets of how to implement CWT in local churches. There are 12 churches in Tennessee doing an excellent job in CWT," King said.

Other evangelism department programs include lay evangelism schools, evangelism emphasis days at the three state Baptist colleges, and one day soul-winning workshops.

The department also has a tent ministry. Churches and associations may borrow free of charge a tent that seats 300 people, lighting, and a stage. "The tent is in use constantly during the summer," King said.

In addition, members of the department help with workshops and seminars in other TBC departments, such as Sunday School and Discipleship Training.

"I think there is a feeling across the convention that the emphasis is on evangelism and missions because that's where we meet the needs of people," King said.

"Evangelism is an emphasis, not a program. We must cooperate with all entities of the TBC because the bottom line is reaching people for Christ," he added.

Most of the workshops and seminars are held away from Brentwood, and as a result, King and Hines spend much of their time traveling across the state.

"I feel that's where the ministry is," King explained. "I feel very strongly about being out there in the field, in the churches and associations."

Being in the field provides the backbone of the Partnership Missions Department as well.

"The number of people reached for Christ is the primary purpose of all that we do," said Clarence Stewart, director of the Partnership Missions Department. "Discipling people who have already been reached is also important."

Tennessee currently has partnerships with Michigan and the Philippines. Since the ministry's inception in 1980, Tennessee has had partnerships with Burkina Faso (Upper Volta) in Africa, and Venezuela. Foreign partnerships are usually three years, unless both partners agree to extend it.

There are many tasks volunteer missionaries carry out on trips to Michigan and the Philippines. Volunteers may do construction work; lead crusades, Bible studies, or training semi-

nars; assist career missionaries; start new churches; or offer health care. Tasks depend on what is needed and the skills of the volunteers.

"There is flexibility in the organization," Stewart said.

In addition to offering help in the field, volunteers receive benefits too, Stewart said. They have an active part in witnessing to lost people and strengthening existing mission work. They also have the opportunity to work with the missionaries they support with their Cooperative Program dollars. In the case of the Philippines, volunteers get to work with people of another culture.

Also, Stewart said several volunteers have answered the call to be career missionaries.

Michigan is divided into 14 cluster groups for the purposes of the partnership. Each cluster has a coordinator from Tennessee who handles project requests.

In 1989, at least 2700 volunteers from Tennessee went to Michigan.

The partnership with the Philippines began in 1989 with the major thrust beginning this year. Approximately 200 Tennesseans went to the Philippines last year.

Requests for work originate with the Philippine Baptist conventions and must be cleared through the Philippine Baptist Mission. The request is then forwarded to the Foreign Mission Board, and then to Stewart. Stewart then enlists volunteers and trains them

to fill the requests. He is assisted by Dorise Haynes, who will retire July 31.

Stewart said he has found personal contact to be the most effective in enlisting volunteers. He also involves former volunteers, pastors, and directors of missions in the enlistment process.

In addition, Stewart travels across the state urging people to become involved in missions in the Philippines and Michigan. He also makes one trip to the Philippines and one or two trips to Michigan each year.

Stewart gets other TBC staff involved in the partnerships. For instance, Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union staff have gone to Michigan, Venezuela, and Burkina Faso to upgrade men's and women's programs.

"Missions and evangelism is the heart of all we do here and that is the thrust of my ministry — introducing people to God through Jesus Christ," Stewart added.

A former pastor, Stewart believed God called him to mission work in the late 1940s, but the opportunity to do mission work did not come until many years later when he joined the TBC staff in 1986.

"There was always a yearning for the mission field. The door didn't open for the mission field, but it opened for pastorates," Stewart said. "After 30 years, the door opened and I had the privilege of serving in missions."

Tennessee Baptist blind to meet at Linden

The Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind will hold its ninth annual meeting Aug. 3-5 at Camp Linden in Linden.

The conference theme is "Discovering Your Spiritual Gift." Helen Voland, a member at Park Avenue Church, Nashville, will lead the weekend meeting.

Voland is an assistant teaching leader with Bible Study Fellowship, a national non-denominational Bible Study group, headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. Voland's class is located in Hendersonville.

The Sunday morning worship service will be led by Jerry Price, minister of education at Park Avenue Church. Price has been involved for the past three years in running Braille copies of Sunday School materials for adults, and just recently for children.

Other activities scheduled include recreation, singing, and a campfire on Saturday night.

Camp cost is \$35. An additional \$5 will be charged for linens provided by the camp. To pre-register, contact Mary Dettor, 1386 North Faronia Square, Memphis, Tenn. 38116 or call at (901) 345-7097.

First Church, Joelton, calls David Royalty

David Royalty recently became pastor of First Church, Joelton.

Before coming to Tennessee, Royalty served as director of missions of Bracken Association, Maysville, Ky. He has also served as pastor of churches in Kentucky.

Ordained in 1965, Royalty received a bachelor's degree from Campbellsville College, Campbellsville, Ky., and master of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Virginia Baptists to have 'choice' for SBC funding

RICHMOND (BP) — Members of two key Virginia Baptist committees have agreed to provide a "clear choice" for Virginia churches to fund ministries in their state and beyond.

The agreement, reached at a joint meeting June 28 of the Baptist General Association of Virginia's budget committee and denominational crisis committee, would permit churches to choose between two budget options in 1991.

The joint meeting was sparked by the decisive victory of "conservatives" at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans June 12-14.

Virginia "moderates," long dissatisfied with the national denomination's rightward tilt, have discussed alternative funding procedures for several years, and many observers expected a "moderate" loss in June to generate alternate proposals.

Budget committee chairperson Mary Wilson of McLean anticipated reaction prior to the SBC by calling a meeting

Bennett addresses drug abuse problem

NEW ORLEANS — The nation's top government figure in the fight against drug abuse called the problem "fundamentally a spiritual problem, a moral problem, seeking after meaning in a place where no meaning can come."

William Bennett spoke at a luncheon last month when Rapha hosted almost 3000 Southern Baptists in a pre-convention luncheon in New Orleans.

Bennett said the struggle against drug addiction is a problem of the "great deceiver," in his keynote address. Rapha, a major provider of inpatient psychiatric care and drug addiction treatment from a Christian perspective, held the meeting to introduce "Drug Free for Good."

The program is a comprehensive drug education and recovery program for churches, developed in conjunction with Southern Baptist pastors' "Congress on Drugs."

Information on the program is available by calling 1-800-526-8673.

of her panel for June 28. Following the SBC annual meeting, BGAV President Raymond L. Spence Jr. of Richmond asked the crisis committee to join them.

Although the decision to provide two budgets is not binding on the budget committee, it does give the committee "a sense of direction" in proposing Virginia Baptists' ministry budget for 1991, said BGAV Executive Director Reginald M. McDonough.

Normally, the budget committee presents its budget "for information purposes" at the Virginia Baptist General Board's October meeting. However, Spence said he will ask the other officers to join him in calling a special meeting of the general board on July 31.

The committee will present a proposal it hopes to have formulated by then and seek suggestions from the board. It then will incorporate board suggestions for final presentation at the October meeting and submit it to messengers for consideration and action at the BGAV annual meeting, Nov. 13-14.

The 1991 budget would go into effect Dec. 1.

Discussion at the June 28 meeting focused on the possibility of providing at least two options for churches as channels for their missions contributions.

The standard plan — variously called option A, the traditional plan or

Bob Stoner accepts call of Jamestown church

West Fentress Church, Jamestown, recently called Bob Stoner as pastor.

Stoner served in interim pastorates before being called back to West Fentress Church, where he had served before. He was also pastor of Unity Church, Jamestown.

The Livingston native was ordained in 1981 at Memorial Church in his hometown. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.

Stoner and his wife, Bertha, have two daughters.

the SBC plan — generally leaves intact the Cooperative Program budget format as it has operated for several years.

Although the division between Virginia and SBC causes might be changed — currently 62 percent of the \$16.3 million budget supports Virginia ministries and 38 percent funds Southern Baptist causes — the SBC portion would be distributed according to the formula approved by the SBC in June.

The revised plan — also called option B or the Virginia plan — would reduce the amount of money in the SBC portion of the budget by percentages to be determined by the budget committee.

In addition, the SBC portion would fund only selected ministries, deleting agencies and institutions which "moderates" do not feel they can in good conscience support. The Christian Life Commission and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, both now headed by "conservatives," were mentioned as possibilities by participants at the meeting.

The SBC portion of the revised plan would include contributions for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Af-

airs, whose budget was slashed by more than \$340,000 by the SBC in June.

SBC guidelines stipulate that if a church contributes funds to the national Cooperative Program while requesting that a portion of the funds be withheld for one or more causes in the SBC budget, all the church's contributions automatically become designated receipts and are not considered Cooperative Program funds.

However, that does not affect a church's messenger status in the SBC, according to BGAV Treasurer Nathaniel Kellum.

Northside Church calls Gary Akins as pastor

Gary H. Akins joined the staff of Northside Church, Chattanooga, June 17, as pastor.

Akins was formerly pastor of River-view Church, Columbia. In addition, he served as pastor of Dry Creek Church, Dowelltown, and New Middleton Church, Gordonsville.

The Waynesboro native graduated from Pacific Western University in Colorado with a bachelor's degree in religion. He is a former moderator of New Salem and Maury Associations.

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Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

The spirit of adoption

"Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." — Romans 8:15

When Jesus spoke of becoming a Christian, He used the vital term "born again" or "from above." Paul used the Roman legal term of "adoption." Both said the same thing, using language best understood by their hearers/readers. The Greek word rendered "adoption" means "the placing of a son."

The Romans had a ceremony for adoption which, more often than not, involved a slave. The owner and slave stood together. The adopting father stood opposite them. After the adopting father placed the owner's price on a table, the men met halfway. There the



HOBBS

transfer of the slave took place, and he went with his adopted father.

He was said to be born again into a new family and was on equality with naturally-born sons. He received the privileges and assumed the responsibilities of sonship. This ceremony was performed in the presence of two witnesses.

Applied to the Christian experience, we were in bondage to sin. In Christ's death God paid the price to free us from bondage. He paid it, not to Satan, but to Himself to create the condition on which He could forgive sin. When a person receives Christ as Savior he is born again into God's family and assumes both privileges and responsibilities of sonship (v. 17).

The two witnesses are the Holy Spirit and the saved person's spirit (v. 16). His presence in the life of the believer is evidence that the adoption has taken place. Thus He is called "the Spirit of adoption."

TenneScene

... From Raus, through
Ozone, on to Turtletown ...

Churches . . .

Members of First Church, Joelton, will celebrate the church's 75th anniversary Aug. 5 with a special worship service, covered dish luncheon, and afternoon program.

Homecoming was celebrated July 8 at Calvary Church, Union City. Beulah Association Director of Missions William George spoke and Glory Bound, Paris, brought special music.

The membership of Oak Hill Church, Belvidere, will hold homecoming services July 29.

Del Rio Church, Del Rio, and Holders Grove Church, Cosby, both in East Tennessee Association, held homecoming July 15.

Members of Webb Church, Newport, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 5.

The congregation of Lookout Mountain Church, Lookout Mountain, will observe the church's 45th anniversary July 22 with a meal and celebration following morning worship.

Ground was broken recently for a family life center at First Church, Concord, Knoxville. The center is expected to be completed in the spring of 1991. In addition, the church dedicated a missionary home June 24, which was renovated and furnished by Sunday School classes and other organizations of the church.

Homecoming will be celebrated Aug. 26 at West Side Church, Trenton, with former pastor Gayle Alexander delivering a special message. Also, the church dedicated recent building improvements July 15.

Jim Davidson spoke at homecoming June 24 at Immanuel Church, Trenton. Davidson is a former pastor of the church.

Members of Salem Church, Trenton, will dedicate a new gym and class space annex July 28. Murray Mathis,

president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be guest speaker.

A new fellowship hall and class space at Bethpage Church, Kenton, were dedicated June 24. Garry Burkacki, a former pastor of the church, delivered a special message.

Members of First Church, Nashville, will celebrate the church's 170th anniversary July 22 with a church picnic. A book on the history of the church will be for sale that day. Frank Paschall, who served as pastor for 28 years, will speak during the morning service.

Education . . .

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has established the Louis and Mary Charlotte Ball Church Music Institute in honor of Louis Ball, chair of the division of fine arts, and his wife, Mary Charlotte, associate professor of music at Carson-Newman.

The institute, to be established by an anonymous bequest of more than \$300,000, will sponsor selected music leaders to study, observe, and guide the developments of church music on a national and international basis. The fund may also be used for scholarships for church music majors at Carson-Newman.

Leadership . . .

Bucky Kerr recently resigned as pastor of Gath Church, McMinnville, to accept the call as pastor of First Church, Clarendon Hills, Ill.

Immanuel Church, Knoxville, recently called Ben Mitchell as interim pastor. Mitchell is former pastor of Middle Valley Church, Hixson, and is a doctoral student at University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

David Capes recently resigned as pastor of Eastwood Church, Memphis, to become assistant professor of Christianity specializing in New Testament and Greek at Houston (Texas) Baptist University.

Cash Point Church, Ardmore, called Ed Lee as interim pastor.

The Central Message, featuring the preaching of Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church Hixson, Chattanooga, is now being telecast at 9 a.m. EST (8 CST) on ACTS Television Network.

The half hour program presents choral or solo music in addition to the sermon. The program has been on a Chattanooga station for five years. Phillips has been pastor at Hixson for eleven years.

Vickie Knierim has been called to work with youth at Inglewood Church, Nashville.

Greene Hills Church, Greeneville, called Don Peek as interim pastor.

James Swafford recently retired as pastor of Saint Bethlehem Church, Saint Bethlehem, where he served seven years. He has been in the ministry 31 years.

Jerry Essary recently resigned as minister of education at Second Church, Union City, to join the staff of Ellendale Church, Memphis.

O. K. Church, Lawrenceburg, called Richard de Luna as interim pastor.

Jim Phillips has been called as minister of music to West Paris Church, Paris.

Eric Mason is the summer minister of music and youth at First Church, Waynesboro.

Revivals . . .

A tent revival will be held July 22-25 at Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station. Dennis Baw, pastor of Glenview Church, Fort Worth, Texas, will lead the services, and Rich Henderson, minister of music from Glenview Church, will lead music. In addition, a team of 50 youth from Glenview Church will conduct Backyard Bible Clubs in the Thompson Station area.

Revival will be held Aug. 5-11 at Pleasant Valley Church, Cottontown. L. C. Gray, Owensboro, Ky., will lead services.

Pleasant Hill Missionary Church, Martin, will hold revival Aug. 5-10 with evangelist Paul Veazey from Union University. Elwood Doss, from First Church, Martin, will lead music. In addition, Heaven Bound, Kingston, N.C., will provide special music Aug. 5.

Thomas Mattox, Summertown, will lead revival July 22-27 at Bethlehem Church, West Point.

Hopewell Church, Savannah, will hold revival July 22-25 with evangelist Ron Dunn.

First Church, Franklin, held a one day revival July 15 with David Ring.

Friendship Church, Buchanan, will begin revival Aug. 5 with evangelist L. G. Hall.

Faxon Church, Big Sandy, began revival July 15 with evangelist Claude Prince leading the services, which will conclude July 20.

Charles Kelley will lead revival Aug. 5-8 at Kelley's Chapel Church, Waynesboro.

Missions . . .

A volunteer mission team of 17 from First Church, White House, will travel to Essexville, Mich., July 28 to lead Vacation Bible School and do survey work at Eastside Church.

A mission team from First Church, Donelson, will be in Detroit July 21-28 working with Parkview Church.

A team of 25 people from First Church, Columbia, went to Ovid, Mich., July 14 to help start a new church, and lead Backyard Bible Club and revival.

A mission trip to London, England, is planned for July 28-Aug. 13 by Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga. The team will lead Vacation Bible School and do building repairs and open air ministry at Twynholm Church.

Migrant workers in Michigan have received personal care kits from the Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Martin. Included were soap, combs, shaving equipment, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and other items.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Whether or not God answers prayer has become an item in the national news. First, it was Ted Turner justifying his antagonism toward the Christian faith and his commitment to humanism on an unanswered prayer. It seems that God failed to save his sister from death when he was a teenager. Then a Boston jury convicted David and Ginger Twitchell of involuntary manslaughter when their child died after they chose prayer rather than doctors.

Many people can identify with Ted Turner's experience. Most of us who have sought to pray have had the pain of unanswered prayer. However, God has helped us to move beyond that hurt to an even greater trust in the



LOWRIE

goodness of the Lord. God enables us to see things from another perspective.

The Twitchell family has been misled. Anyone who sees prayer and a good doctor in conflict has misunderstood prayer. The Apostle Paul had Doctor Luke, his personal physician, with him on his missionary journeys. He both prayed and listened to his physician. A good physician is a gift of God.

I want to confess that I have found God to be faithful to hear my prayers. I have experienced answered prayer this week, and did last week. There are several things for which I am praying that I am still waiting on the Lord. If He chooses not to answer as I have asked, I will still trust Him. He is indeed a caring, compassionate Father who has my best interest at heart.

If you have become discouraged in your prayer life, renew your practice of prayer. Nothing I do brings a deeper sense of joy and satisfaction.



MEMPHIS CHURCH CITED — Don Wilson, right, pastor of Kensington Church, Memphis, and his wife, Carol, recently received a plaque from Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Kensington Church was honored as a PACT Church of the Year. PACT is a Home Mission Board program to assist churches in transitional communities. When expansion of the Memphis airport overtook the church's property, members voted to move down the street and revitalize a neighboring church that had dwindled to 12 members. Wilson reported the church added 100 new members since the relocation 19 months ago and is meeting its budget for the first time in seven years. Attendance now averages 191, up from an average of 118 at the old location. Kensington baptized 12 people in the first five months of the year, with a goal of 20 baptisms for the year.

Education Commission adopts interim accreditation report

RICHMOND (BP) — Members of the Southern Baptist Education Commission adopted an interim report from a special accreditation task force during their annual meeting and voted to present a report of the committee's work to the Southern Baptist Convention in June 1991.

Commission members also expanded the seven-member task force by adding two additional members who are not professional educators and extended their work at least through the next meeting of the Commission in June 1991.

The two new members were added after discussion of a motion referred to the commission by the Southern Baptist Convention.

David B. Wood of North Carolina made the motion from the floor of the recent Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans which requested a committee "to study the feasibility of establishing a Southern Baptist Convention accrediting agency for our seminaries and colleges. This study committee should be composed of Southern Baptist pastors, educators, and lay persons whose training and experience relate to this subject."

The motion was referred to the Education Commission under SBC Bylaw 28 which requires that motions pertaining to the work of an agency be referred to trustees of that agency.

William Cotton, commission chairman, said the request of the motion already was being fulfilled by work of the existing task force.

In related action the Commission voted to increase representation by appointing James E. McDaniel, pastor of First Church, Brinkley, Ark., and James H. Roach Sr., a layman and president of Briarcliff Corporation of Shreveport, La., to the task force.

Commissioner Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, in Shawnee, said the task force had identified specific concerns which have prompted interest in a proposed agency, explored the nature and purpose of accrediting agencies, looked at how accrediting agencies are formed, and explored alternative measures which might be taken.

The interim report, drafted by Agee at the request of the task force, said, "There seems to be a widely held perception that accrediting agencies such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Theological Schools represent external forces which apply pressures which prevent Baptist colleges and seminaries from being as distinctively Christian as our Baptist constituencies want them to be."

According to the report, the task force reported it is not the purpose of accrediting agencies to prevent Southern Baptist schools and colleges from fulfilling their distinctively Christian mission statements. The report further says the formation of a Southern Baptist accrediting agency probably is not a workable mechanism to assure correction of the perceived concerns of some Southern Baptists.

"The task force needs to gather more input from outside educational circles," Agee said. "We need to poll the views of a broad cross section of Southern Baptist pastors, educators, and lay persons on the issue."

Pat Howard dies

Retired Harriman pastor Pat F. Howard died May 29 at a hospital in Harriman.

He was pastor of Riverside Church in Harriman for 24 years.

Howard is survived by his wife, Gladys.

Commission members charged the task force to continue its study and authorized Education Commission Executive Director Arthur L. Walker Jr., to draft an interim report of the committee's second year of work which would be presented during the Education Commission's report to the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Clifton Hill Church calls Highlander as pastor

Clifton Hill Church, Chattanooga, recently called H. Duane Highlander as full time pastor.

He served the church as interim pastor for more than four months.

Highlander retired as director of church and community ministries for Hamilton County Association in 1989 after serving for 25 years.



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Samuel's birth and early ministry

By H. Dean Haun, pastor; First Church, Sparta

The books of Samuel record the transition from the period of judges to the established kingdom. Although our study is in 1 Samuel, a simple outline of both books could be as follows:

1 Samuel 1-7 is about Samuel, and chapters 8-15 are about Saul. 1 Samuel 16 through 2 Samuel is the story of David, chapters 1-3 center around Hannah, Eli, and Samuel.

Hannah a praying mother (1:1-2:11)

Polygamy is not God's perfect pattern for the home.

From the beginning one man and one woman was

God's plan (see Genesis 2:24). Elkanah was a godly husband, but he had a divided home. His favorite wife, Hannah (grace), was burdened because she could not bear a child and faced



HAUN

intense jealousy and persecution from the other wife.

Hannah believed in prayer. She didn't try to argue or bargain with the Lord. She willingly offered her first-born son to participate in the Nazarite vow, should God grant her petition (Numbers 6).

God answered her prayers, and she named her son Samuel (asked of the Lord). When Samuel was around age three, Hannah kept her promise to God and took him to fulfill the vow.

In chapter two, Hannah broke out in song and praised God. (Compare this to Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55.) Hannah's burden had turned to blessing, beauty, and glory to God.

Eli, a poor father (2:12-36)

How tragic when a servant of the Lord fails to win his own sons to the Lord. Eli's sons were selfish, overbearing, and lustful. No doubt they scorned young Samuel for his faithfulness to God. But God would have final say.

Eli, like others in ministry today, mishandled his sons as well (Deuteronomy 21:18-21 and 17:12). God in His grace sent a severe message to Eli by an unknown man of God, warning of impending judgment for allowing his sons to disgrace the priestly office. Verse 34 predicted the death of Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, and

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July 22 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 1-4
Focal Passages: 1 Samuel 1-4

that prediction came true in 4:17-18. The "faithful priest" of verse 35 refers immediately to Samuel, but ultimately to Christ.

Samuel, a priceless son (3:14:1)

Even though Samuel had grown up in the temple and around the things of the Lord, he had not had a personal experience with the Lord by the time he was 12 years old (v. 7). It is very

important for each of us, especially those who've grown up in church and Christian homes, to see our need for the Savior.

One night when Samuel had just fallen asleep the Lord called to him! He first thought it was old blind Eli calling for him. He sprang up in obedience to tend to Eli, but it wasn't Eli. Again, the Lord spoke to him and verse 10 records his conversion experience. He met the living God!

God's message was a difficult one for Samuel to hear. It was a message of judgment upon Eli and his family. The difficult part came the next morning when Eli inquired as to the message of the Lord. But it is at this point that young Samuel established himself as a true prophet of God. Without compromise he shared the truth with Eli. Oh, how we need men of God like Samuel today.

Chapter 3 ends with the maturing Samuel as a prophet over all Israel. From North to South (Dan to Beersheba) Samuel became known to the people as God's man. Shiloh became the place of God's revelation to His people through Samuel.

Proverbs in pictures

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

My fourth grade teacher was an observer of life. She saw things that few others noticed and learned things that most never grasped. She attempted to teach her pupils to be observant learners because she believed the wonders around them were ever-present instructors sent from God to teach those who would be observers. These proverbs in pictures remind me of that wise teacher for they contain lessons learned from observing the wonders of life.

We, too, would be wise to "be still" more often and learn the lessons being taught by the wonders of God that are all around us.

The incomprehensible (30:18-20)
Some things in this world are beyond comprehension because they are too

wonderful. There is wonder and mystery about the flight of the eagle, the serpent's movement without benefit of legs, a ship's ability to sail without leaving a trail, and the process of courtship. These reach their destiny without leaving a discernable trail. Verse 20 ties this to the working of evil which, seemingly, leaves little trace behind. However, that which is incomprehensible to man is known to God. Be warned!

The unbearable (30:21-23)

Some things are unbearable because they bring confusion wherever they are found. A servant who ceases to serve and begins to rule often shows himself a tyrant, as in the case of Haman. Christians who become rulers and not servants reject their God-given station. That is unbearable! Also unbearable is the fool who only thinks of his appetite and his satisfaction. Along side these is the vindictive, quarrelsome wife who is a tormentor for her family. The final unbearable thing mentioned is the

maid who takes the place of her mistress winning the affections of the husband and wrecking the family. God has established order in His world; it is unbearable and intolerable when that order is broken.

The instructive (30:24-28)

The industrious ant providing for the future, the weak coney finding security on the rocks, the kingless locusts banding together in unbroken ranks, and the lowly lizard climbing to the highest positions are instructive to the wise. The wise are industrious providing for the future. They find shelter in the

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Basic Passage: Proverbs 30
Focal Passage: Proverbs 30:18-33

Rock of Ages. They move together in doing the work of God. They energetically pursue success of the highest kind. Learn from the little things!

The admirable (30:29-31)

The lion, the strutting cock, the he-goat, and the king among his people should be admired for their courage,

dignity, persistence, and leadership. These traits should be admired and pursued by the children of God who "are more than conquerors."

The caution (30:32-33)

One more lesson remains from the observer and it is a message of caution. The observer notices that the pressing of milk produces curds (or butter) and the pressing of the nose produces blood. This reminded him that the pressing of pride, over self-confidence, and anger produce strife. Even when one cannot prevent the thought, one can restrain the expression, for even a peaceable man can be goaded to anger. Be wise and open the mouth in self-abasement rather than self-justification.

Conclusion

The teacher mentioned above knew the value of books, especially, the Book, but she was wise enough to know that many important lessons for life could be learned from life around her. This was reflected in her teaching and in her life-style. The Wisdom writer would likewise have his pupils to be learners and doers of the lessons of life. Isn't it time for you to be a learner and a doer?

Live holy lives

By Joe R. Wren, pastor; First Church, Sevierville

First Peter was written during a time of severe persecution which threatened the very existence of the church. It was probably written in A.D. 64 when Nero was terrorizing Christians who were finding it difficult to live faithful and holy lives. He tried to inspire those whose spirits were drooping to be brave when it was risky to be a believer. He reminded them they were "strangers" (1:1) in a foreign land and were just passing through on the way to their real homeland in



WREN

heaven. The word "stranger" translates a word meaning "sojourner." As they sojourned through this land with all its difficulties and unpleasant circumstances, they were to be loyal to

the Lord and live holy lives.

Call to holiness (1:13-17)

"Wherefore" (v. 13) refers to the preceding verses which describe the sojourner's birth into the family of God, the keeping power of God, the second coming of Jesus, and future blessings.

He called them to bring every thought into compliance with the revealed purpose of God. As sojourners, they were admonished to "gird up the loins of your mind" (v. 13) to prepare themselves to face extreme problems by having a disciplined and optimistic mind. They would be enabled to overcome many snares and encumbrances that would hinder their spiritual progress.

Peter encouraged them to be sober, to face life with all seriousness.

In verse 14, Peter pointed out that obedience should be a prominent trait of a child of God. To be chosen and saved by God is a privilege and

responsibility. New converts were to break relationships with the former life and conform to God's will.

Holiness distinguishes children of God from children of the devil. However, it has become a chore to distinguish Christians from non-Christians. The concept of sin has nearly disappeared from society's

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July 22 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 Peter 1:13-25; 2 Peter 1:1-11
Focal Passages: 1 Peter 1:13-19, 25; 2 Peter 1:5-8

vocabulary and many lament its absence from teaching in our churches. Individual freedoms and personal rights have been emphasized so much that almost anything is acceptable. Christians have lost sight of the high standard God established in the Old and New Testaments that exhorts "Be ye holy" (1:16, Leviticus 11:44, 45). He has not lowered the standard for Christians today. He calls us to holy living.

Cause for holiness (1:18-19, 23)

Why should Christians strive to be holy? In verse 13-17, we discover that Christians should strive to live holy lives because Jesus is coming again (v. 13), and they are children of God and should resemble their Father who is holy (vv. 14-17). Peter also indicated that holiness should be the goal of every Christian because of the price Jesus paid for their redemption (vv. 18-19, 23).

The only way a person can become a member of the family of God is by the new birth through faith in Jesus Christ. When a person is "born again," the imperishable seed of "the Word of God" produces a new, eternal life. Therefore, Christians should aim for holiness because of what Jesus Christ has done, is doing, and will do.

Construction of holiness (2 Peter 1:5-8)
Peter challenged his readers to supplement their faith, which is the foundation for living holy lives. He gives us a blueprint for holiness which includes virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (vv. 5-7).

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Southern Baptists send \$50,000 to Iran for hunger relief

TEHRAN, Iran — Southern Baptists have sent \$50,000 in hunger relief funds for Iranian Christians to use in feeding some of the 500,000 people left without homes after an earthquake June 21. Approximately 70,000 people were killed in the quake. That money, and an additional \$10,000 received by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), will be forwarded to a council of Christian churches inside Iran through Elam Ministries in London, England.

The Southern Baptist money will buy food inside Iran to be distributed by the Christians council. The BWA money will buy supplies such as blankets, building materials, and other items not directly related to hunger.

"We understand it's relatively easy to buy food common to Iran inside the country," said John Cheyne, who directs human needs strategy for the Foreign Mission Board. "We would like to do a good bit more, but we have to take this direction because of restrictions by the (Iranian) government. We have not been able to get in any kind of Western personnel."

Southern Baptists who want to help can send donations to the board to help underwrite the \$50,000 it has appropriated. It would be impractical for them to send commodities into Iran, said Cheyne, who has received numerous calls from people asking what they can do.

Court hands down opinions in child witness disputes

WASHINGTON — States may use special procedures to protect child abuse victims who are testifying against their alleged abusers, the Supreme Court has ruled. The court, in a 5-4 decision, held such procedures may be used only when there is a specific finding they are needed to protect the child's welfare.

The decision came in a case involving Sandra A. Craig, a Maryland day-care center operator who was convicted of sexually abusing a six-year-old girl. The Maryland Court of Appeals overturned the conviction on the ground that Craig's 6th Amendment right to confront her accusers was violated by the use of a one-way, closed-circuit television.

Writing for the high court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the Constitution does not guarantee criminal defendants an "absolute right to a face-to-face meeting with witnesses against them at trial." In certain narrow circumstances, she wrote, "competing interests, if closely examined, may warrant dispensing with confrontation at trial." Maryland's interest in protecting child witnesses from the trauma of testifying in a child abuse case is sufficiently important to

justify a special state statutory procedure, O'Connor said.

Maryland's procedure permits a judge to receive the testimony of an alleged child abuse victim by one-way, closed-circuit television provided the state adequately shows it necessary in the specific case. If the procedure is invoked, the child, prosecutor, and defense counsel move to another room, where the child is examined and cross-examined; the judge, jury, and defendant remain in the courtroom, where the testimony is displayed. Although the child cannot see the defendant, the defendant remains in electronic communication with counsel; objections may be made and ruled on as if the witness were in the courtroom.

In a related case, the Supreme Court held a 2½-year-old girl's statement to her doctor that her mother abused her could not be used at trial. In a 5-4 decision, the court held admission of the child's hearsay statements violated the mother's 6th Amendment confrontation clause rights.

Carson-Newman grad named MSC volunteer of the year

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Vicky Brunson was honored as the Missions Service Corps volunteer of the year during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. The South Carolina native is assistant director for ethnic ministries for Greater Boston Baptist Association.

Brunson is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

Jordanian Baptists operating conference center near hospital

AJLOUN, Jordan — A new conference center established near a former Baptist hospital is expected to play a key role in evangelism within Jordan. Jordanian Baptists will hold two weeks of conferences for Bible study and family enrichment this year, but other evangelical church groups in Jordan also will use the center, eventually keeping it in use much of the year, said Charles Browning, administrator of the new conference center program.

The aging 30-bed hospital facility, operated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for more than 30 years, was sold to the Jordanian government in 1987 for \$1.5 million. Maintaining the hospital had become prohibitively expensive. The government, however, has kept it in operation.

Buildings on adjoining land that remained in Baptist hands were used to develop the conference center. They include a three-story facility formerly used as a nurses' dorm, worship center, and kitchen.

Extensive renovations, such as new plumbing and electrical wiring, have been required on the buildings, which were constructed in the 1940s and 1950s, Browning said. That work was financed by \$150,000 from the hospital sale. Once completed the facility will house about 250 persons.

The site is considered ideal for conferences and retreats. Situated in the rocky, hilly area that predominates around Ajloun, the center has a good view of Qalaat al Rabad, an Arab castle built in the 12th century, located on a 4068-foot mountain across the valley.

Pink cash teaches value of cooperative giving

By Sarah Zimmerman

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries resorted to gimmicks and quick moves to raise money during a make-believe demonstration of life without the Cooperative Program.

Ten fake \$10 bills were given to each person registering for "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in the North Carolina mountains. Participants were told to give the pink paper money to missionaries that impressed them during an afternoon missions fair.

The random distribution of funds

resulted in one missionary couple naving to carry their wad of money in a plastic bag. Another missionary gathered only \$30 because she was caring for her children and doing laundry the afternoon of the missions fair.

The project illustrated the inequity of requiring missionaries to raise their own support, said Bill O'Brien, executive director of public affairs for the Foreign Mission Board.

The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget, is "the genius of cooperative missions that every other major missions effort would like to have," O'Brien said. He commended

Jericho participants for giving \$5771 in real money to the Cooperative Program the day before "so all home and foreign missionaries will get an equal share."

During the missions fair, Betty Walker said a Christian theme park was being built on the island of Dominica where she and her husband Fred serve as foreign missionaries. With a large gift, she jested, a water slide would be named for the donor. In reality, an amusement park is in stark contrast to the Walkers' evangelistic ministry among the poor and often malnourished islanders.

Raul Vazquez, language missionary in Miami, wasn't as bold. "I have a hard time asking for money," he said. "If this were real, I'd be one of the poor missionaries."

Bob Freeman, a home missionary in Buffalo, N.Y., gained sympathy by describing the cold, harsh winters in western New York. He also gathered money by picking pockets as people listened to his tales.

At the beginning of the missions fair, Joe and Elaine Armstrong contributed to the first missionaries they saw. But the members of Bardstown (Ky.) Church were determined to "figure out a system" to distribute their money more evenly.

Iris Thomas, member of Brewer Lake Church in Day, Fla., also tried to be fair with her contributions. However, she said, "I almost gave it all to one lady; she was doing such a good job asking for it."

It didn't take long for Mary Jo Thompson to see the purpose of the project. "I'm uncomfortable with this," said the member of First

Church, Corpus Christi, Texas. "I love the Cooperative Program."

Ada Fernandez, missionary to Hispanics in Georgia, said the afternoon reminded her of the need for missions education. At breakfast Monday she met a Florida pastor and his wife. She described her work, and they continued the dialogue at lunch. During the missions fair, the couple sought Fernandez to give her their money.

"When people know about missions, they give," Fernandez concluded.

Jericho is a week-long missions festival sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and Sunday School Board. The annual sessions at both Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers were begun last year.

Southern Seminary hosts Pastors' School

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Calvin Miller, pastor of West Side Church in Omaha, Neb., and author of more than 25 books, will be guest preacher for the second annual Pastors' School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Aug. 6-10.

Miller will lead in worship at the Pastors' School which will focus on the theme "The Pastor's Faith and Ministry."

Harold Songer, vice president for academic affairs and professor of New Testament interpretation, will lead a study of Acts, the topic for the 1991 January Bible Study.

For more information, contact the seminary's continuing education office at (800) 626-5525.



MEET THE MISSIONARIES — Tennessee natives Don and Ina Frazier, retired Southern Baptist missionaries to Nigeria, now living in Jefferson City, greet Alan, Joanne, and Phillip Moore during a missions fair at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. The Moores, members of Calvary Church, Milton, Fla., were among more than 2000 people attending "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest. — Photo by Mark Wingfield