

Baptist and Reflector

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In July 17 closed meeting

Chairman explains Executive Committee actions

By Tammi Ledbetter

LAWTON, Okla. (BP)— SBC Executive Committee Chairman Sam Pace responded to criticism for conducting discussions of Baptist Press employee terminations behind closed doors on July 17.

"The Executive Committee exercised its stated right and responsibility to conduct executive sessions in unusual circumstances," Pace said in a statement released July 24 from Lawton, Okla., where he is director of missions for Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association.

Nashville attorney Frank Ingraham led in protests of the executive session, repeatedly seeking a public forum in which Baptist Press employees Alvin C. Shackelford and Dan Martin would be given opportunity to respond to any charges by the Executive Committee.

Immediately following an executive session of the administrative arrangements subcommittee, the full committee began their proceedings in private. Off-duty Nashville police were employed for the purpose of limiting access to the meeting area, Pace said.

When Ingraham and other protesters were denied access to the Executive Committee session, the Nashville attorney told the crowd gathered in the foyer that the Executive Committee had violated Robert's Rules of Order

restricting entry before an actual vote had been taken to go into executive session.

Pace defended the decision to keep the doors closed when the meeting began, stating in a phone interview, "Had we opened the doors and gotten everybody in there it would have been impossible to ever have voted."

Citing the limited time allotted for the meeting, Pace said, "The logistics of getting it done made it almost essential to do it as we did."

"Voting themselves into executive session was the only responsible and effective way to conduct any business of the nature of that under consideration," Pace said in his release.

The use of off-duty policemen was a necessary security measure, Pace noted, in light of an expectation that over 1000 spectators might be on hand for the meeting. Pace said the estimate was drawn from several sources, all of which indicated attempts were being made to rally protestors to the scene.

"Upon learning that people were being encouraged to attend the meeting in large numbers," Pace said, "the officers of the Executive Committee determined that some security measures were necessary" and requested its legal counsel make such arrangements.

"Without advance knowledge of how large the crowd would be, the Executive Committee was required to anticipate numbers in excess of the legal building occupancy limits" established by the local fire marshal.

Pace responded to questions about armed guards by pointing out that off-duty Nashville police officers are required by department policy to carry sidearms even while off duty. It was "not because of any request of the Executive Committee," Pace added.

Oral and written instructions to the officers involved limiting access to the Executive Committee meeting area

and preparation for evacuation procedures if warranted.

Once the Executive Committee adjourned, Pace and other members refused all comment. The explanatory statement issued by the Executive Committee was read without elaboration by Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice-president.

Pace said a portion of the statement had been formulated in advance, but "was not complete until the end of the meeting." Because of an agreement among the Executive Committee members that they be made aware of (See Chairman explains, page 3)

'We were courteous' — Pace

In a telephone interview with the Baptist and Reflector, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee Chairman Sam Pace explained why he left the July 17 meeting of the Executive Committee without talking to reporters.

Pace said Executive Committee members were aware of the statement which was to be read at the press conference following the meeting.

"I wanted to be sure every committee member, upon returning to his or her home, would know what was released to the press," said Pace, a director of missions in Lawton, Okla.

"They knew what the prepared statement said," Pace said, noting that he didn't want them "to be caught unaware by something I might say."

He added that Executive Committee members knew he would "say something later about the manner in which the meeting was conducted.

"We were not all in agreement, but we were courteous in dealing with our differences," he said about the meeting.

Though he did not stay for the press conference, Pace said he left the statement and that Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the Executive Committee, volunteered to give it to the media.

"I accepted his offer. I thought I was doing what should be done," Pace said.

The Lawton director of missions, who was on vacation during the week of July 17, returned to his office July 23 and began working on a statement, he said.

Pace said he sent the statement to Glenn Brown, editor of the Baptist Messenger in Oklahoma. Because the paper was not scheduled to be published next week (week of July 30), Pace said he sent a copy of the statement to Indiana Baptist managing editor Tammi Ledbetter.

Pace said he had SBC attorney James P. Guenther read the statement before it was sent to Brown and Ledbetter. He noted that Guenther suggested Pace say more in his statement about the employment of off-duty police officers than he had originally included. —Lonnie Wilkey

Baptists help quake victims

By Marty Croll

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines (BP)— Southern Baptist missionaries are working with about 75 Philippine Baptist seminary students to provide food in five areas of Baguio City, the earthquake-stricken mountain resort in the Philippines.

Students at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio City, led by missionaries Nettie Gammage of Dixon, Tenn., and Joyce Viertel of Arp, Texas, have been cooking rice and sauce over open fires and propane burners for hungry earthquake sur-

vivors. Church members also are being mobilized.

Missionary Robert Nash, president of the seminary, has been named by the governor of Benguet Province to help coordinate relief as it comes by truck through Clark Air Base to be airlifted into regions of destruction.

Students have distributed food and medicine in refugee camps and in parks where Filipinos have set up tents, fearful of staying indoors where their homes might collapse on them. Missionary Al Gammage Jr. of Miami

(See Baptists, page 5)

Partnership pleases leader

"I'm happy about our Partnership Mission with Tennessee Baptists," Igeridio Sarco said last week while in Brentwood for a visit to the Baptist Center.

The former two-term president of the Mindanao/Visayas Baptist Convention said the challenge for new Baptist work in the Philippines is great, and that a spirit of "oneness" is developing.

Sarco lives in General Santos City in southern Mindanao, where he deals in seeds and agricultural supplies. He

also has been president of Baptist Men in the convention.

Sarco is particularly pleased about the Tennessee Baptist group that leaves for the Philippines later this week. Bill Wilson, director of the TBC Convention Ministries Division, will lead a three-member team in General Santos City at New Mabuhay Church. Ambers Wilson and Ben McNabb are the other members.

Sarco said he believes the partnership is beneficial for both Baptist groups.

Mindanao is the large southern island in the Philippine nation, and is part of the Mindanao/Visayas Convention. Two other conventions are involved in the partnership — Luzon Convention, and the Chinese Baptist Convention.



IGMERIDIO SARCO, active Filipino Baptist layman, looks with Clarence Stewart, TBC Partnership Missions coordinator at itinerary for Tennessee Baptist group that leaves for the Philippines later this week.

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Editorials

Constructive self-criticism and white hot witness

The Berlin Wall has been torn down, the Iron Curtain has been drawn back, and there are other signs of freedom in our world today. Several republics and at least three former nations included in the Soviet Union have declared for freedom.

Elections are being held in places heretofore unfamiliar with democratic government. Doors are beginning to open, and Southern Baptist leaders are calling for people to be ready for new adventures in missions. Alas, we are not ready.

The booklet "Baptist Ideals," prepared for the 1964 celebration of the 154th anniversary of the first Baptist organization in America, concludes with these insightful, prophetic words on self-criticism:

"Both the local church and the denomination, if they are to remain healthy and fruitful, must accept the responsibility of constructive self-criticism. It would be damaging to our churches and to our denomination to deny the right to differ or to consider that our methods and policies are final and perfect. The work of our churches and of our denomination needs frequent re-evaluation to prevent the sterility of traditionalism. This is particularly true in the area of methods, but it also applies to historic principles and practices as they relate to contemporary life. This means that our churches and denominational institutions and agencies should defend and protect the right of

our people to question and to criticize constructively.

"Healthy self-criticism will center on basic issues and will thus save us from the disintegrating effects of accusation and recrimination. For one to criticize does not necessarily mean that he is disloyal; his criticism may stem from a deep commitment to the welfare of the denomination. Such criticism will aim at growth toward full maturity both for the individual and for the denomination."

Near the end of his new book, *You Are Chosen*, Herschel Hobbs cites a statement by Arnold Toynbee that no major nation has been murdered, they commit suicide. Hobbs applies the example of the Roman Empire to what can happen to Christians:

"Had the zeal of the first-century Chris-

tians remained at a white heat through the centuries, the world would have been evangelized long ago. But tragically, with the passing of time the church began to turn inward and be comfortable."

The idea of constructive self-criticism and the continued application of white hot missionary zeal seem to be compatible.

We must learn anew that gift of self-criticism with a Christ-like spirit. Rancor brings anguish, and has no place in our lives. But even as Paul wrote to early Christians, "Check up on yourselves, are you really living like Christ," so today we must do the same.

Then the smouldering coals will burst into flames — and we will be on the way again, brave hearts out to evangelize for Christ, not ourselves. — WFA

Committee chairman speaks

Sam Pace, SBC Executive Committee chairman, has made a statement concerning the special meeting during which Baptist Press editors Al Shackelford and Dan Martin were fired.

His statement, issued July 24, one week after the Executive Committee meeting in Nashville, is incorporated in a news story in this issue.

Pace's home state paper, the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger*, was not publishing the

following week — so the statement was given to the *Indiana Baptist*.

The *Baptist and Reflector* earlier had tried to reach Pace, who was on vacation, and did talk to Tennessean Charles Sullivan who is chairman of the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee.

The *Baptist and Reflector* reached Pace last Friday and he briefly discussed July 17 actions — as reported by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor, on the front page. — WFA

FMB holds 'positive' meeting, Parks gets affirmation

By Bob Stanley and Donald D. Martin
GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The new trustee chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board called R. Keith Parks "God's man for this hour" and said "we as the trustees unanimously and uncompromisingly affirm Keith Parks as our leader of the Foreign Mission Board."

Bill Hancock of Kentucky, chairman since April, gave the affirmation at a missionary appointment service July 26 climaxing a four-day board meeting.

Later he explained that the statement was a spontaneous declaration that he felt led to make by God's Spirit.

Observers felt the statement was a signal that the trustees have no plans to replace Parks as president of the board, despite widespread reports that some conservative trustees had planned to do so.

Forty new missionaries, at least four with ethnic backgrounds, were appointed to work in 18 countries at a special Jericho Week service in Holcomb Auditorium at the Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. With 11 former missionaries who were reappointed the same day, the additions bring Southern Baptists' total foreign mission force to 3832.

During a trustee business session a few hours earlier, Hancock announced plans to invite more than 30 of the Southern Baptist Convention's pastors to the FMB trustees' October meeting to help challenge Southern Baptists to meet their goal of \$86 million for the 1990 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

He said the decision was made at a meeting of the chairman's council, which included committee chairmen, Parks, Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener and himself.

Hancock emphasized he doesn't want

the project to compete with the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified plan of financial support. But he stressed such an emphasis is needed to reach the challenging Lottie Moon goal, a \$5.8 million increase over the \$80.2 million given in 1989.

To be most effective, the project will need to be an ongoing program, Hancock said. The board will seek pastors who have been role models in missions giving, either through the Cooperative Program or the Lottie Moon offering, he said. They also should be people who would have the time and opportunity to return to their states and establish a support network.

Trustee Don Bowen of Virginia agreed that the plan is "potentially one of the most helpful things we have done and can do." But he urged that "we try to find representatives of the different theological issues in the convention."

Hancock said he could assure that theological positions would not be a "primary consideration" but added, "It's impossible for us to do this without bringing people who do have very definite theological positions."

He and others on the board urged trustees to work in their states to help promote both the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

"Our bread and butter is the Cooperative Program," he said. "It's not a time to be escrowing money from the Cooperative Program," he added to a chorus of "amens."

Some leaders of the moderate faction in the Southern Baptist Convention have said they may withhold money from the Cooperative Program unless the conservatives begin to give them representation on the denomination's 20 boards and agencies. A meeting has been called for Aug. 23-25 in Atlanta to

discuss such plans.

Hancock said many people are awaiting word on the Foreign Mission Board's Glorieta meeting. The "devil is not happy with what he has heard and seen here this week . . ." he said. "This has been as positive, open and optimistic a board meeting as I've attended in six years."

The trustee chairman said he and Parks would write an open letter to Southern Baptists reflecting the positive spirit of the week's meetings and appealing to Southern Baptists "not to dismantle what God has put in place and what God has been using over these years."

The letter on behalf of trustees and staff would communicate to the world that "God is alive and the ministry of the Foreign Mission Board is healthy and growing," Hancock said.

In other actions, trustees approved the official opening of mission work in

Yugoslavia, where Southern Baptist personnel already have been working quietly for more than a decade. The Eastern European country will be Southern Baptists' 118th mission field. One of the reappointed missionary couples was assigned to Poland, making it the 119th mission field.

Most of the trustee meeting was spent in dialogue sessions. Topics discussed ranged from a new financial support package for missionaries to strategy for reaching the people of "World A," a designation for areas of the world where more than 1.3 billion people have never had the opportunity to hear the message of Jesus Christ.

Trustees approved a staff-developed plan to increase financial support for both career missionaries and missionary associates, effective Jan. 1.

Trustees also set up a Stateside Capital Fund to provide for major capital needs in the United States.

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Chairman explains Executive Committee actions . . .

(Continued from page 1)
any statements issued to the media, Pace declined to address a news conference.

He described the proceedings of the closed door session as "respectful" with "no strident rhetoric."

"The demeanor of all participants was exemplary in the serious, thoughtful approach to a most difficult situation," Pace said.

"Our meeting was not a time to engage in slander, but it was a time when all Executive Committee members could freely and carefully weigh information in an effort to know the truth and to lay falsehood to rest. This could not have been done in a public forum.

He further stated, "No specific charges were leveled against either man, but the opinion of many was that irreconcilable differences did exist. Accepting the fact that the journalists had been operating in ways consistent with their own consciences, to ask them, or anyone else, to do otherwise would have been unconscionable."

"By the same token," Pace continued, "the majority of the Executive Committee members could not continue in good conscience to operate Baptist Press as it was. To do so was unconscionable to them.

Responding to concerns expressed by members of the Southern Baptist Press Association which represents state Baptist newspapers, Pace affirmed the group's desire to continue a partnership with Baptist Press. "The Committee recognizes the state papers are the principle, primary users and we're not opposed to the full, free flow of responsible, balanced, accurate information about the Baptist witness and ministries in our convention.

However, Pace noted, "Everyone obviously does not define responsible, balanced, and accurate in exactly the same way."

In his prepared statement, Pace said, "The issue is not only a free press, but also a fair press with news releases truthful, balanced and equitable."

He rejected charges that the Executive Committee intends to refashion Baptist Press into "a propaganda tool." Pace responded, "I'm committed to maintaining the integrity and professionalism of Baptist Press.

"The Committee intends to support the leadership of President Harold C. Bennett in his efforts to secure such personnel with whom to staff Baptist Press."

Full committee approval is only required for the public relations vice-

president, while the administration arrangements subcommittee must approve the news and feature editors recommended to fill other vacancies.

"We would like for the Baptist journalists to wait and see what we do with Baptist Press before they automatically prejudice that we're incapable of operating an acceptable free and fair press," Pace said.

In spite of the recent formation of an alternative news service, Pace is convinced Baptist Press will continue to play a crucial role in representing the work of Southern Baptists.

Parham testifies in Washington

WASHINGTON (BP) — Most Southern Baptists, as well as a vast majority of other Americans, want restrictions on the marketing of alcoholic beverages, a Southern Baptist ethicist told a House of Representatives subcommittee.

Robert Parham, associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, testified July 18 before the House Subcommittee on Transportation and Hazardous Materials on proposed legislation that would require health and safety warnings to appear on all advertisements for alcoholic beverages.

The Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act — or SAFE — would establish five health and safety warnings, one of which would be required to be used in any advertisement for alcoholic beverages. The bill is being sponsored by Sen. Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn., and Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, D-Mass.

"I believe that Americans want something done to curb the daily saturation bombing of their living rooms by ads for a product that causes enormous harm to the American fami-

"What we operate has as much or more likelihood of being objective," Pace added that publications which anticipate relying upon an alternate news service over Baptist Press "have already prejudged our ability to operate the kind of Baptist press service that they could use and respect."

Pace commended Baptist editors in their desire to enhance the six-year old networking system which allows exchange of information and articles through computer link-up. "It's been in use heretofore and has well served our convention in many respects."

ly," Parham said.

The proposed legislation, Parham said, would provide the public with much-needed and long-overdue health information. It would avoid the extreme of an outright ban on alcohol advertising, he added, while also counterbalancing the other extreme of "unbridled, anything-goes-that-sells-alcohol position."

"No one thinks that health messages alone will prevent the 100,000 alcohol-related deaths each year in the United States," Parham testified. "But health messages are an important step toward a healthier and safer nation.

"The goals of rotating health messages far outweigh the loss in private gain that the alcoholic beverage industry might experience. Moreover, rotating health messages promise to enhance the public good."

In addition, such messages would help protect children from ads that portray alcohol in a seductive manner, Parham explained.

"Clearly, parents have a responsibility to educate," he said. "But even the most well-intentioned parent cannot defend his or her children against a multibillion-dollar giant that buys the best talent in the advertising industry to produce the most persuasive ads on television and radio for the single purpose of private gain. Government has an obligation to support parents, not to abandon them in the war against the drug the nation drinks."

Union trustees meet

JACKSON — Union University trustees approved the annual college audit, heard an update on campus construction, and elected officers during their July 27 summer session.

In presenting the audit, President Hyran Barefoot announced the college completed its 23rd consecutive year with a balanced budget. The university's books were closed May 31 on the \$11.9 million budget.

Barefoot also reported on the college's long-range master plan for the campus. Phase one of the project — construction of the first student apartments it has added in eight years — is behind schedule due to spring rains which delayed the site preparation.

Barefoot said occupancy of the 22 apartment for 88 female students has been moved from late August to early November. Students who have already been assigned to the new units will be housed in married student housing until the mid-fall occupancy date.

In other business, trustees re-elected Phil Jett, pastor of Englewood Church, Jackson, chairman, and Ripley attorney Joe Walker Jr., as vice chairman. Rosa Harvey of Jackson was elected secretary.

Board members also elected three individuals to the 12-member executive committee. Beginning terms of service are Elzie Danley, pastor of Malesus Church; Milan businessman Argyle Graves; and Paul Williams, pastor, First Church, Somerville.

Honeycutt recovering from heart surgery

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Roy L. Honeycutt, 63-year-old president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., is recovering in a Louisville hospital following open heart surgery July 24.

The four-and-one-half-hour surgery involved five heart bypasses.

Honeycutt's wife, June, reported that the surgeon, Layman A. Gray, Jr., told her following surgery that "things couldn't have gone better."

The surgery was performed less than a week after some heart blockage was discovered through stress tests ordered following Honeycutt's routine annual physical exam. Although he had not experienced any pain or other prominent symptoms of heart problems, Honeycutt elected to schedule the surgery as soon as possible.

Doctors anticipate that he will remain in the hospital for eight to ten days.

Honeycutt, president since 1983, has appointed Provost Willis G. Bennett, a member of the seminary faculty for more than 30 years, to serve as acting president.



CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY — Participating in Hurricane Church's 175th anniversary were, from left, Pastor Ronald Smith, church deacons William Howard, Walter Huddleston, James Green, chairman; Wilson County Director of Missions Robert Agee; and James Oliver.

Lebanon church has 175th anniversary

LEBANON — Members of Hurricane Church celebrated the church's 175th anniversary July 22 during a day-long schedule of activities.

The morning service was led by Sam Brooks, a retired minister from Cleveland, who formerly was pastor of the church. During the morning service, Robert Agee, director of missions for Wilson County Association, presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, commemorating the anniversary.

Following lunch at the church's old parsonage, now used as a fellowship hall, Merritt Graves of Nashville presented a history of the church's first 100 years. Graves is a genealogist whose ancestors' history is intertwined with the church's history.

Afterwards, another former pastor, W. F. Oakley, pastor of Vine Church, Lebanon, gave the afternoon message.

The day's activities concluded that evening with the first night of revival. Former pastor Billy Hill, assistant pastor at Radnor Church, Nashville, led the revival which concluded July 29.

Pastor Ronald Smith noted the church has had "175 years of service to Christ."

The church, located ten miles south of Lebanon, was established in 1815 as Fork Church, an offspring of Smith's Fork Church.

Though it began as Union Church, the church became known to members of the community as Hurricane Church because of its proximity to Hurricane Creek.

In its 175-year history, the small rural church, which today has about 100 resident members, has begun three missions — Fall Creek, Rocky Valley, and Vine.

A booklet on the history of the church was given to members on July 22. A sentence in the booklet best summarizes the occasion.

"This church has had many difficulties to encounter, but has been victor in them all . . ."

"We enjoyed the day and all the former members and visitors who helped us celebrate the anniversary," Smith said. — Lonnie Wilkey

Our Readers Write

The results of the SBC Executive Committee's July 17 meeting are known. The news of the firing of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin has been reported by denominational and secular news media, including the Baptist and Reflector. Many letters have been published and views expressed, and many are on hand.

A moratorium for letters on the BP situation is being called. Letters for the Baptist and Reflector must be received in our office by Aug. 10. Additional letters may be accepted if there are further developments.
— Editor

Slogan serves

In 1776, George Mason wrote, "The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty and can never be restrained but by despotic governments."

And so it was that on July 17, we saw guards in the citadel of democratic worship to prevent those who stood for liberty from guaranteeing access to truth.

It was, of course, necessary that the Executive Committee seize Baptist Press because some leaders seek to gain power by winning people over quickly through appeals to emotion and prejudice, often using distortion. In the case of the Southern Baptist Convention, a slogan has served the "conservatives" well.

It was Napoleon who put freedom of the press in proper perspective for us when he said "If I were to give liberty of the press, my power could not last three days."

Roger C. Crowe
506 E. Central Ave.
LaFollette 37766

Distressed writer

I am greatly distressed by the firing of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin from Baptist Press. This is probably the beginning of many, many other forced resignations.

It is becoming painfully clear that the Baptist ideas of soul competency and freedom are being completely ignored by those who lead our convention.

There is no way that we can strip ourselves of all that has made us who we are for 400 years without destroying a great people and a great heritage.

I call for Baptists everywhere to share my indignation until we do something about these injustices that cut to the core of who we are.

Roger Lovette, pastor
Second Church
4680 Walnut Grove Rd.
Memphis 38117

Unbiased forum

The "purging" of Alvin C. Shackleford and Dan Martin from the Baptist Press is a symbol of apparent fears and frustrations of the leadership of the largest Protestant denomination in this country.

In a society where spiritual individuals react and reason with their hearts and their heads, surely thinking Baptists everywhere can not abide a thought-police whose power is in the ability to manipulate its press into voices of propaganda and bully its membership into submission.

If being Baptist truly means to be a part of a fellowship which declares and practices the "priesthood of the believer," then each member should have the right to critically weigh and decide issues in a free, unbiased forum in its denomination and in each individual heart where God is supposed to see, not the leaders.

The educated churchgoer today does not desire his or her religion to be an opiate for pacification but a stimulus to love in action.

Mary Field
1570 Rebecca
Memphis 38111

Good news

Good news is a rarity today. A good saramitan reaffirmed my faith in people recently. To me this was good news.

Enroute to Ridgecrest I was traveling on I-40 near Kingston and Oak Ridge exits when the alternator belt broke on my car. Motorists going my direction were unable to see my stranded car in time to stop and help. But a young Baptist man, Steve Keaton, saw me walking and stopped to help.

Not only did Steve drive me to the nearest exit, but he also carried me 15 miles into Oak Ridge to buy parts for my car and returned to assist me in fixing the car. He would not accept any money for his work.

It is good news to know there are Christian men like Steve who will take risks and give time and help others.

R. Wesley Pitts
Director of Missions
Cumberland Baptist Assn.
Clarksville 37040

Reading lips

Concerning the Jerry Clower statement, "watch my lips," I do not mean to "nit pick," but I'm concerned about the Christ who is experienced outside of the Bible. I too had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He was the one found totally in the pages of God's Holy Word, Genesis through Revelation.

John clearly writes "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." To try to separate Christ, God, and the Word is to attempt the impossible.

People are won to the Lordship of Christ only through God's Word reflected through our lives or their personal studies. To state that people go to hell while we discuss the Bible's accuracy is "hog wash." Without an inerrant Bible, how does one ever know God's Word or promises? If you can't trust the first 13 chapters of Genesis, how can we trust John 3:16?

The world was willing to analyze, evaluate, and intellectually decide that Noah was foolish to take God at His Word completely, but 120 years later the Flood came just the same. If the issue, of inerrancy can be classified as "politics of inerrancy" then I say it's a political issue that God has given and one we must not, cannot, and will not compromise. Inerrancy isn't a political issue; it's the very foundation of what we believe.

William F. Hall Sr., pastor
Rockford Church
Route 1, Box 6
Rockford 37853

Saving money

On July 17 the Executive Committee of the SBC had a special meeting though its regular meeting was scheduled in six weeks. The cost to the SBC was approximately \$50,000. The only business conducted was the firing of Mr. Shackleford and Mr. Martin. Whether they should have been fired will probably never be known.

Why couldn't the Executive Committee wait six weeks? There can be no justification for wasting that much money.

There has been talk about inerrancy. The Bible teaches that if you have a problem with a brother, you are to go to him directly. (Matthew 18:15), ultimately

going to the whole church if the matter is not resolved (Matthew 18:17). Unfortunately, Mr. Shackleford and Mr. Martin were not given reasonable opportunity to discuss alleged problems with the Executive Committee.

What good is believing in the Bible if we choose not to live what it teaches?

Russell D. Hedges
307 Campbell Ave.
Tulahoma 37388

Reader 'in shock'

I have been in shock since the meeting of the SBC and now I am further shocked:

The Home Mission Board is on the cutting edge, helping start three new churches per day and challenging us to start four per day. When they reported at the SBC the great majority of messengers were pouting, lolly-gagging, visiting in the bookstore, eating, sleeping, or sight-seeing. Were they not interested or concerned?

Then when a message was due on the program, messengers left by the thousands. Is the Word of God no longer precious to Southern Baptists?

The great criticism of the Executive Committee and its officers for the press situation. It is far too early for criticizing when we are limited in facts.

That much has been said about a "free press," and that the Executive Committee wants to suppress the news. Even some state editors are making charges. Not a line has gone out by new press personnel and already the Executive Committee has destroyed a free press. It is time for state editors to trust the Executive Committee. Haven't they been saying, "Let us trust each other more."

Clay Frazier, pastor
Alpha Church
245 St. John Road
Morristown 37814

Division in the camp

In 1848 Southern Baptists organized for the purpose of sending the message of salvation to all peoples of the earth. Have we lost sight of our goal?

The Kingdom of God is here on earth composed of those who profess faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

James chapter 3, says if there be strife and jealousy in your hearts it is not from God, it is from the devil! Wisdom from God is peace-loving, open to discussion, cooperation, full of mercy without partiality. We are not seeing this type of spirit in our convention.

Is God pleased with Southern Baptist leaders?

God is still in control regardless of what man does, and I believe we will see the mighty hand of God at work before another convention meeting.

Bessie Buckner
561 Rockwell Dr.
Cookeville 38501

Mind of Christ

The manner by which the Executive Committee conducted its affairs is a disgrace to the Gospel of Christ which proclaimed that His work was always done in the light and those who sought darkness did so because their deeds were evil.

Those of us who continue to remain silent do so as partners in this terrible plot to control the minds of people, rather than to allow the mind of Christ to be in us.

It is also unfortunate that our new president of the SBC has remained silent about the fate of the Baptist Press and the firings. He had stated earlier that he had very little problems with the Baptist Press and would not support wholesale firings.

Politics can make one compromise in many ways, I would hope this is not the case with our new leader. To our own Baptist and Reflector staff, I commend

your fairness and objectivity, and trust that this will continue regardless of the fears others would cast upon you.

Coby Byrne
1605 Linden Ave.
Memphis 38104

Human opinion

Though it sounds good, the idea of an unbiased free flow of information is impossible to attain. The Baptist and Reflector editors have only the most honorable intentions. But due to strong views on the issue, recent articles have portrayed the Executive Committee's actions negatively.

Al Shackleford and Dan Martin gave us honest reporting from their perspective. But these men are not unthinking unopinionated robots. They have opinions and biases which affected their reporting, even though they tried to be honest.

The same could be said about their successors. The difference is that in keeping with the general trend of the SBC, the successors will report from a conservative view of reality. If God is more exalted in Baptist Press in the future, a good change was made. If men are exalted, then we made a mistake,

Stan Kirk
6705 Majestic Oaks #1
Memphis 38120

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.

Reporting questioned

The editor of any newspaper has an unfair advantage. He can choose and reject stories as he sees fit. He can through headlines and placement emphasize what he wants reported with the bias that he chooses. Such is the nature of newspapers and editors. Such has been the work of Shackleford and Martin as well as the work of reporting this very story. I do not question the honesty of these men nor their sincere effort to report as unbiased as they can. However, I believe they are of the "moderate" viewpoint.

Every newspaper has a reputation as being "liberal or conservative." Some bias exists in the way news is handled. When this story first broke it was Shackleford's and Martin's biased report that set the stage for all other biased reporting concerning this event.

Their story about themselves received front page, hyper-headline coverage while Dr. Bennett's statement which contradicts their account received less obvious placement and bland headlines. State paper editors are up in arms with great support and resolutions. The truth is, all state paper editors except one is in the "moderate" camp.

I am biased and so are you. With a move to "conservative" leadership (thank God) all of the convention operations will move more to the "conservative" stand, including Baptist Press and eventually the Baptist and Reflector.

Joe Hudson, pastor
Tennessee Avenue Church
104 Cypress St.
Bristol 37620

Virginia draft budget would reduce CP contributions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— The Baptist General Association of Virginia's budget committee will present a draft budget July 31 which reduces the amount of money for the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget by more than \$3.1 million.

Additional funds for selected SBC entities, including the Foreign and Home mission boards, as well as the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, are included in the draft budget, as is support for an alternative denominational news service and a theological education fund.

The proposal, to be presented at a called meeting of the Virginia Baptist General Board, also permits churches to continue giving under the current budget plan and still be "considered supportive of the Virginia Baptist Cooperative Program."

The budget proposal is a response to the solidification of control by the conservative faction in the SBC at the denomination's annual meeting in June.

Joining the Virginia budget commit-

tee at the July 31 general board meeting will be members of the state association's denominational crisis committee, who are expected to endorse the budget in a statement which describes it as a move "toward a more comprehensive, positive plan of cooperative missions giving." The crisis committee was authorized by the BGAV in 1988 to study the state's relationship with the national denomination.

The 97-member general board, which may act between meetings of the BGAV, does not vote on the BGAV budget. However, state association bylaws stipulate the board must receive it for "information and counsel."

BGAV President Ray L. Spence Jr., who also is general board chairperson, said the budget and crisis committees will encourage questions and comments from board members and visitors.

"The meeting is open to all who are interested and want to attend," said Spence, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Richmond.

Messengers will vote on the matter at the annual meeting of the BGAV in Richmond, Nov. 13-14. The 1991 budget will go into effect on Dec. 1.

The \$16,300,000 suggested for the 1991 budget is the same amount budgeted for 1990. Like the current budget, \$660,000 is allocated as a priority item to the SBC Annuity/Protection Plan, a retirement program for church staff members.

The budget committee will recommend that 64.5 percent of the remaining \$15,640,000 support causes in Virginia, leaving 35.5 percent for national and world ministries.

That is a change from the current budget, which allocates 62 percent, or \$9,696,800, to state causes and 38 percent, or \$5,943,200, to national and world causes.

Each item in the proposed Virginia portion of \$10,087,800 would receive increased funding over the current year's allocation.

The national and world ministries portion, which totals \$5,552,200, would be distributed in two ways. Fifty percent, or \$2,776,100, would be an

undesignated contribution to the SBC Cooperative Program, to be allocated according to the budget approved by the SBC in June.

The remaining \$2,776,100 would be designated to eight ministries. Under SBC bylaws, designated gifts are not considered Cooperative Program contributions.

The ministries are the Foreign Mission Board, \$1,611,950; Home Mission Board, \$620,000; partnership missions, \$134,150; Baptist World Alliance, \$100,000; a theological education reserve fund, \$100,000; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$75,000; Associated Baptist Press, \$60,000; and the Annuity Board, \$25,000.

The proposed theological education reserve fund would be used "in the event it becomes necessary to supplement existing theological education," said BGAV Executive Director Reginald M. McDonough, an ex officio member of the budget committee.

Associated Baptist Press is a proposed "replacement" for Baptist Press announced following the firing July 17 of the director and news editor of BP, the denomination's news service.

Not all SBC agencies would lose money under the Virginia proposal. The Foreign and Home mission boards actually would receive more funding in the draft budget than in the current one.

The combined amount allocated to the FMB from both halves of the national and world ministries section of the draft budget is \$3,000,000, compared to \$2,917,517 in the 1990 budget. The HMB would receive \$1,162,589, compared to \$1,140,166.

Hardest hit would be the six SBC seminaries, which would receive no funding in the designated portion of the national and world ministries section. They currently receive \$1,193,849 from Virginia; the draft budget would allocate \$568,073 next year.

Baptists help quake victims . . .

(Continued from page 1)
has helped develop an approach seminary students can use to counsel those to whom they offer food.

Reports say the July 16 quake that rocked the northern island of Luzon killed more than 1000 people, according to missionary Weldon Viertel of Albany, Texas, who is coordinating relief work by seminary students.

The Baguio City area is one of five points where Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines are concentrating relief. The areas include Cabanatuan, where Lea Garcia, a Philippine Baptist schoolteacher, and others died when the six-story Philippine Christian Academy collapsed.

As relief work got under way, monsoon rains with dense fog moved into the area, making it difficult for airplanes to land with supplies. The quake triggered landslides that sent rocks tumbling onto highways leading into Baguio City.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mis-

sion Board has sent \$100,000 to buy rice, sardines and some small tarps as temporary shelters for quake victims.

Much of Baguio City is in shambles, said Viertel. Rescue workers and others watched helplessly as repeated aftershocks caused major hotels and other buildings to crumble further on people already trapped from the first quake, he said. Daily life has virtually ground to a halt as the city has been cut off from outside commerce.

The Baptist seminary sustained less damage than surrounding buildings. Viertel estimated damage to the seminary and houses there at around \$100,000. The concrete beams that form a structure under frame buildings were reinforced by steel rods strong enough to withstand the pressure, he said.

At first, seminary students were immobilized by fear, Viertel said. Some returned home to surrounding provinces. The ones who stayed "got on

top of their fear" and went to work excited about the opportunities they had to spiritually touch the thousands of people around them without homes and food, he said.

All Southern Baptist mission personnel in the Philippines are safe and uninjured, said Sam Waldron, administrator of the mission organization there. Waldron said it was "a miracle" no missionaries were hurt in the quake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale.

Five Southern Baptist workers were stranded along a highway near Baguio City for three days until they were rescued by helicopter July 19.

Tennesseans leave for Philippines

Twenty-four Tennessee Baptists and a Texan leave Thursday for two weeks in the Philippines in an evangelism crusade. The Tennessee Baptist Convention is in a partnership with Philippine Baptists.

According to Clarence Stewart, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions Department, the group will return Aug. 15. Stewart, TBC President Murray Mathis and his family, and new Convention Ministries director Bill Wilson will go.

The teams will work in several locations in the islands.

Making the trip are: Raymond Atwood, First Church, Loudon; June Bailey, Bayside Church, Harrison; Nodell Dennis, Crestview Church, San Antonio, Texas; Curtis Engle, Calvary Church, Erwin; Pam Evans, Morganton Church, Greenback;

Arlene Lewis, Friendship Church, Lenoir City; Shelby Jean Lord, Calvary Church, Loudon; Murray, Loretta, and Archie Mathis, Third

Church, Murfreesboro; Rhonda Messer, Bayside Church, Harrison; Rose McGill, Lenoir City; James McMakin, Calvary Church, Erwin; Ben McNabb, Johnson City; Marvin and Anice Ogle, Tusculum Church, Greeneville; Nell Green, Sneedville;

George Pope, Bethlehem Church, Springfield; Dennis Seagroves, Calvary Church, Erwin; Patricia Seal, Elizabeth Church, Smithville; Clarence Stewart, White House Church, White House; Leon White, Friendship Church, Lenoir City; Robbie Whiteley, Bayside Church, Harrison; Ambers Wilson Jr., Central Church, Johnson City; and Bill Wilson, Brentwood Church, Brentwood.

Places of ministry include Marbel Church, S. Cotabato; First Church, S. Cotabato; New Iloilo Church, S. Cotabato; Bethel Church, S. Cotabato; Mabuhay Church, General Santos City; Lambontong Church, S. Cotabato; Toril Church, Davao City; Busco Church, Bukidnon; Managok Church, Bukidnon; and several churches in Hinterland Association.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

"I still find the day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see. The longer I live the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world." So wrote John Burroughs.

There is some philosophy in those words. He could have gone on to probe the artistry of God's creation to the outer limits — or he could have made an effort to establish a foundation for belief in God. Did he do that?

I don't know John Burroughs, but there is implied faith in God in what he said.

John Glenn, the free world's first astronaut, and a Christian, wrote a short article answering the question, "How do you know there is a God?"

His answer can bolster a sagging spirit.

Astronauts, he says, are first given a booklet with information about space — the immensity of it. It is explained that a light-year is simply a light ray that extends from a given point for a year's time at the speed of 186,000 miles per second — six trillion miles.

He explains that our galaxy is some 100,000 light years in diameter and that our sun is an insignificant star 30,000

light-years from the center. The limits of our telescopically observable universe (when Glenn wrote his belief) extend at least two billion light-years from us in all directions.

That is six trillion multiplied by two billion.

Glenn compares this vastness with the orderliness of the smallest atomic structure on earth. This is sufficient proof of God's existence. "This was a definite plan," he says.

He is right. I stood more than 25 years ago just before sunrise of a spring day and peered into the eastern sky. There in all its glory was a newly-discovered comet, Ikeya-Seki, brightly shining with its 75-million mile tail streaming behind, permanently warped by the perpetual voyage around the sun.

My soul was renewed, my heart warmed in the security of God. Yes, that was a plan.

Could even the skeptic doubt when there is such a plan for proof?



ALLEN

At Camp Linden

TBC ethnic camp offers 'hope' to 68 children

By Connie J. Umstead, news assistant
 "Did you know the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want? I learned that today," said seven-year-old Sharon Kung of Nashville, a camper at the Tennessee Baptist Convention All Nations Children and Youth Camp.

Sixty-eight children and 25 staff members gathered at Camp Linden July 15-20 for the sixth annual ethnic camp, a Bible camp coordinated by James Redding, program associate in the Missions Department at the TBC. The theme this year was "Here's Hope — Jesus Cares for You."

Children and staff members represented 14 nationalities — Mexican, Cambodian, H'Mong, Polish, Nigerian, Venezuelan, Laotian, Iranian, Romanian, Chinese, Korean, Ethiopian, French, and American. They spoke at least 13 different languages. Many spoke English also.

"Ethnic camp is for Bible study and worship, but time is also made for sports, fun, and games," Redding said.

Exposure to Bible study and discipleship training has had a positive effect during the six years. Redding estimates that 75-100 children have

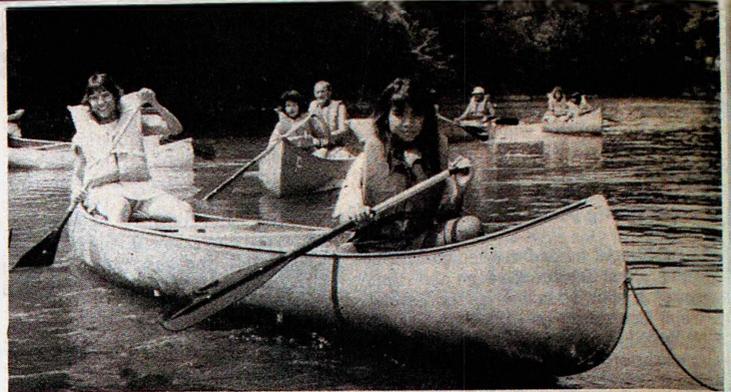
made professions of faith since ethnic camp started six years ago. About half of the campers were Christians at the start of camp this year. Twenty made professions and six rededicated their lives to God before the end of the week.

Some parents have expressed concern about sending their children to camp. Redding explained that when they hear the word camp, they think of refugee camps, which have fences and poor conditions. However, since the camp is in its sixth year, many parents have overcome this fear, Redding said.

When he tries to convince parents to send their children to camp, Redding tells them "It would be one of the happiest experiences they would have during the summer and even in their lifetime. They would make new friends, learn about the Bible and Jesus, develop their own talents, and get fresh air and sunshine."

Apparently Redding's formula for a happy experience works.

"You come here and there is no racial prejudice. You get to see people you haven't seen in a year," said



CAMP FUN TIME — Campers have the opportunity to participate in many outdoor sports and activities while at Camp Linden, including canoeing on the Buffalo River.
 — Photo by James Redding

camper Doris Kung, Nashville. "I've been here four years."

Erwan Buscher, a 17-year-old camper from Paris, France, had a positive experience at ethnic camp also.

He described the camp as "wonderful." He said he enjoyed the activities and meeting people of various races.

Buscher, who was reared in the Catholic Church, said he thinks he will be more interested in the Bible.

"I had never studied the Bible in this way, with a main topic, that 'Jesus Cares for you,'" he said. "At my Catholic school, we studied meanings, not how it affects us. We didn't look for an application to life. We tried to understand it."

"I learned when you have a problem with friends or with school, you solve it with Jesus," Buscher said.

Camp attendance was lower this year than it has been in years past. Redding explained that because of budget restrictions, all campers had to pay at least a portion of the \$65 registration fee. Many campers attended at no charge in past years. Some former campers had summer jobs this year, and other former campers heard a rumor that camp was canceled this year and did not attend.

The rumor surfaced again about next



FROM CAMPER TO COUNSELOR — After attending ethnic camp as campers for several years, four Korean girls returned this year as counselors. From left are Eun Lee, Mihae Kim, Jung Yun, and Hoe Won Shin. All four attend Nashville Korean Church, Nashville.

year's camp. Redding assured the campers during the Wednesday worship time that camp will be held next summer.

"The rewards are too many not to continue," Redding later said.



JESUS LOVES IN SPANISH TOO — During ethnic camp worship time, a group of campers and counselors sang "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish, accompanied by Camp Director James Redding, far right, playing the ukelele.

Cleveland churches host summer Bible conference

CLEVELAND — Approximately 5000 people attended the second annual summer Bible conference July 18-20 at the Conn Center on the Lee College campus in Cleveland.

The conference was sponsored by about 20 Tennessee Baptist churches in the community, according to Reed Wright, pastor of Maple Street Church, Cleveland.

Wright, past president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, and Lamar Dietz, pastor of Clingan Ridge Church, Cleveland, served as directors for the Bible conference.

C-N to honor country singer

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College will grant an honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Dolly Parton, Sevier County native and internationally known entertainer. The degree will be given at a special academic ceremony Oct. 21.

Carson-Newman periodically grants honorary degrees to individuals who, "through example of personal and/or professional lives," impact the local, regional, or national community, according to Cordell Maddox, college president.

Program personalities for the three-day meeting were Darrel Gilyard, pastor of Victory Church, Plano, Texas; Junior Hill, evangelist, Hart-sell, Ala.; Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; and Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Lenoir City.

Gilyard, a 28-year-old black minister, challenged the audience to "think about" what Christ did.

He left the right hand of the Father in heaven to "come to earth where men would spit on Him ... and nail

Him to a cross," Gilyard said.

Gilyard described in detail the childhood and ministry of Jesus and His crucifixion.

"Folks, this is no fairy tale," Gilyard said, adding that "He doesn't get the praise He deserves now, but He will some day."

"Praise God His journey did not end at the cross," he exclaimed.

Gilyard thanked God for what He had done in his life, noting, "I know where Darrel Gilyard would be today if it were not for Him."

Gilyard was born out of wedlock and abandoned by his mother when he was seven years old.

The Texas minister, whose church grew from five members to 500 in one year, overcame being "passed around" from family to family as a child to become valedictorian of his high school class and later obtain college and seminary degrees.

Music for the three-day conference was coordinated by Jack Clark of Cleveland. Guests included the Sites Sisters from Woodstock, Ga., and the Singing Americans from Maiden, N.C.

Joe Parks, song writer and composer from Chattanooga, directed the congregational music.

Patrick Wooden, Steven Haun, and Andy Clark of Cleveland led the orchestra. Local church groups also provided special music.

Wright said the conference proved to be more than just a time for enlightened Bible study. "Several people accepted Christ as their Savior while others made meaningful decisions," Wright noted.

The third annual Summer Bible Conference already has been scheduled for Aug. 7-9, 1991 in Cleveland. Wright added. — Adapted from an article in the Chattanooga News-Free Press.

Woodland Church calls J. G. Wise as pastor

J. G. Wise recently joined the staff of Woodland Church, Brownsville, as pastor.

Wise came to Brownsville from First Church, Trezevant, where he was pastor for 14 years. He also served Emmanuel Church, Humboldt, as pastor for ten years, as well as other churches in Tennessee and Arkansas.

The Jackson native is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., and Union University, Jackson.



MIGRANT CHILDREN — During a meal break of the weekday children's program, photo to left, Eliab Saenz, pastor, Hispanic Mission of First Church, Nashville, who was there leading a revival for the migrants, visits with a girl. In photo to right, two boys wait to be served — Photos by Connie Davis



Summer missionary lobbies for 'migrant rights'

By Connie Davis, assistant editor
ERWIN — Missions work with migrants includes lobbying for "migrants' rights," according to a summer missionary in Tennessee.

Herlinda Lucia Marquez Aleman grew up in a migrant family who "silently" crossed the United States border from Mexico when she was six years old, she explained. Although illegal aliens at the time, Aleman and her family are now citizens.

Aleman, known as "Lucy," is a summer intern for Holston Association's migrant ministry in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains of east Tennessee.

About 400 migrants live on farms in Unicoi County from April to November, when most return to Naples, Fla., for the rest of the year. Aleman, 24, directs a day-long program for children ages 6-12 at First Church, Erwin, and works with families during the evenings. She even takes her "family," as she calls them, to the movies on Saturdays.

Aleman's concern for the migrants has led her to lobby on their behalf. She has met a state legislator, Univer-

sity of Tennessee representatives, and county school officials.

Language barriers

When Aleman learned most of the adult migrants didn't have Tennessee driver's licenses she contacted the department of highway safety and discovered that unlike other states with migrant populations, Tennessee does not provide language interpreters for applicants. Another problem is keeping licenses valid in each state in which they live, she added.

She started a class for those without licenses. About 25 attended, but only six passed the tests because many of her students also are illiterate so they must memorize answers in a foreign language.

Aleman told of one man who finally passed the driving test after three hours by using a Spanish/English dictionary.

After Aleman met with state representative Zane Whitson of Erwin, the state department of highway safety now sends a translator for the driver's license applicants, she reported.

Educational barriers

Education received during the elementary school years is the key to reversing the poverty cycle of migrants, explained Aleman.

"The last thing a government wants to reproduce is food stamp recipients," she said.

She met with Unicoi County school officials to encourage their efforts to receive federal funds available for special teachers during the school year.

Aleman didn't know she could read English until she was in the seventh grade because of absences from school forced by the family's itinerant work. Chuckling, she noted she earned a minor in English — possibly to try to bury her fears of intellectual inadequacy. Aleman is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, and Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, San Antonio, Texas. She is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

"No mother wants their child to be uneducated. We do blame it on the family and home," she observed.

Aleman is assisted in the children's program by Janet and Amanda Edwards, who are paid workers and members of the Erwin church, and several other volunteers during the nine-week program. Lunch is provided by Holston, Watauga, and Sullivan Association churches. Beverly Smothers, director of church and community ministries for Holston Associa-



ALEMAN

tion oversees the 12-year-old ministry.

Activities for the children include a speech and drama class led by Aleman in which the children help write plays about their own experiences. Counseling opportunities grow out of the class, she added.

"I want them to be proud of who they are. You can be oppressed, but being oppressed is a choice and not something you have to do."

Aleman also has met with a University of Tennessee official who has chosen a high school student from one of the migrant families to receive a

scholarship. Aleman took nine migrant high school students from Unicoi County to the campus to meet other UT students from migrant families.

The students are smart — they are bilingual, observed Aleman. They just need some positive Hispanic role models.

From migrant to missionary

"They're family to me," said Aleman of her migrant friends in Unicoi County. In addition to the driver's license class, Aleman also leads a quilting class, English/Bible class, woodcraft class, and recreation. And she helps them on income tax, health care, and other paperwork.

She was Catholic but became Protestant because of the influence of church groups which would hold religious meetings for migrant camps.

A turnaround in her life came when she was 15 because of the interest of a speech teacher and pastor. Even though she had been ready to quit school she told her family to go to Nebraska to work without her so she could remain in school. The family remained in Texas that year, Aleman recalled. Her father is still doing migrant work in Vernon, Texas, she added.

Migrants are very open to Christianity because of their needs, said Aleman.

Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel H. Hobbs
Paul's trial balance

"For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." — Romans 8:18

Romans 8:17 states the privilege and responsibility of sonship. We are fellow-heirs with Christ in all that the Father has. But we must also be fellow-sufferers if we are to be fellow-glorified ones. Of course, only Christ could suffer redemptively. But we too must suffer in our sphere as we make known God's redemptive work in Christ. Doing so, we will be glorified with Him.

So Paul draws a trial balance. "Reckon" was a bookkeeping term. He put the sufferings on one side of the scales (meaning in "worthy") and the glory on the other side. The glory far outweighs the suffering.

We say that God balances the books. No, He overbalances them in our favor.



HOBBS

Filipinos learn Sunday School concept

The concept of Sunday School as Southern Baptists know it was recently delivered to the Philippine Islands by two Tennessee Baptists.

Through the mission partnership Tennessee has with the Philippines, Lew Reynolds, minister of education at Judson Church, Nashville, and Peter Kung of the Baptist Sunday School Board special ministries department, traveled to Manila to train Sunday School teachers and leaders in the Chinese Baptist Convention, which has six churches in the Philippines.

The two men taught church members and leaders, pastors, youth, and children the basics of a Sunday School program, said Reynolds, who has 35 years of experience in Sunday School work.

"Their concept of Sunday School needs to be developed. They don't understand how Sunday School can be used to build churches," Reynolds said. "They think of it as only a Bible study. We were literally ploughing the field for the first time.

"If they are making progress without Sunday School work, what could they do with our knowledge of Sunday School? It would put them in a

different world as far as church work is concerned. If we laid a concept of the genius of Sunday School, it could multiply their effectiveness in evangelism and church growth beyond human understanding," Reynolds said. While in Manila, Reynolds went to the Chinese refugee camp where 40 people who escaped from the Beijing Tiananmen Square rebellion in June, 1989, are being held under the protection of the United Nations.

All 40 have been converted since being imprisoned.

Visiting the camp was "a very emotional time for everyone" because the refugees' "fate is undesirable," Reynolds said. The Philippine government is negotiating with the Chinese government regarding the return of the refugees to China.

Reynolds is working with Judson Church to send New Testament Bibles written in Chinese to the camp.

This trip did not conclude Reynolds' relations with the Philippines. He explained Chinese Baptist Convention leaders want him to return next year with a team of workers for more in-depth training, if possible.



SOUTHWESTERN REGION (Section I) — First row, Andy Pettigrew, Meg Griffin, Matt Boevig, Jennie Crocker, Kim Rhoades, Jason Cruse, Andrew Hawkins, Brandon Griffin, Dale Palk, Andy Exum, William Kirkland, Christopher Young, Ken Barker; second row, Becca Simpson, Carrie Teague, Lindsey Crain, Esther Schultz, Jasmine Nourse, Ruthie Jackson, Amber Hicks, Abbey Tolleff, Chrissy Stoever, Dara Burklow, Heather Williams, Haily Flynn, Lili Myatt, Brittney Bass; third row, Julie Winfield, Jennifer Merivin, Chrissy Futrell, Molly Barber, James Bobb, Joshua Howard, Todd Seabrook, Heath Davis, Kevin Rich, Joey Wilburn, Kelly Martin, Richard Cain, Jeff Deverell



SOUTHWESTERN REGION (Section II) — First row, Paul Rush, Jeff Moore, Connie Perkins, Melissa Holland, Jessica Brown, David Jackson; second row, Lance Willis, Jonathan Smith, Brian Webb, Andy Richardson, Reed Willis, Jim Carney; third row, Emily Thomas, Renae Dallas, Tiffany Tranum, Meghann Ervin, Colleen Reilly, Lauren Davis, Andrea Brewer, Lori Cline; fourth row, Jeremy Thorne, Trae Silliman, Stephen DeWitt, Chad O'Neal, Jennifer Burrell



NORTH CENTRAL REGION — First row, Rita Maynard, Melody Foropoulos, Brandi Burnett; second row, Heather Wallace, Lucinda Hicks



NORTHWESTERN REGION — First row, Leslie Davis, Heather Glisson, Melissa Young; second row, Danie Dass, Carey Jennings, Susan Bartholomew

1990 three-year children's Bible drill winners

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department sponsored eight state Bible drills for children in fourth-sixth grades with 1121 children from 272 churches and 60

associations participating. Photos and names are supplied by the Discipleship Training Department. All children are identified from left to right.



SOUTHEASTERN REGION — First row, Kathi Hodge, Jennifer Pauley, Kim Hobbs, Stephanie Allen, Laura Hudson; second row, Keri King, Tina Mazzolini, Ashly Lewis; third row, Rachel Hawkins, Allison Gray, Ashley Watson, Sarah Washington; fourth row, Brett Allman, David Duggan, Travis Hudson, Brad Hughes



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION — First row, Brad Heard, Mark Brown; second row, Sara Corder, Jamie Ogle, Bridgette Hood, Mitzi Rich



CENTRAL REGION — First row, Allison Travathan, Candy Stanley, Heather Hughes, Suzannah Hicks, Sara Hines, Bobby Tray; second row, Jennifer Bennett, Josh Harris, Jon Fisher, Jill Gwaltney; third row, John Chapman, Susanne Severns, Amy Fouts, Laura Harris, Emily Jane Head; fourth row, Mark Duggin, Beth Guy, James Fouch, Wallace West



EASTERN REGION — First row, Rachel Blanden, Sara Beth Ebbs, Jennifer Jan, Ginger Pratt, Caren Campbell, Matt Brewster, Grant Houser, Richard Byrd; second row, Jeff Kelly, Gary Slinnett, Suzanne Millsaps, Jennifer Langston, Mike Miller, Chris Whaley, Ashleigh Vineyard, Cindy Beck, Betsy Green; third row, Josh Lawhorn, Ginger Doane, Lynne Smith, Whitney Russell, Caydee Hqbs, Leslie Lindsey, Missy Busler, Matt McCarley, Josh Wolfe, Elaina Yasko



NORTHEASTERN REGION — First row, Annette Self, Kris Haynes, Wesley McMurray, Elizabeth Gardner, Melissa Smith; second row, Susan Burks, Chrissy Hance, Tara Renner, Matt Hawn, Stephanie White

TenneScene

... From Flatwoods to Deer Lodge, through Brush Creek ...

Associations ...

Beulah Association recently held a Final Four rally at Calvary Church, Union City. Half of the member churches were represented at the rally. D. L. Lowrie delivered the message.

Churches ...

Homecoming services will be held Aug. 5 at Stones River Church, Smyrna. A covered dish dinner and special music by the Watchman Quartet, Bowling Green, Ky., will follow morning worship.

The annual picnic of Newcomb Church, Newcomb, was recently held at Indian Mountain State Park. A mission team from First Church, Hendersonville, N.C., attended the picnic. The North Carolina group was in Newcomb to build a house for a local resident.

Members of First Church, Smithville, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 19. Doyle Suites, Cleveland, will be guest speaker.

Silerton Church calls McMahan as pastor

Orville McMahan recently joined the staff of Silerton Church, Silerton, as pastor.

Ordnained in 1949 at Hatchie Church, Hornsby, McMahan most recently served as pastor of Dixie Hills Church, Bolivar. He has also served as pastor of New Union Church, Medon; Piney Grove Church, Henderson; Porter's Creek Church, Middleton; Hatchie Church; Palestine Church, Henderson; and New Bethlehem Church, Dyer.

McMahan earned a bachelor's degree from Union University, Jackson. He is a teacher at Middleton High School.

He and his wife, Bonnie, have two sons, Anthony, and Dennis, who is pastor of Piney Grove Church.



McMAHAN

Fairlawn Church, Memphis, recently completed Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 92. Average attendance in Sunday School is 45.

Leadership ...

Leawood Church, Memphis, recently called Tim Melvin as director of the activities building.

Dennis Taylor recently joined the staff of Sunnyside Church, Kingsport, as full-time minister of music.

Herschel Woodburn, pastor of Silverdale Church, Chattanooga for 14 years, retired effective July 31.

Sullivan Church, Kingsport, recently called Travis Cross, Blountville, as director of youth and education. He is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

Tony Connors has been called as associate pastor/single adult minister to Calvary Church, Knoxville. He is a graduate of King College, Bristol, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He formerly served as pastor of Kingsway Church, Bristol, Va.

First Church, Hendersonville, called Jeff Lake as minister of childhood education, and Jeff Ross as minister of activities and senior adults.

Chuck Kitchens recently joined the staff of Trinity Church, Memphis, as director of student ministries.

Central Church, Oak Ridge, called Windy Rich as interim coordinator of church programs.

J. Mark Wilson has accepted the position of minister of program development at First Church, Paris.

Missions ...

Inskip Church, Knoxville, sent its first adult mission team to McClellanville, S.C. recently to help with construction and clean-up in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo.

Twenty-five youth and six adults from Brownsville Church, Brownsville, went on a mission choir tour recently to Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. The group, led by Minister of Music Ralph Brown, presented the musical "Choose" 12 times and conducted a Vacation Bible School. There were six professions of faith and five rededications.

A mission team from Manley Church, Morristown, will go to Packard Road Church, Ann Arbor, Mich., Aug. 6-10 to help do remodeling work.

First Church, Chattanooga, sent a mission team of adults and youth to New Orleans, La., to work with the Baptist Friendship House leading backyard Biuble clubs and recreation, and doing repair work on a house.

A mission group from Puryear Church, Puryear, went to Kalamazoo, Mich., recently to do construction work at Praise Church.

First Church, Paris, sent a group of 25 youth and adults to Berrien Springs and Bangor, Mich., to conduct Vacation Bible School, backyard Bible clubs, and survey work.

First Church, Pulaski, calls Galyon as pastor

Ron Galyon recently accepted the pastorate of First Church, Pulaski. His first day was July 1.

Galyon most recently served as pastor of Antioch Church, Timberlake, N.C. He has also served as associate pastor of churches in Georgia and North Carolina. In addition, Galyon was an adult probation officer in Georgia for six years.

The Chattanooga native graduated from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. in 1978, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. in 1989.

He and his wife, Jan, have two children.



GALYON

Revivals ...

First Church, Sweetwater, will hold revival Aug. 12-16 with David Overman, pastor of Park Hill Church, Kansas City, Mo., leading services.

Bob Campbell will lead revival services Aug. 5-10 at Oak Grove Church, Moscow.



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Tennesseans graduate at Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas - Reaching all kinds of people for Christ, anywhere, must be the focus of ministry, the executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention told summer graduates at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during commencement ceremonies July 13 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday conferred 141 degrees during the ceremonies, including 13 in the school of church music, 47 in the school of religious education and 73 from the school of theology.

The summer class included eight with strong Tennessee ties.

John Sullivan, a Southwestern graduate and executive director-treasurer of the Florida convention, told graduates they must see that "missions is not crossing the sea, it's seeing the cross" in order to take the Gospel to everyone.

Using Ephesians 4:11-16, Sullivan challenged graduates to make missions

a vital part of their ministries. "Regardless of where we are, God's revelation puts missions as the center of all we do," he said. Making a deliberate decision to share the Gospel to both "poverty pockets and prosperity pockets," is a necessary focus for ministers, he said.

Tennesseans earning master of divinity degrees included Joel Wilson, First Church, Church Hill, and Regina Easley-Young, Hopewell Church, Savannah.

Master of arts in religious education degree recipients were David Gass, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; Ronald Gunter, Hillcrest Church, Clarksville; Charles Rockholt Jr., Westwood Church, Cleveland; and William Young, First Church, Nashville.

Other degree recipients included James Tanner Jr., Covington, doctor of ministry, and Fred Tubbs, Rugby Hills Church, Memphis, doctor of philosophy.



NOTE BURNING — First Church, Lawrenceburg, held a special note-burning service July 15 commemorating the retirement of the debt incurred during the church's two-phase relocation and building project. The church relocated to a new \$1 million facility in 1984. Two years later the church added 12,500 square feet of Sunday School space, bought eight acres of property, and added parking space. Cost of that project was \$654,000. From left, Bill Henard, pastor, who recently resigned to accept a pastorate in Birmingham, Ala.; James Wall, chairman of deacons; Levon Jones, trustee; Carroll Methvin, fund-raising chairman; and Louise Lindsey, building committee member.

SBC split 'difficult if not impossible,' Paschall says

By James H. Cox
AURORA, Ky. (BP)— A split in the Southern Baptist Convention would be "difficult, if not impossible" to achieve, former SBC president H. Franklin Paschall theorized.

In light of domination of the convention by "conservatives" at last month's SBC meeting in New Orleans, both "conservatives" and "moderates" have suggested one solution to the differences is to divide the house.

But Paschall, SBC president from 1966 to 1968 and retired pastor at First Church, Nashville, said he would not recommend a split. He discussed the situation in an interview July 10 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Academy in Pendergraph Conference.

For one thing, "the loser goes away with nothing," he said, noting the loser would have to "start all over again."
 "We agree on too many things to break up," Paschall continued. He

cited belief in basic Biblical and theological truth and a program of missions.

At the same time, Paschall, placed major responsibility for peace squarely on the shoulders of "conservatives."

"Conservatives" are in control, and they have the opportunity and ability to consolidate their gains and include all Southern Baptists in their planning, said Paschall. They have "won the war" and a winner "can afford to be magnanimous," he added.

Yet, he warned, to follow the path of total domination will ultimately destroy the Southern Baptist Convention "as we have known it."

Paschall said that one point of view had never uniformly dominated the SBC and "it cannot be achieved now."
 He admitted, however, that this mindset exists "among some 'conser-

vative' leaders — but not all." He said he hoped to see more openness and inclusiveness. Yet he cited "distressing fallout" in fellowship, and it is "all but certain fallout" will afflict Cooperative Program unified budget support.

"Conservatives" are asking for "taxation without representation," he explained. "There's really no other way to put it."

Paschall said he was not ready to give up on the idea of Baptists cooperating together, although he definitely is more pessimistic than he was two years ago.

The only way for the denomination to remain united is "in Christ as revealed in the Bible," he said.

Retreats set for bivocational music directors

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Music Department will hold two retreats for bivocational music directors and accompanists in August.

The first retreat will be held Aug. 17-18 at Camp Linden in Linden. The second retreat is set for Aug. 24-25 at Camp Carson in Newport.

Heading the programs at the retreats are Jimmy McCaleb, minister of music, Southside Church, Jackson, Miss.; Dot Pray, keyboard specialist, Mississippi Baptist Convention,

Jackson, Miss.; Tommy Keown, consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and Mary Beth Wickes, staff accompanist, First Church, Cleveland.

Cost of the two-day meeting is \$25 and includes three meals, lodging, registration, music, and conferences. Registration is not refundable after Aug. 13.

For additional information, contact the Church Music Department at (615) 371-2040.

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Israel requests a king

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

One of our greatest sins is our lack of patient trust in God's plan. We take matters in our own hands, only to suffer the consequences later. The Psalmist reminded the people, "and He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul" (Psalm 106:15). Such was Israel's fate as they sought an earthly king.

Change in leadership (8:1-6)
 God had been Israel's king since the beginning, but after Samuel's retirement as a judge (political and spiritual leader), the elders began demanding a change in leadership.

This change was demanded for at least three reasons. First, Samuel's sons were unfit to lead. Second, heads of the 12 tribes were



HAUN

constantly striving against one another and a king could possibly unify the nation. And third, the people in their flesh wanted a monarch to honor, an army to command, and nationalistic pride to worship.

The Apostle Paul reminded us, "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4). We must never use fleshly methods to fulfill spiritual duties.

Cause for concern (8:7-21)

Samuel expressed his concern about the elders' request for a king. As God's prophet he knew two important facts — one regarding the present, and one the future. He knew their present need was not allegiance to an earthly king, but a recommitment to the heavenly King. The problem was not nationalistic, but internal. The people needed to come back to God (Deuteronomy 28:1).

But Samuel also foresaw danger in

this request for a king. Did that future danger come to pass? Yes! Israel (including northern and southern kingdoms) had 41 kings over a period of 450 years. Only 11 followed God, and seven forgot God at the end of their reigns. It was the spiritual rebellion of these kings that led to Israel's captivity to foreign nations (2 Kings 17 and 25).

**BIBLE BOOK
 August 5 Lesson**

Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 8-10
 Focal Passage: 1 Samuel 8-10

A choice is made (9:1-27)

The scene shifts in this chapter to Saul and his family. Saul's father, Kish, was a wealthy man whose donkeys strayed away. Saul was sent to find the donkeys, but could not. In his frustration he turned to the "seer" (prophet) Samuel. God had revealed to Samuel that Saul was to be king.

Here is an example of God's permissive will. Years prior to this event Moses prophesied this choice of a king would be made (Deuteronomy

17:14-20). The temptation still exists today to make our plans and then ask God to bless them.

Coronation for a king (10:1-16)

An Israelite king was not only crowned, but also anointed. The coronation was the political act and the anointing with oil the spiritual act. The oil symbolized the presence and power of the Holy Spirit upon the king's life. It was to be a constant reminder that only through God's wisdom could the king be an effective leader.

Samuel prophesied that Saul's life and attitude would change and it happened. God gave Saul three special signs to assure him (10:1-7) and those signs occurred.

Call to the people (10:17-27)

The Israelites chose their king by "sacred lot" (Proverbs 16:33). Samuel called the leaders together and through this process they came to the same conclusion as Samuel — Saul would be king! Samuel exhorted the people to follow Saul.

Saul had every advantage, yet he would prove to fail miserably because he did not trust God completely.

Times and seasons

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

It is July. The days are long, the humidity is high, and the temperature outside is hovering close to 100 degrees. Folks are complaining, grass is turning brown, and air conditioners are working overtime. But this is July, not January. It would be abnormal if it were not hot in Tennessee in July. Yet people complain and fume, wishing somehow to change the hot season to the cool season.

It can't be done, for God has set the seasons on their course and He alone can change that course. The "teacher" in Ecclesiastes also experienced the frustration of the unchangeable sameness of the times and seasons. After examining all of life, he was



PIPPIN

frustrated wondering if life had any meaning or purpose in this unchangeableness.

A Time for Everything (3:18)

There is a sameness to life because God set the proper time "for every matter under heaven." The activities mentioned by the teacher represent ordinary experiences in an individual's life. Everything happens when it should happen because God pre-arranged it.

What choices does man have? He is free to choose how he will respond to the inevitabilities. He can know they are coming and make preparations to meet them. He is free to see that life is a picture completed only with a combination of various colors which he must put together in the likeness of God.

The futile search (3:9-10)

The teacher came close to fatalism. He sought for the reason behind man's

existence. Is all his labor for nothing? But he must labor, because God gave him plenty to do. God put man in this world to tend it. He is to earn his living by the sweat of his brow. He must work even if his labors do not have the power to change the cosmic scheme of things. Is it all a futile busy-ness?

**CONVENTION UNIFORM
 August 5 Lesson**

Basic Passage: Ecclesiastes 3
 Focal Passage: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

A satisfying conclusion (3:11-15)

Man may not understand God's ways, but they are beautiful nevertheless (v. 11). The one who recognizes this beauty understands there is a great gulf between his knowledge and the ways of God. He accepts his lack of understanding of God's activities, while he also accepts that in all things God is working to bring good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. He doesn't know the

game plan, but knowing the game Planner he can find beauty and joy in the game.

Man cannot change God's sovereignty in determining the times of human activity. God made reality as it is; therefore, man fears God and stands in awe of Him (v. 14). God's goal is for a humble, reverent person to bow before His supreme goodness and greatness and rest meekly on His power and mercy. That person will meet the recurring events in God's plan with humility and reverence.

Conclusion

Are you frustrated about the seasons and times because you cannot change them? Then it is time for you to be still and know that God is God. It is time to open His Word and study to show yourself approved unto God. If you would trust Him and allow His Spirit to teach you, you would learn that others have received the gift of joy and confidence in a season more taxing than yours. (See Job 13:15, Philippians 4:13.) Focus on "trust" and "through Him!"

Awaiting His coming

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

The Bible is the irrefutable Word of God, but our finite minds cannot comprehend all its truths. Our inability to completely understand its teachings, however, does not minimize its reality.

One issue that has received various interpretations is the Doctrine of the Second Coming. There are three major doctrinal positions on this subject:

post-millennialism, a-millennialism, and pre-millennialism. Post-millennialists believe Jesus will come after the 1000 year reign of Christ mentioned in Revelation 20. A-millennialists do not believe Jesus



WREN

will establish a literal 1000 year reign upon this earth. They believe it is symbolic of either the period from the first coming of Christ until His return or the believer's victory over Satan through Jesus Christ. Pre-millennialists contend after the tribulation, Christ will

return to earth and rule for 1000 years.

To confuse the issue even more, serious Bible students also have varying views as to whether Christ will rapture the church before the tribulation, during the tribulation, or post-tribulation. None of them waver in their certainty that the Lord will return.

There are some doubters who make fun of this doctrine. They consider it absurd to believe Jesus is coming again. This is not unique to our day. Peter experienced similar ridicule in his day.

Warning the church about unbelievers who scoffed at the second coming of Jesus, Peter encouraged people to live holy lives. He mentioned three things he wanted them to know as they awaited the day of the Lord: scoffing, schedules, and saintly living.

Scoffers (3-4)

A scoffer is a person who demonstrates contempt and irreverence. Scoffers were around in Noah's day and sneered at the thought of a flood covering the earth. In Lot's

time, people did not seriously consider the possibility of fire and brimstone destroying Sodom. When Jesus began His ministry, scoffers rejected Him.

In our text, Peter warned that scoffers would arise, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" (v. 4). They thought the second coming was a farce. They based their conclusion on the assumption that since the promise had not been fulfilled, it would never be realized.

**LIFE AND WORK
 August 5 Lesson**

Basic Passage: 2 Peter 3:1-14;
 Jude 17-23

Scoffers are with us in these last days. They refuse to believe in the second coming of Jesus and believe only ignorant people would accept such a doctrine. They sneer and scoff because they do not have the spiritual capacity to understand it. The facticity of the second coming, however, is clearly taught in the Bible and one-fourth of the New Testament refers to it.

Schedules (8-10)

The scoffers were trying to fit God's schedule into their scheme of things. They failed to realize God is eternal and does not fit into a time frame.

Since 1000 years are like a day to the Lord, He cannot be accused of tardiness or negligence concerning His promise to return.

Why has God waited this long to send Jesus back to earth? The answer, or part of it, may be found in the words "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (v. 9). We know God sent Jesus the first time because He so loved the world and "that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). It seems that God is now giving lost people opportunity to be saved and Christians time to "rescue the perishing."

Saintly living (11-14)

Peter instructed Christians to live holy and Godly lives (v. 11). They were not to spend their time debating events their finite minds could not comprehend.

Moreover, because of the facticity of the second coming of Jesus, it would be folly for them to live only for this world. Since this world is temporal and their future is eternal, they should strive to lay up treasures in their eternal home in heaven.

If He were to come today, would you be glad or embarrassed?

Healthy job stress can become life distress, leader warns

By Charles Willis

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Healthy job stress can become life distress when ministers do not manage their time well, according to a state music leader.

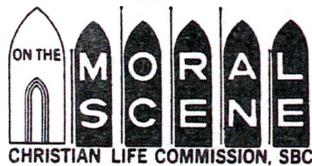
Harry Taylor, music director for the Kansas/Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, said he believes poor time management can affect both work and home life for ministers. Unchecked, healthy stress can become distress that can result in burnout, job resignation, unwanted career change, or divorce.

"All of life contains stress," Taylor said, "and some of it is natural and good. Stress is a normal function of life, but when stress becomes distress, our bodies begin to malfunction. Ulcers, heart problems, or behavioral changes can be extremely detrimental to ministry and family life.

"Poor time management at work can cause defensiveness and irritability that carry over into home life," he continued.

Taylor told participants in the Church Music Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center that poor delegation is a contributing factor to poor time management.

"They're not going to do it like I'd do it" is a common defense some persons use for trying to do everything themselves, Taylor said.



Two-parent family key to aiding troubled youth

Teenagers who had serious delinquency records or mental or emotional health problems were far more likely to straighten out as adults if they lived in a two-parent family, according to a new study.

It's a striking illustration of what we've observed in many instances — the difference a stable family can make to troubled teenagers," said Emmy Werner, a psychologist and professor of human development at the University of California at David. She conducted the study that tracked several hundred youths from birth in 1955 to age 30.

— Washington Post

Funnyside up

The following announcements have been seen on church bulletin boards.

"No healing services Sunday due to the pastor's illness."

"Not everyone who enters this church has been converted, so please watch your handbags and wallets."

Sermon — "How Much Should a Christian Drink?" Music by a Full Choir.

"Come in and Get Your Faith Lifted."

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Five basic time wasters Taylor has observed among ministers include paperwork, telephones, drop-in visitors, poor organization of life priorities, and poorly organized meetings. Taylor recommends handling papers only once.

"If I can write a note of reply on correspondence, I do it to save my time and secretarial time," he said. "Have your secretary deal with anything she can," he said. "Have the secretary organize your mail by first class, less important mail and junk mail. Ask yourself, 'What will happen if I don't deal with this?'"

Ministers who pick up a telephone should pick up a pencil at the same time, he said.

"Write down questions before you call," he said. "Stand up while you talk rather than getting comfortable.

Ethics taking back seat to immorality

By Terri Lackey

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Immoral behavior in America has become the rule rather than the exception, and the result has forced Christian ethics to take a seat behind moral confusion, a Discipleship Training conference leader said.

"America is in a state of moral confusion. The people of America, the home of the free and the brave, say, 'If it feels good, do it; if it's okay with you, it's okay with me,'" Anna Marie Edgemon of Nashville told participants in a session on ethical issues during the discipleship training leadership conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Edgemon, a former missionary to China and wife of Roy Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department, led the conference based on content of a new Equipping Center module, "The Bible Speaks to Today's Ethical Issues."

The Discipleship Training resource addresses the issues of abortion, abuse, addiction, personal economics, world economics, homosexuality, and pornography.

Edgemon cited statistics from the module pointing out that the extent of moral confusion include:

- Forty abortions are performed for every 100 live births in the United States today.

- Teenage pregnancy and abortion rates are about twice those of other industrialized nations such as Britain,

Canada, France and Sweden.

- One girl in four and one boy in seven are sexually abused. The number of substantiated sexual abuse cases rose from about 6000 in 1976 to about 113,000 in 1985.
- As many as 45 percent of women have been subjected to rape or attempted rape.

- Twenty-five thousand highway deaths are caused each year by drunken drivers.

- Pornography is an \$8 billion-per-year business.

Edgemon attributed much of today's diminished morality to "the breakdown in family life."

She said parents in broken families or parents who do not spend much time with their children are less inclined to teach their children strong moral values.

"We must ground our children in the

Word of God. We must see the Word of God as our resource against immorality," she said.

Edgemon said immorality affects all walks of life, from fallen politicians and religious leaders to insider trading on Wall Street and improprieties in college sports.

Christian ethics, she said, is affected by five basic social institutions — economics, education, family, government, and religion.

Moral problems rarely involve only one of these social institutions, she said.

Education on moral and ethical issues is a role which could and should be carried out by the churches, said Edgemon.

"Sometimes as Christians, we are not seen as being 'with it,' but we have the responsibility of trying to shape the morals of the society in which we live."

"We must ground our children in the

Iranian Bible Society remains closed

READING, England — The Iranian Bible Society, whose operation was shut down by authorities six months ago, has failed in numerous attempts to get approval for its reopening.

The Bible Society, based in Teheran, has operated legally and openly for the ten years since the revolution and establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but recently the Society had been increasingly restricted in its activities. The executive secretary had become subject to repeated harassment and was advised by the Society's advisory committee to leave the country. Finally, the Society was closed, its files confiscated, and its staff locked out of the premises.

"We have tried to deal with this situation in a sensitive and diplomatic way, but we have not made much progress," said Chan-Young Choi, United Bible Societies Asia-Pacific regional secretary.

"It is time for the international community to raise a collective voice in support of Bible work in Iran. In fact, this is not simply a question of Bible work, but of freedom of religion and human rights," said Choi.

Since the beginning of the Islamic revolution in Iran, religious freedom and activities by religious minorities in Iran have been gradually restricted. The government established an Office of Religious Minorities in the Ministry

whip a skunk," he observed. "But is it worth what it costs him?"

Taylor urged ministers to let committees do their work and provide an opportunity for reports at regularly scheduled business meetings.

"Prepare and distribute lengthy or heavy material to be considered ahead of time. People need to know in advance, and meeting times can be shorter and more productive when people have the facts to study."

Taylor said music leaders who are unprepared for rehearsals cause themselves and others distress. "If you are not prepared, the choir will go home disenchanted, and this will cause you stress because you know the choir knows you are unprepared.

"You are what you take the time to become," he said.

of Islamic Guidance to supervise and monitor religious activities, to the extent that permission is even required to conduct weddings and have church outings. On most occasions such activities are strongly opposed by the government office.

"The Iranian Bible Society is one of the organizations which the Office of Religious Minorities has seemed to oppose more than others, and through various actions taken has progressively decreased its scale of operations," said Choi.

"First, it prohibited the printing of Scripture Portions and Selections. Later, after giving permission for the printing of New Testaments, it forbade any further printings. When permission was requested to print a Gospel portion, 'Jesus, Who Are You?', this office suggested that 'Son of God' and 'Lord' should not be used for Jesus, but that He be referred to only as a 'prophet.' Because of the actual original New Testament text in Greek, the Iranian Bible Society rejected this proposal and therefore was unable to print that Portion," Choi said.

For the last two years, sending the annual report of the Iranian Bible Society to churches in Iran was prohibited, and last year the celebration of Bible Sunday was not allowed.