

# Baptist and Reflector

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NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## In Kuwait

### Grahams in U.S. Embassy; Middle East workers make plans

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP) — The U.S. State Department has reconfirmed that a Southern Baptist family in Iraqi-controlled Kuwait has taken refuge in the U.S. Embassy compound there.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptist workers in the Middle East have made contingency plans to evacuate should hostilities erupt between Iraq, which

State Department's Kuwait task force member Judy Dunbar reconfirmed Aug. 10 that the Southern Baptist family in Kuwait, Maurice and Laurie Graham and their 13- and ten-year-old sons, were reported safe in the embassy compound, according to a cable from U.S. officials there. Graham, a graduate of Belmont College, is from Shelbyville, and his wife is from Hutchinson, Kan. The Grahams have been in the country less than three months to do youth and music work at the National Evangelical Church.

Earlier in the day, other task force officials would only confirm that the Grahams were safe and in contact with the embassy, but not whether the family was being sheltered by the embassy. Dunbar said those officials probably did not have access to the cable confirming the Grahams had moved from their home on a church compound in Kuwait City to the embassy compound.

One task force member who asked not to be identified reported that the U.S. Embassy has been "in personal contact with almost 900 of the American citizens living in Kuwait out of a total of about 3000. There's one operating telephone at the embassy and it's being used to check at the different hotels on the welfare of Americans in those hotels."

"There have been reports of looting and attacks on foreigners by Iraqi soldiers but we don't see yet any pattern that they're just targeting Westerners," she said. Iraq has imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Kuwait since it invaded the country Aug. 2.

Last week, State Department spokespersons could give no estimate of the number of Americans who have taken refuge at the U.S. Embassy, but they did say the embassy compound consists of a series of buildings on "a large amount of acreage" with about 130 U.S. diplomatic officials.

Dale Thorne, who directs Southern

Baptist Foreign Mission Board work in the Middle East and North Africa, said Aug. 13 that evacuation plans for workers in the region are being made should they become necessary. "Our people in the various countries have been meeting," he said. "We want them to keep their plans current."

Thorne said the workers are maintaining a low profile, "not being too obvious in their movements, especially in countries with anti-American demonstrations going on."

In Jordan, Southern Baptist representative Gerry Milligan is seeing such demonstrations daily at the University of Jordan in Amman, where he is on the nursing faculty.

Milligan's wife, Arylis, heads the group of about 25 Southern Baptist workers assigned to Jordan. She said Aug. 13 that the university president told her husband that he didn't think the situation was dangerous but neither could he guarantee absolute safety for Americans. A dean at the school later told Milligan he should be careful wherever he goes.

"You get conflicting reports," Mrs. Milligan said. "We are just on hold here, not really knowing what to do; listening to the news accounts at every moment. We're waiting to see what's going to happen, whether we need to leave or if things are going to settle down."

Southern Baptist workers Charles and Nancy Browning, stationed in Ajloun, Jordan, will be spending several days in Amman "until they find out what's going to happen," Mrs. Milligan said, as will Jeffrey and Susan Vann, who are stationed in Irbid.

Travel plans remain in place for two additional Southern Baptist workers to arrive in Jordan at the end of the month, Thorne said. The two are Vicki Smith of Fredericksburg, Va., who

(See Grahams, page 5)



L. GRAHAM



M. GRAHAM

has amassed troops at the Saudi Arabian border, and a U.S.-led alliance of countries now deploying troops to defend Saudi Arabia.

### Jackson church raises \$16,000 for Kenyan project

By Joe Westbury

JACKSON — When Dorothy and Estel Hudson returned from a late July mission trip to Kenya, they brought back a vision of how the nationals are responding to Southern Baptist evangelistic efforts.

But they did more than just talk. They also challenged their friends at First Church, Jackson, to become involved in missions and to learn more of how they could help evangelize the world.

They told of long days on dusty paths, walking from village to village to share the Gospel message. They shared stories of how eager the Kenyans were to hear the Good News, and of five Moslem couples they had won to the Lord.

The Hudsons knew how difficult it

would be for the couples and their families in Kenya to grow in their faith without a church. That's why they wanted to help the Malindi Baptist Association, where they ministered, build a church in the seacoast village of Ngomeni where there was no Christian witness.

They believed it so strongly, in fact, that before they left Kenya the Hudsons personally bought the land on which to build the church. But they needed help to make it a reality.

Within just a week of their return, response to their testimony had grown to the point where pastor H. Garrison Coltharp decided to take the challenge one step further.

On Aug. 5, he took a step that he had never before taken in his 25-year ministry; he asked First Church to sacrificially give to build the 40 by 60-foot concrete block building. During the Sunday morning service, Coltharp asked the congregation to raise \$2800 so the village could have a church.

Neither Coltharp nor the Hudsons were prepared for the response. By Sunday evening, \$5900 had been raised and by the end of the week on Aug. 10, nearly \$16,000 had poured into the church office.

"I was hesitating to bring it before the church but I'm sure the Lord was in it," Hudson said. "I don't know why we were able to raise so much money but I'm sure the Lord has a need for it in the Malindi association."

The couple were part of 530 volunteers who went on the

evangelistic emphasis sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board. They were part of a group sponsored by First Church in Euless, Texas, where their son is a member.

Hudson says the response of the church was as overwhelming as the response of the villagers.

"Before I left Jackson I prayed that the Lord would let me lead five people to Him during the trip. But at the end of the first day, Dorothy and I had 51 conversions between us," he said.

Hudson, who works with the University of Tennessee Extension Service, said the volunteers "walked from village to village and house to house, telling the people about Jesus."

(See Jackson, page 5)

### Need some papers?

Interested in receiving copies of the Baptist and Reflector for distribution on Aug. 26, Baptist and Reflector Day?

Churches may call or write the paper's office in Brentwood for copies of the Aug. 23 issue. The form on page 5 may be used — or call the office at (615) 371-2003.

Sufficient copies will be sent free of charge.

Baptist and Reflector Day is observed on the Tennessee Baptist Convention's denominational calendar the fourth Sunday each August.



FROM BRAZIL TO BRENTWOOD — Three Tennessee natives who are Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil were among 16 missionaries who visited the Baptist Center in Brentwood Aug. 9 while on furlough in Tennessee. They were attending a foreign missionary orientation sponsored by the TBC's Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department. Archer Thorpe, left, Department Director, visited with the missionaries. The missionaries and their home churches in Tennessee are, from left, Claudia Hall, First Church, Dickson; Steve Hall, South Harriman Church, Harriman; and Mary Witt, McCalla Avenue (now Chilhowee Hills) Church, Knoxville. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

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**Editorial****Supporting effort to fulfill exciting opportunities**

Several items concerning the Cooperative Program have drawn attention in recent weeks. As we near the month of October when the CP is highlighted on the Southern Baptist calendar, we look at these.

As D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director/treasurer, has aptly reminded us, the TBC honors the wishes of each Tennessee Baptist church as determination is made on CP designations. Basically, the line is drawn only on items not in the SBC and TBC budgets.

At the same time, violence can be done to the Cooperative Program when hasty or self-serving decisions are made. The lifeline to missions, evangelism, ministry, and education must not be permanently damaged.

It is the right of every Baptist church to participate as it desires with Cooperative Program giving. We would not attempt to alter that condition. We have many good programs to support.

The newspaper was the first (July 18 issue) to use an open letter from SBC President Morris Chapman encouraging continued CP support. Following this introduction, we print a statement from Foreign Mission Board officials about exciting missions opportunities. FMB President Keith Parks and trustees' chairman William L. Hancock ask for generous cooperative support for taking advantage of these opportunities in this joint statement.

In a recent meeting, FMB trustees gave strong affirmation to the statement. — WFA

The exciting things happening and the unlimited opportunities certainly should challenge Southern Baptists to increase their financial support.

The Kenyan Crusade involved approximately 540 volunteers from all across the United States. More than 56,000 professions of faith were regis-

tered and 84 new congregations were formed. Pray for the urgent and demanding follow-up effort.

In two weeks of revival meetings in Byelorussia (a province of USSR) in July, there were 2800 professions of faith registered. There continues to be great response in many parts of the world.

As of August 1 there are 3820 missionaries assigned to 120 countries. Seven more countries are approved. As soon as personnel are assigned to five of the seven, Southern Baptists will have reached their second Bold Mission Thrust goal — assigning missionaries to 125 countries.

The first Bold Mission Thrust goal fulfilled was moving beyond 10,000 foreign mission volunteers in 1988. This was maintained in 1989, and appears to be on target in 1990.

The crumbling of the Berlin wall and other less visible walls in Eastern Europe has opened many new opportunities. Already \$3.25 million has been appropriated since December by the Foreign Mission Board for Eastern Europe. Missionaries have been assigned to USSR, Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. There are requests for 88 missionaries and/or two-year volunteers. Many volunteer projects are being planned.

Our new approach to global strategy has resulted in many new programs under the umbrella of Cooperative Services International. We are moving into restricted areas in ways traditional missionaries could not go. There are 21 Nonresidential Missionary family units assigned to evangelize 21 people groups encompassing more than 150 million people. A new emphasis on tentmakers is resulting in committed witnesses sharing the Gospel where missionaries cannot live and witness. Itinerant missionaries are witnessing, preaching, and discipling from nation to nation where short-term visits are the only option.

There is an upturn in numbers of missionaries being appointed this year. Missionary appointments are still below the desired level, but if the projection of approximately 380 is met this year, we will move closer to the 480 needed annually to reach Bold Mission Thrust goals of 5000 on the field by A. D. 2000. Pray the Lord of the harvest to thrust out laborers.

Because of the generosity of Southern Baptists and their commitment to foreign missions, the budget has more than doubled in the last decade. It moved from almost \$77 million in 1980 to nearly \$175 million in 1990. The two largest sources continue to be the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

With these exciting and challenging opportunities, we call for a genuine inclusiveness of all authentic Southern Baptists in denominational life that would encourage the highest level of giving from the full spectrum of Southern Baptists in support of Bold Mission Thrust. In the meeting of the Foreign Mission Board at Glorieta in July, the board made a commitment to strengthen the financial support of our missionaries. The trustees desire Southern Baptists to know that this is based on their confidence of sustained financial support by Southern Baptists.

The Cooperative Program continues to be the envy of all other missionary-sending denominations. It is the simplest and easiest way to support all of the agreed upon causes to which all Southern Baptists are committed. Coupled with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, this provides a balanced support for our missionaries that has sustained our growth through the years. It is our prayer that every church will generously support our cooperative mission effort by making a significant increase in the percentage of total gifts through our cooperative approach to missions. — William L. Hancock and R. Keith Parks

**HMB trustees affirm CP; warn against other giving plans**

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board affirmed the Cooperative Program and warned against alternate giving plans after hearing financial projections for the agency through 1993.

During their Aug. 8 meeting, HMB trustees adopted a resolution presented by Anthony Carson of Louisville, Ky. The resolution affirms the Cooperative Program and states the group's opposition to "negative designation or any attempt to circumvent the Cooperative Program."

The Cooperative Program is the denomination's unified budget that funds home and foreign missions, theological education and other national causes.

A second resolution, offered by Jon Meek of Aberdeen, N.J., expanded upon Carson's resolution by calling on trustees to encourage their churches to increase support of the Cooperative Program. Meek also requested that HMB administration distribute the text of a devotional message given earlier in the meeting by George Harris of San Antonio, Texas.

In the devotion, Harris urged trustees, "don't quit now" in supporting the Cooperative Program. "The world is not interested in whether we escrow or don't escrow our funds, whether we're moderate or conservative, but whether we know Jesus," he said. "This is not the time for Southern Baptists or the Home Mission Board to quit."

Concern about negative designation and alternate funding plans has increased since the denomination's annual meeting in June. Churches and state conventions which consider

themselves cut off by current leadership have announced plans to alter their giving as a form of protest.

In his address to the board, HMB President Larry Lewis also spoke about threats to the Cooperative Program. Missionaries, not convention leadership, will be hurt by churches withholding money, he said.

"Who are the ones who suffer?" Lewis asked. "Not Paul Pressler. Not Paige Patterson. Not Larry Lewis or Morris Chapman. Not the SBC Executive Committee or even you, the members of the Home Mission Board of directors."

"No! It is the missionaries who suffer most. It is the cause of world missions that pays the price."

"Read my lips," Lewis declared. "We must not hold our missionaries hostage while we fight our political battles in the SBC."

Lewis predicted an "impossible" situation if Southern Baptists destroy the Cooperative Program and return to a societal method of funding missions. "If this becomes the prevailing approach, budgets will be slashed, programs will be eliminated, services will be reduced. In all likelihood, staff members and missionaries will lose their jobs."

He encouraged trustees to "stand up and be counted for the Cooperative Program."

Despite his concerns about the threat to the Cooperative Program and what Lewis called "the untimely dismissal of two respected journalists," Lewis said he felt positive about the future of Southern Baptists. (Lewis was referring to the action of the SBC Executive Committee dismissing Al Shackleford and Dan Martin as director and news

editor of the Baptist Press.)

Lewis said he believes the present leaders of the convention "will make a definite and deliberate effort to broaden the leadership base to include a larger spectrum of Southern Baptist lives. I believe this is imperative if we achieve healing and reconciliation within our beloved denomination," he said.

Lewis concluded with an appeal for Baptists to demonstrate unconditional love. "A harsh, condemnatory, judgmental spirit is unbecoming any community of Christians." He urged Baptists to unite in the task of missions and evangelism and "in our desire to see our nation and our world brought to Jesus."

The night before, at a dinner for trustees, planning section vice president Ernest Kelley spoke about the status of HMB finances.

Kelley explained budgeting procedures and projected income and expenses for the next three years.

Although the 1991 budget looks favorable, projected expenses will exceed projected income for 1992 and 1993, he said.

"Next year, several factors will come together to give a good or at least improved financial picture," Kelley explained. As a new formula for allocating Cooperative Program funds comes into place, the HMB in 1991 will receive a larger than usual increase in funds.

Kelley noted that budget planning is not an exact science because the HMB "lives out of the offering plate" and is affected by budget problems faced by state conventions.

He cited the Florida Baptist Convention as an example. By adjusting the formulation of their Cooperative Program giving, Florida Baptists will give about \$1 million less to the unified missions budget next year, he said, resulting in about \$200,000 less given to the HMB.

**Baptist and Reflector**

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## HMB trustees affirm role of women; learn offering increases

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — Rather than rescinding a policy prohibiting financial assistance to churches with women pastors, trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted to affirm the role of women in missions support.

Albert Simms, retired pastor from Richmond, Va., offered a motion to rescind the policy during the board of directors meeting Aug. 8. His motion was seconded by Orris Bullock of the District of Columbia.

Earlier in the meeting, trustees heard that 1990 receipts for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are up 6.74 percent over 1989, changed the approval process for mission pastors and appointed 25 missions personnel.

The board elected four people to the agency's national staff in Atlanta and adopted a motion opposing negative designation to the Cooperative Program after hearing an appeal from the board's president.

### HMB sells property, to relocate

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has sold its 6.3 acre headquarters site in midtown Atlanta for \$14.5 million and plans to relocate to a new facility in the metropolitan Atlanta area in five years.

The sale was approved by the agency's board of directors during a March 14 meeting in Atlanta but could not be made public until the transaction was closed, President Larry Lewis said. He announced completion of the sale to trustees during their Aug. 8 meeting.

The buyer is AmProp Georgia I Limited Partnership of Chicago.

Terms of the sale call for the HMB to lease its current facilities at 1350 Spring St. from AmProp for five years while a new site is selected and a new headquarters building is designed and constructed. Proceeds from the sale will be invested and drawn upon as they are needed for the relocation, Lewis said.

"We are planning for this relocation

The action Simms sought to rescind was passed in October of 1986 and prohibits the HMB from providing financial assistance to churches with women in pastoral roles. He presented his resolution during the miscellaneous business portion of the agenda.

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., offered a substitute motion to delete all of Simms' proposed resolution except one paragraph dealing with women's contributions to missions support.

Price's substitute motion passed with four people voting against the changes.

The paragraph trustees approved says the HMB "recognizes the significant part women have played in missionary education and in faithful, often sacrificial, financial support of the work of this board." It also expresses gratitude to Woman's Missionary Union for promoting the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

George Harris, pastor of Castle Hills

to be a cost recovery transaction," Lewis said. "Proceeds from the sale of our midtown property will be used in the development of a new headquarters site.

He explained that no future Cooperative Program funds will be required to finance the project and that Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds could not be used because they go directly to the mission field.

Lewis said future cost savings is a major reason for the relocation. "We have been in our current facilities more than 20 years, and the cost of maintaining deteriorating buildings is now consuming more of our missions money than we think is appropriate. We expect to enter a new facility debt-free, with a lower overhead that will allow us to channel more money into direct missions.

"Conservative estimates show we can save at least \$315,000 per year on decreased property taxes, maintenance costs, security needs, communications, and insurance," he said.

First Church, San Antonio, Texas, said the substitute motion "affirms the ministry of women but diffuses the volatile issue of women's ordination." After the meeting, Simms called the substitute motion a "parliamentary maneuver to cut the heart out of my resolution."

During the meeting, Simms said in his six years as a board member, no other issue has generated as much response as this matter. He said the policy has "resulted in division and strife" and is "widely considered to be an infringement upon the autonomy and the rights of local churches."

Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, Ark., chaired the committee which studied the issue for a year before the 1986 policy was established.

"The question was not then and is not now the autonomy of local churches," said Jackson who is now chairman of the board's missionary personnel committee. "Any church can ordain and call as pastor any person it so desires.

"The issue is: Do Southern Baptists in 35,000-plus churches want their Cooperative Program money spent to fund and support women pastors?"

Simms said he has never been pastor or member of a church which ordained women and he is not ready for a woman pastor in his church. Yet he said, "I have believed from the beginning that the Home Mission Board made a grievous mistake in adopting the arbitrary policy of giving no financial assistance to churches with women pastors."

In other business, trustees were told the 1990 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering should total \$34.4 million by year end based on current receipts. The receipts on Aug. 7 reached \$32.58 million, a 6.74 percent increase over last year, reported Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president.

If the projected \$34.4 million is received, the total will be \$1.4 million more than the Easter offering receipts for 1989.



**NEW BOARD MEMBER** — Tennessean Guy Milam, left, visits with Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis during an orientation meeting for new members of the agency's board of directors. Milam, pastor of North Knoxville Church and first vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was one of 12 people elected to a four-year term on the board during the SBC annual meeting in June.

Trustees also changed board policy to allow faster processing and approval of certain categories of personnel. Mission pastor candidates and individuals receiving field personnel assistance now may be approved through an administrative process without trustee approval.

Missionaries, missionary associates, apprentices, and US-2 missionaries will continue to be appointed by trustee vote, while financial assistance for mission pastors will require only approval by administration.

Larry Lewis, HMB president, said the action is significant because it affirms the role and integrity of the HMB staff and state conventions in the approval process.

"We have heard and have responded to a plea from state conventions to try to eliminate delays and paper work in the process," Lewis said. "This action, we believe, will solve some of the problems we have experienced."

## Missionary family freed in Liberia, but elects to stay

By Donald D. Martin

MANO RIVER, Liberia (BP) — A regional rebel commander in Liberia told Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Fran Laughridge Aug. 10 that they were free to leave their mission station in Mano River and depart from Liberia.

But the Laughridges and their son Edward, 20, have decided to stay on in Mano River because of the need for relief work in the area, Mrs. Laughridge told missionaries in neighboring Ivory Coast via radio.

"We feel for now we have a needed ministry here," Mrs. Laughridge, of Great Falls, S.C., said. "Our situation has improved considerably. The regional (rebel) commander said we are free to come and go across the border as we please. There are no restrictions. At this point we are not planning to leave immediately."

Mrs. Laughridge said tension in the area, about 80 miles from Liberia on the Sierra Leone border, has decreased and the number of rebel troops has dropped.

The Laughridges met with the rebel commander Aug. 10. The commander

said the family had been free to leave all along. Their six-day detainment was the result of a misunderstanding with a lower-level rebel commander, he said.

Rebel troops of the National Patriotic Front had earlier refused to let the Laughridges leave the area or, for several days, to communicate by radio with mission officials in Ivory Coast.

But tension between the missionaries and local rebels in the Mano River area began to ease several days before the meeting with the regional commander.

In fact, Laughridge, of Rock Hill, S.C., and a group of rebel soldiers drove Aug. 8 to the Sierra Leone border and received a supply of rice from Southern Baptist missionary Dean Ekberg, of Rockford, Ill. Ekberg, a geological engineer working to develop water projects in Liberia, evacuated from the country earlier and now is helping with relief work for Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone.

Ekberg sent 25 100-pound bags of rice in a canoe across the river that divides Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Laughridge planned to pick up the rice and return the same day, but the process took longer than expected and forced Laughridge and the rebel soldiers to spend the night at the river before returning Aug. 9 to Mano River.

The desperately needed rice, distributed to rebels and civilians in Mano River, lasted only a short while, Mrs. Laughridge said. Finding food apparently is becoming the main concern of both civilians and rebels in the area, she said.

The only other Southern Baptist missionaries remaining in Liberia were

Earl Williams, of West Monroe, La., and Jane Williams, of Knoxville, Tenn. The Williamses work in Yekepa, a small town near the Guinea border. The Williamses drove into Ivory Coast to purchase supplies and planned to return to Yekepa Aug. 7, officials said.

One other missionary couple, Chris Wilkinson of Gainesville, Fla., and his wife, Gwen, of Ardmore, Tenn., left Liberia in late July after being escorted with other missionaries by rebel forces to Yekepa from rebel-held Voinjama. The Wilkinsons are now in the United States.

### Mother's Day offering tops \$900,000

A total of \$908,670 was received in the Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

While the final total on July 31 did not reach the goal of \$950,000, the gifts exceeded last year's total by \$70,000.

"We are thankful to our churches and the friends of our children who faithfully give to meet the needs of hurting children," said Gerald L. Stow, executive director/treasurer of TBCH. "We are making a difference in young

lives through our team effort between the churches and our institution."

One-third of the TBCH's annual operating budget comes from the offering.

TBCH offers care, counseling, and spiritual guidance to abused and widowed mothers, and adoption services to Baptist families.

# Our Readers Write

## Which am I?

Please, please, please, someone give me a good working definition of "conservative" and "moderate."

I've read letter after letter from pastors all over the state using these terms and there seems to be more involved than the dictionary versions. I would really like to know what makes one a "conservative" or "moderate."

If I believe Jesus died for my sin, the Scripture teaches me to love others as Christ loves, and the Holy Spirit was sent to give me discernment of the Scriptures, am I a "conservative" or "moderate?"

Bill Wadsworth  
117 Ven Lee Dr.  
Hendersonville 37075

## Back to Abraham, Jesus

What does it mean to cooperate? What does takeover mean in a Christian organization? Where does politics fit in with New Testament churches?

These questions and others run through my mind daily as I hear the reports of the happenings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It used to be that cooperation meant that everyone could be a part.

I listen and try to think it isn't happening but then we all know that it is happening.

Should we change the name of the Cooperative Program? Shouldn't we stop acting like the world around us?

Do we ever stop to wonder what God thinks about all these shenanigans?

I listen to leaders of movements and think they preach good sermons. But it seems to my blind eyes that their actions do not match their words.

What can we do? My answer would go back to Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Paul, Peter, and Jesus. The answer is prayer. Too long we have made our own programs without the leadership of the Holy Spirit. If ever we need to listen to 1 Chronicles 7:13 it is now. I would like to see every church in this convention have at least a week long prayer meeting — not speaking but humble soul searching prayers before we do anything to try to correct our mess.

Dorothy Blake  
923 Beverly Drive  
Alcoa 37701

## Percentages

I have watched with interest and astonishment the uproar concerning the firings of Mr. Shackelford and Mr. Martin. In the case of Mr. Shackelford, it seems some pertinent information has been conveniently overlooked by our "free, unbiased, and totally objective press." Mr. Shackelford took the position on a 32 to 26 vote. That is about a 55 percent majority. Most churches have written into their bylaws that a prospective pastor or staff member must receive at least 80 percent of the vote in order to be extended a call. Most pastors and staff members that I know would be reluctant to answer a call of less than 90 percent. Yet, Mr. Shackelford expresses great surprise when he is dismissed.

Bob Kerr, pastor  
North Athens Church  
402 Tellico Ave.  
Athens 37303

## Basic tasks

The current controversy is not between "conservatives" and "moderates." A small group of power-hungry politicians is trying to make the Southern Baptist Convention a second Roman Catholic church. They have tried to do away with the autonomy of the local church by telling us we must believe as they do. There

is only one person that can tell us what we believe, the Holy Spirit. They have even adopted an authoritative creed that places the pastor in a priestly role.

The Bible does not define "conservative" or "moderate" Christians. Labels are confusing. First Church, Memphis, is considered "moderate" and Bellevue "conservative." Both Dr. Davis and Dr. Rogers are excellent preachers and God has blessed both ministries in a great way.

In the meantime the devil is gloating over the partial victory he has won. Southern Baptists will never regain the influence and prestige we once had. The controversy has appeared in every major newspaper, usually in a negative manner.

The greatest victory the devil will ever win will be when he splits the convention without any effort on his part. We have done his work for him.

It's time we left the labeling to politicians, go back to the autonomy of the local church, and get back to the task of winning lost souls to Christ.

William H. Wright  
1784 Myrna  
Memphis 38117

**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.**

## Think of CP

As budget planning for next year takes place, be sure and remember the Cooperative Program. For the past several years Cooperative Program receipts have not only declined, but also have not kept up with inflation.

A remedy for this situation is for some church member to make a motion at business meeting to increase the church's Cooperative Program gifts by a small percentage. Some churches have even adopted a growth pattern for several years.

If enough of our churches were to take such an action, a small increase on the part of each church would make enough difference to put us back on track in funding Bold Mission Thrust.

With the political changes in Eastern Europe, God has set before us an open door, may we follow Him boldly through that door!

A. R. Fagan, president  
Stewardship Commission, SBC  
901 Commerce St.  
Nashville 37203

## Calm needed

It is imperative that reasonable and calm attitudes rise above the tension in our convention. The recent action of our Executive Committee revolves around one administrative fact. The Executive Committee took action toward positions not persons.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Shackelford and Mr. Martin are the persons who filled the positions. Therefore, any changes in our Southern Baptist Convention structure that affect personalities

understandably is misunderstood. It goes with decision-making territory.

This decision provides a hope of balance in the Baptist Press. Why haven't Tennessee Baptists been told of the truth behind the "armed guards?" The Executive Building always has guards! Surely there is enough intelligence in the editor's office to discover and report the rest of the facts. And why, are we not told of the premeditated resistance that was planned by the Baptist Committed to disturb the executive session, which therefore demanded the extra guards?

It is absurd to assume that the Baptist Press can be controlled or silenced. Let's grow up! I do not know one Baptist that can be controlled.

The relative issue is administrative balance. I support the decision of the Executive Committee.

John S. Powers, pastor  
Trenton Street Church  
P. O. Box 4  
Harriman 37748

• Readers were told of the Baptists Committed letter in the wrapup story that began on page one of the July 25 Baptist and Reflector. As the story continued on page five, there are three paragraphs quoting Charles Sullivan's explanation of the guards — and reference to such a letter. The building's security personnel ordinarily do not bear arms and did not on that day. — Editor

## Degree questioned

Although I am an Illinois bivocational pastor, I am a Tennessean. Raised in Murfreesboro, I grew up at Third Church.

I was amazed when reading the Aug. 1 issue of the Baptist and Reflector to learn that Carson-Newman College was honoring Dolly Parton. I attended Carson-Newman from 1961-63.

Why would one of our Baptist colleges honor her, I wondered?

The only answer I can come up with is that "lots of cash" is more important than "lives of Christian conviction."

I wonder what we are saying to our young people about commitment, convictions, and courage to live distinctive Christian lives?

John Larry Phillips, pastor  
Calvary Church  
106 Sunshine Lane  
Woodstock, Ill. 60098

## Substance of Word

And so Southern Baptists continue their long, acrimonious march toward schism: a sad, disheartening sight. Saddest of all perhaps is how "victors" have turned the Bible into a weapon, an instrument of propaganda.

Anyone who cares about the Bible (other than as a cudgel) knows that the right wing's pathologically retentive conception of "inerrancy" is foreign to the spirit of the Word, false to the history of Christianity, and a prideful presumption of authority on the part of mortal men. The canon itself was not fixed for hundreds of years after the death of Christ; evidently, the Apostles and the earliest Christians were more concerned with the substance of the Word — its salvific effect on the lives of human beings — than with the minutest details of its textual vessel. And yet our new Saducees would make the text — or rather, their interpretation of it — more important than the message it imparts.

I have no personal stake in this sad conflict. I was raised a Southern Baptist, so I know that my spiritual life, my understanding of God, is an individual matter, far beyond the reach of synods, committees, and religious politics. The right wing seeks the temporal power con-

tained in the institutions of the convention; they are welcome to it, I say. For long after their particular brand of fearful, blustering ignorance has vanished, the Word will continue to whisper in the stillness of individual souls.

Chris Floyd  
5103 Evelyn Dr.  
Knoxville 37909

## Overlooked

Am I confused when I feel that one of our Baptist colleges is sending a message of double standards to our young people by granting an honorary doctor of letters degree to Dolly Parton? It seems the authorities overlook the fact that the example of celebrities' own lifestyles, which justifies "success at any cost," is not something that should be overlooked. Financial contributions and jobs without Christian conduct do not merit this type of honor.

Do we disregard the example of Jesus while rewarding the example of ungodly celebrities for the sake of jobs and opportunities?

Ronald L. Harris, pastor  
Fellowship Church  
Allons 38541

## 'Committed' letter

A letter mailed by Howard Olive on behalf of Baptists Committed to the SBC letterhead was included in a newsletter from Baptists Committed of Tennessee. The letter is signed, "Howard." Howard Olive is president of Baptists Committed of Tennessee, president of the Executive Board, TBC, and pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville.

Howard suggests to his readers: "1. Plan to be in Nashville July 17, 8:00 a.m., for the called meeting of the Executive Committee of the SBC. By our presence we can let our leaders know that we do not approve of a controlled press. (Executive Building, 9th Avenue next to the Sunday School Board.) Be prepared to resist executive session which would put us out. However, be Christian even in resistance."

Baptist and Reflector readers need to know there was a planned "resistance" to executive session by an organized group. This was improper since it did not originate within the SBC Executive Committee itself. Robert's Rules of Order (Scott, Foresman, 1990 revised edition, page 95) permits executive session in dealing with highly sensitive matters such as personnel. This planned "resistance" no doubt prompted our SBC attorney James Guenther to arrange for security guards to maintain and assure order for the meeting.

Brother Howard Olive acted unwisely in planning and encouraging "resistance" to the SBC Executive Committee going into executive session. As president of the TBC Executive Board, would he not recognize the legitimate right of that board to enter into executive session when dealing with sensitive matters such as personnel? Robert's Rules states, "... sometimes non-members may be invited to attend but they are not invited to attend." Baptists have a right to know that the SBC Executive Committee acted properly in going into executive session.

Jim Stroud  
Third Creek Church  
4917 Western Avenue  
Knoxville 37921

Olive told the Baptist and Reflector he wrote the letter in good faith, for openness, with the belief that Baptists needed to know "what was going on." He says the intent was for participants to act with kindness, gentleness, and Christlikeness. There was no idea of breaking into an executive session, he said, but to "urge the Executive Committee not to close the meeting." — Editor

## Draper says 'issue is settled' regarding Dilday's comments

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — An issue that some observers predicted could result in the firing of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has been settled, according to the chairman of the seminary's board of trustees.

"As far as I am concerned, the issue is settled," said trustee chairman Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, following a three-hour meeting with Dilday on July 27. Draper, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, discounted rumors of a called trustee or executive committee meeting to deal with Dilday's public comments during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

Dilday had said in New Orleans that "crass, secular political methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years has satanic and evil qualities to which I am desperately opposed."

On July 4, Dilday issued a statement

### Grahams in U.S. embassy . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
already has worked in Jordan for four years with the Foreign Mission Board, and Liz Hardage of Sherwood, Ark., who is part of the board's two-year journeyman program.

In Bahrain, Southern Baptist worker Don Littlejohn, who works as a medical technology supervisor at a hospital, said the only sign of tension is the exodus of a number of foreign executives from the island nation, which is just a few miles from Saudi Arabia and some 300 miles from Kuwait.

Littlejohn and his wife, Peggy, are the only Southern Baptist workers now in Bahrain. Three other workers

of clarification addressed "to persons who misinterpreted my intention in the comments I made" (in New Orleans). In his clarification, Dilday said, "It is obvious to me now that 'satanic and evil' have different connotations to different hearers, and that my choice of words blurred the intent of my statement, leading some to assume I had labeled fellow believers as satanic. That was not my intention, and if my statement was so perceived, I am truly sorry."

Dilday and Draper met on July 27 to discuss the situation, as well as other matters facing the seminary. While their dialogue about the New Orleans incident did not consume the entire meeting's agenda, they spent "a great deal of time" talking about it, according to Draper.

Draper said he and Dilday had "a very frank and good meeting. I hope we made some giant strides. I guess time will tell. I think both of us want to have a positive impact on the situation, and I feel the meeting was a good

assigned to the country currently are in the United States.

"We're prepared to leave if things take an unlikely bad turn," Littlejohn said Aug. 13, "but it seems so far that we will be staying."

Bahraini citizens and non-executive expatriate workers seem to be staying in Bahrain, Littlejohn said, adding, "There's definitely a lot of people here who do not know Jesus from all parts of the world." He told of a Sri Lankan woman who attended English-language classes that his wife led by utilizing readings from the Bible. The woman said last week that she wants to know more about Jesus.

start."

Dilday echoed the same tone, saying: "It was a very positive and constructive meeting."

Asked what might happen at the October meeting, Draper said: "I am the perennial optimist. I think there are a lot of trustees who want to visit with Russell about the comments, but I don't think at this point there will be anything more than that."

Although Draper said the issue could come up during the October meeting,

## Southern professors consider move to Tift

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., are talking about starting a new seminary in Georgia.

They cite a mass exodus to the vacant campus of Tift College in Forsyth as one option open to them in "denominationally uncertain" times.

The idea of moving to Tift College came from Glenn Hinson, a church history professor at Southern Seminary. Tift was an all-female Baptist school that merged with Mercer University, a Baptist school in Macon, Ga., in 1986. Mercer closed the Tift campus, about 65 miles south of Atlanta, in 1988 and still owns the property.

If a new seminary were started, more than half of Southern's faculty and about 1000 of its 3200 students would move, Hinson predicted.

A move would cost about \$30 million, he estimated, adding the amount is attainable: "Divide that in 3000 churches giving \$10,000 each. That doesn't sound unreasonable."

Bill J. Leonard, professor of church history and president of the seminary's Faculty Association, said, the discussions "reflect the uncertainty and fluidity that is occurring throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Because of the way the controversy continues, people are asking questions they hoped they would never have to ask. So the discussion about moving a portion of the faculty is part of a

he said he had encouraged Dilday to contact trustees personally before the October meeting to answer their questions. "We look forward to working together and I believe his statement of clarification helped," Draper said.

Dilday said he would be in touch with each trustee member individually. "We are going to find ways we can work together for the benefit of the seminary and to find ways to set some examples of how we can work together in the convention."

broader discussion about a variety of options.

"We would all like to stay at Southern and continue teaching our students, but after this spring and the Johnson document, we don't know that we can stay. Because we have families, we have to explore options. We do not know what the future holds."

(The "Johnson document" is a 16-page article released this spring by Jerry Johnson, then a first-term seminary trustee, from Aurora, Colo. The article criticizes five professors and seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt, who, it says, "just does not believe the Bible.")

A move to Tift is only one option, Leonard and Hinson said.

Mercer has not been contacted about the Tift property and fund-raising efforts have not been initiated, Leonard said.

### Jackson church . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Coltharp, who had participated on two trips to Kenya with laymen from his previous pastorate, First Church, Madisonville, Ky., said the funds will be forwarded to the Foreign Mission Board.

"We are asking the board to use the funds to build the church on the land the Hudsons had purchased and to use the remainder to build other churches in the country at the discretion of the Kenya Baptist Convention," he said.

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

In what I call home country there are local attractions that tug at the heart — it is true for most people. I call to mind the splendor of giant oaks draped with moss, scattered towns and farm homes, broad flat fields of black soil that nurtures cotton, corn, grains, and myriad creeks and rivers that flow with deceptive swiftness.

And there are some unusual "things" in Darlington County, S.C., wonders of the earth. On an ordinarily flat landscape, an astute observer can spot strange bays that challenge the imagination.

You can follow a level field and see it gradually soar up and up and up — appearing as marvelous and huge dunes. And in the middle of those great dunes — a great dry pond for each.

Some local "experts" call them dinosaur wallows.

I knew you wouldn't believe me. But truly, some people call them dinosaur wallows. The theory is advanced that eons ago when ocean water reached far inland, and then receded, these bays were left — and dinosaurs and other primordials used them as pools. Dinosaur wallows. All along the eastern seaboard there are such scars on the land.

I haven't seen any dinosaurs lately. They are extinct. But we have some ideas that are just as outdated as dinosaurs. We need to stop clinging to such ideas and make positive steps to

heal a tortured society.

Some of these ideas are old friends of ours. "Well, that's just the way we've always done it." "Get ready for the summer slump." "We've tried that before and it didn't work." "Our new pastor should be a young man — someone with fresh ideas." "Sure, I'll teach that class, but don't ask me to visit." "Why does the pastor always talk about giving?" "We don't need more space — we would just be asking strangers to come."

We also need to break out of the walls and carry the church of Christ into the communities around us. We must be positive in word and thought and deed. We need to forego excuse-making and take Christ at His word. We need to pray in the morning — early, before we go out.

We must wipe off frowns and let the world know we are joyful in Christ. We need to burst out of our old selves and truly live in His abundance and grace. The only thing that can heal the world's ills is total Christian effort working with and for Almighty God. Anything less is just first aid.

There is no place in our world for dinosaur Christians.



ALLEN

## Don't Forget BAPTIST and REFLECTOR Day Sunday, August 26, 1990

Sunday, Aug. 26, has been designated on the denominational calendar as Baptist and Reflector Day. The purpose of the paper is to inform Tennessee Baptists about what is happening in their churches, their associations, their state, and throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and the world.

Churches are encouraged to order extra copies of the Baptist and Reflector so every member will have a copy on this day. We will also send information regarding our Church Trial Plan, in which resident members receive the paper at no cost for three months. Other plans are available. Please return the attached form by Aug. 20 to have copies mailed to your church before Aug. 26, or call the Baptist and Reflector office at (615) 371-2003 to place your order.

Yes, we want to observe Baptist and Reflector Day. Please send \_\_\_\_\_ papers to:

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Also, send information on the following:

\_\_\_ Free Trial Plan

\_\_\_ Church Page Edition Plan

\_\_\_ Every Family Plan

\_\_\_ Individual Subscription

\_\_\_ Staff member to come and discuss paper and options with church

Mail to: Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

# Union student spends summer helping unwed mothers

By Joe Westbury

**GREENEVILLE** — The sounds of a summer morning fill the air as the two young women sit down at the backyard picnic table.

The heat begins to build as 22-year-old Julia Lambert, a summer missionary from Union University in Jackson, walks over to the shaded table and opens her Bible for the morning's devotional.

Lambert could be spending her summer working to earn money to continue her education. But like 74 other Union students, she has given up her vacation to spend it as a missions volunteer under sponsorship of the college and the Tennessee Baptist Student Union.

Her assignment carried her from one end of the state to the other, from Tiptonville in the west to Greeneville in the east.

Lambert is daughter of A. J. Lambert, pastor of First Church, Tiptonville.

It is her first experience as a summer missionary, but as a counselor at the Baptist Alternative Home it is a summer she will long remember, she says.

The Greeneville home is a joint ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, First Church, Greeneville, and Holston Association. It is one of two such centers for unwed mothers which Tennessee Baptists help support in their battle to save unborn children from abortion.

"This ministry is more important

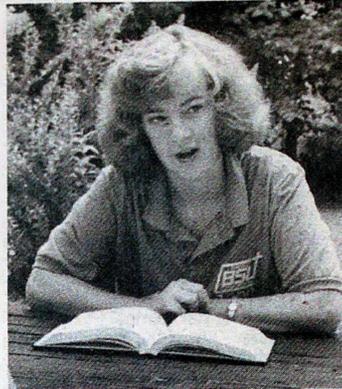
than just preaching against abortion or picketing a clinic," says First Church Pastor Jim Best, who helped found the home five years ago. "It's a positive way of addressing the issue and offering an alternative to an abortion that many young women are struggling with."

The two-story, red brick house appears to be like any other home on the street behind the church. The lack of a sign in the yard protects the anonymity of the individuals who live there and those who might want to learn more about its ministry.

The home is licensed to accommodate up to six women, and it frequently operates at capacity. Ages of the clients range from 14 to 32, and most stay for six months until their child is born.

Best, who now serves as chairman of the trustees for the TBCH, was on the ground floor when the ministry was begun. Without knowing the other's intentions, both the TBCH and the association were considering opening an alternative home in the area.

"When the common interest became



**AT GREENEVILLE HOME** — In photo to left, Union University student Julia Lambert leads Bible study. In photo to right, Jim Best, left, pastor of First Church, Greeneville, discusses operation of Greeneville's Baptist Alternative Home with Jim Henry, center, northeast regional director for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, and Bob Hammond, resident director of the Greeneville facility. — Photos by Joe Westbury

known, the match was a natural," he says.

The church had purchased the home at 212 N. Irish for future expansion. Within a month it voted to convert the

property for use as an alternative home as a cooperative venture with the state and association.

"I'm not one to picket or demonstrate against abortion, but this is one way my church and I can make a positive statement on where we stand on the issue. We're doing more than just talking; we're offering these young women a place to stay during their pregnancy and an environment to grow in the Lord.

"This is, above all, a Christian institution and our first goal is to bring these individuals to a commitment to Jesus Christ. We are up front about that with all of the girls who come through the door," Best explains.

For many of the girls the home is more than a place to bear their child — it becomes a haven, a place to start life anew.

Best says each client is assigned an adult woman from the congregation as a friend to help her with her shopping, get to know the town, and be a confidant.

The decision to keep the newborn or place it for adoption is left entirely with the mother, though she receives counseling from social worker Jane Stroud and resident directors Bob and Edna Hammond.

Once a woman has been admitted to the program, there is no charge for room or board. Her only responsibility is to cover the medical expenses of her pregnancy, which are frequently covered by Medicaid. If she places her newborn for adoption all expenses are waived, Hammond explains.

The record shows the ministry is scoring well in both areas. The home has served 80 clients in its five-year history and has recorded 75 births. And many of the girls become active in church for the first time in their lives, or recommit themselves to the Christian lifestyle.

Jim Henry, TBCH regional director for northeast Tennessee, says having summer missions volunteers like Lambert help give the girls Christian role models which have been lacking in some of their lives.

"Volunteers like Julia are valuable in providing a peer counselor and a confidant for the girls to talk with and share their joys and apprehensions. They serve as a spiritual advisor and a friend, which is what some of our girls are looking for," he says. — Westbury is director of public relations at Union University.

## Union students support summer missions

Union University students reported 218 conversions and 541 other decisions for Christ and raised a record \$42,000 for summer missions during the 1990 academic year.

The decisions were the result of a variety of campus-based ministries

and weekend revival teams which fanned out across west Tennessee and surrounding states for evangelistic encounters.

Areas reporting the most conversions were summer mission experiences and the student-led revival teams. Last year, 121 conversions were reported by Union students serving as volunteer missionaries while fall and spring semester weekend revivals registered 57 conversions.

The amount raised for this year's summer missions surpassed the goal by \$10,000 and is enabling 74 students and two professors to serve alongside missionaries in 14 states and four foreign countries, said John Adams, vice president for religious affairs.

The funds were raised throughout the academic year to enable campus volunteers to serve on Southern Baptist mission fields.

## Preachers' School begins at academy

**SEYMOUR** — The 1990-1991 school year for Preachers' School, Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy's weekend study opportunity for area pastors and ministerial students began Aug. 11.

Registrations are still being accepted.

Raymond Smith, Preachers' School's director/teacher for more than a dozen years, has set in motion the study program for the third segment of the school's four-year curriculum. Students enrolling in 1990 will find subject materials suited to their needs even though they may be new to the program.

Certificates are awarded to students upon completion of the four-year curriculum.

Students have no tuition costs. Benefactors have provided funds to pay tuition for properly certified ministerial students. The only expense which students may expect is the cost of textbooks. These costs are \$3.00 each.

For additional information, contact HCBA at (615) 573-8321.

### In Spring City

## Musician answers calls for 50 years

**SPRING CITY** — Wanda Hope Looney has received many calls to play for weddings, funerals, and other occasions over the years. And, unless she has been sick or out of town, she has accepted every one.

"I never say no. I'm thankful I can help in this way, even in times of sadness," Looney says.

Looney began taking music lessons at the age of nine. Three years later she began playing at First Church, Spring City, and has been ever since, except for when she was away at college.

Looney attended Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and Chadek Conservatory, Chattanooga.

The Spring City musician has been playing the organ at First Church since 1951. In addition, she has served as accompanist for Tennessee Valley Association since 1972.

In recognition of her 50 years of service, First Church honored Looney with a special evening worship service in mid-July.

The music ministry of First Church held a program with her favorite songs, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

A money tree was furnished for those wishing to donate to the church's organ fund in her honor. Pastor Terry Meeks presented Looney a plaque which read, "In honor of Wanda Looney for 50 years of dedication and service to her Lord as church accompanist at First Church, Spring City."

Looney's contributions go beyond her playing and singing at church. She has taught hundreds of students,

many of whom are now serving as organists and pianists in churches not only in Tennessee but out of state as well.

Looney and her husband, J. R., have two children — Debra Looney Wilson of Spring City and Lynn Looney of Morristown — and two grandchildren, Brent and Nicole.

And, the only student she now teaches is her grandson.

Her love for music is matched by her love for children. She is never too busy to assist in Mission Friends and Vacation Bible School with the music.

In all that she does, Looney's motto is "To God be the Glory."

"I give the Lord all the credit. He gave me the talent and I want to keep using it as long as He sees fit," she said.



**MUSICIAN HONORED** — Terry Meeks, pastor of First Church, Spring City, recently presented a plaque to Wanda Looney in recognition of her 50 years of service as church musician.

## Village's friends return to build, teach, heal



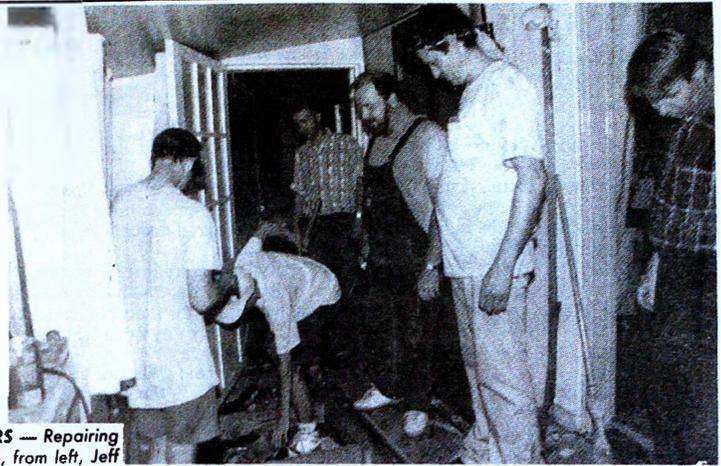
► **BUILDERS** — Repairing a floor are, from left, Jeff Reams, David Hannah, summer missionary Randy Nelson of Jacksboro, Charlie McGee, and Wayne Reams, under the direction of missionary Glen Petree.

◀ **DOTTIE** — A clown named Dottie, alias Janice Cox, slips a treat into the pocket of a boy who attended a Backyard Bible Club.

◀ **LOCAL WORKERS** — Working in the clothing center of Baptist Friendship Center in Briceville were, from left, summer missionary Randy Nelson and Briceville area residents Dora Wilson and Carrole Huckaby.

► **HELPING SMILES** — Clinic workers, from left, Melanie McGee, Cindy Burger, Dentist Don Cooper, and Debbie Burger help a patient.

— Photos by Connie Davis



By Connie Davis, assistant editor  
BRICEVILLE — Just about 20 miles north of Knoxville remains a village formed of three grocery stores, a

school, two community aid offices, three churches, and several hundred homes clustered on the hills of the Appalachian Mountains to serve coal

mines. Most people prefer to live apart even from the small village — hidden in the shadow of one of those lush hills.

The hillsides seem to prosper but the people don't.

Baptists haven't forgotten them.

Baptists own one of the largest buildings in the village, the Baptist Friendship Center. And a Nashville church group remembers them. Members of Harpeth Heights Church returned again this year for the third time to minister in the Briceville area.

The 24 volunteers represented a myriad of talents — health care, construction, teaching children, and leading a revival.

"It's a tradition now for the second week of July," said Peggy Reams, chairperson of the church's missions committee and coordinator of the week along with Glen Petree, director of church and community missions, Clinton Association. The committee learned about the needs from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

The needs abound. This year the group doubled its efforts — bringing nearly twice as many workers. They also brought two trailer loads of clothing to be distributed.

"It's amazing how receptive our church is to donating things," said Reams. "The Lord provides somehow. He always works it out to provide."

About 40 children attended two Backyard Bible Clubs. Two dentists who worked a total of four and a half days treated 66 dental patients and one physician who worked one and a half day treated 20 patients.

Clothing distribution at the Baptist

Friendship Center and at a church assisted about 40 families. Two homes in Lake City were repaired. And the revival at Lakeview Church, Clinton, drew about 40 each night — the church has 80 members.

"The clothing distribution is probably the most touching of all we do. They're very thankful and express that when sometimes people don't," explained Reams.

The poverty of the people was a culture shock to the new members of the group, especially the youth, who, noted Reams, live sheltered lives in Nashville. She told of a youth worker who learned about the poverty of one child. The child shared he got \$4 as presents for a recent birthday.

Dentist Don Cooper, who has worked for three years at the medical center in Briceville, said he returned because "there are deep needs that aren't being met." The center is funded by federal and social aid funds, but has been manned only several days a month.

Many patients receive their only treatment from the Harpeth Heights group, said Cooper, and he and the other workers have developed relationships with many of the patients.

"It's just wonderful to minister to these people through your profession. I think all of us are called to minister whether in our backyards, Briceville, or Africa," said Cooper.

According to Reams, relationships have grown over the three-year ministry into trust between the people from Briceville and Nashville.

"We certainly get more out of it than we put into it," observed Reams.

## One Woman's View By June McEwen

Teaching the recent "Life and Work" lessons based on the book of Jeremiah has caused me to re-think the uses of poetry in the Bible. It is striking that much of this book is in poetic form. Having taught English and thus concentrating on how one reads a poem, I have applied some of these approaches to the study of Jeremiah. I believe the same tools can be used with the book of Isaiah and the Psalms.

Reading a poem is an experience which enriches, shocks, and delights. However, there can be no more richness in the reading than the reader is able to perceive; thus to experience the poem the reader must be willing to work. (S. B. Greenfield and Kingsley Weatherhead (Eds.) *The Poem: An Anthology*. N. Y.: Appleton, Century Crafts, 1968.) This kind of reading requires re-reading several times. The reader must be willing to interpret meanings, relationships of words, and sound and sense patterns.

The reader needs to study in order to understand the poetic tradition out of which the poem arises, the poetic con-

ventions employed, and the historical context out of which the work arises. Often the biography of the poet is quite important to understanding and experiencing the work. Some awareness of the age of the writer and his/her involvement with the ideas of humanity and nature, humanity and the universe, and person with person is essential to true comprehension.

With this kind of approach, the reader can receive the poetry and experience the work in such a way as to expand awareness, consciousness, and allow the poetry to become a part of the reader's means of viewing the world.

Poetry is a viable means of knowing and experiencing. Perhaps this is one reason significant portions of the Bible are written in poetic form. The thoughtful and reverent reader of Scripture can use this approach in order to understand the messages from God conveyed by His Holy Spirit in a richer, deeper, and more meaningful manner at each reading.

Too often we are not willing to exert the energy and the discipline required to work at Bible study in this manner. But when we do, the spiritual growth and understanding which results is well worth the effort. As Paul admonished Timothy, "Study."



McEWEN

# Study of Baptist doctrines, evangelism linked, leaders say

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)— Southern Baptists who do not study the doctrines of their own denomination will stray into false beliefs and will not be effective evangelists, Daniel Vestal and Roy Edgemon said at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

"Effective evangelism is impossible apart from sound theology," Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, said during Discipleship Training Leadership Conference June 30-July 6. He led daily sessions on the 1990 Baptist Doctrine Study theme, the doctrine of creation, for which he wrote the textbook.

Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department which sponsors the annual Baptist Doctrine Study conducted in many churches each spring, was interviewed during the conference which drew about 1200

participants.

"Without sound doctrine, it is possible for our piety and our spirituality to become harmful and hurtful and stray into error," Vestal said.

Edgemon said "doctrine is what holds us together as Southern Baptists." He compared doctrine to a human skeleton.

Without a strong knowledge of doctrine, Edgemon said, Southern Baptists have no structure for their beliefs and are "apt to fall for any false teaching that comes their way."

One false doctrine churches of today are grappling with is the doctrine of universalism, he said.

"Here, the idea is evangelism is not important. Christians believe that somehow people will hear about Christ and accept him without personal evangelism," he said.

Under this so-called doctrine, church

members dismiss the importance of one-on-one witnessing. One noticeable result of the presence of universalism in Southern Baptist churches has been the decline in the number of baptisms, Edgemon said.

"Churches in the Southern Baptist Convention which did not report any baptisms at all increased last year to 21.2 percent or 8003 churches," he said.

In another area, Southern Baptists

## ABC-TV decides against rerun

NASHVILLE (BP)— Southern Baptists should thank ABC Television executives for their decision not to rerun a controversial "thirtysomething" segment featuring a homosexual scene, said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The segment was one of two eliminated from the summer reruns of the show.

Television critics such as Howard Rosenberg of the Los Angeles Times have charged that the segment was dropped from the reruns because of the controversy resulting from its portrayal of homosexuality. The segment originally ran on Nov. 7. It featured two male homosexuals in bed.

Immediately after the segment was broadcast last November, Land urged

need to study important doctrines inherent to their denomination to "counterattack the New Age Movement and cults that are taking over America," Edgemon said.

The doctrine of the lordship of Christ, "which refers to the absolute sovereignty of Jesus Christ over every area of life," is the 1991 doctrine study topic, Edgemon said. Doctrine study books are produced annually by the Discipleship Training department.

Southern Baptists to contact ABC-TV and protest its showing. As late as January, ABC officials were reporting receiving 25 to 30 calls a day from viewers protesting the showing.

Rosenberg reported in the July 19 edition of the Los Angeles Times that the controversy scared off advertisers from "thirtysomething."

Land said, "I am delighted that ABC has decided not to rerun this highly offensive episode. I hope Southern Baptists who share our feelings will call and write ABC and tell them how much they appreciate this decision. We criticized ABC for making the wrong decision originally, and we should praise them when they make the right decision as they have now."

Calls of gratitude should be made to ABC at (212) 456-7777.

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Did you know that the word "mission" is not in the Bible? Missions does not occur in the familiar King James Version of the Bible. However, the mission idea is in every book of the Bible. The Bible uses the word "sent," "send," "appointed," and other such words.

Ever since the call of Abraham, God has been calling and sending His people. Sometimes He sends them to dangerous places, but He goes with them. When He sent His Son on the mission to earth, He did so knowing what it would cost His Son. We should not be surprised if God sends some of us to places that appear to be unsafe.

We had a dear Tennessee couple in Kuwait when the war broke out there. We have had missionaries in almost all

of the dangerous places around the world. Whenever you hear on the news of some calamity around the world, you can know that there is probably a Baptist missionary involved. This is the way it ought to be.

Everybody seems to be surprised that this world continues to be a dangerous place. The presence of sin in the human heart and Satan's activity in human society guarantees us that it will be such until our Lord returns. The troubles around the world only emphasize how important our mission really is. We have the only answer to sin in the human heart and the only deterrent to the evil activity of Satan.

While the word "mission" is not in our Bible, a missions commitment should characterize all of God's people. They have heard Jesus Christ say, "So send I you." They should know that they have been sent.

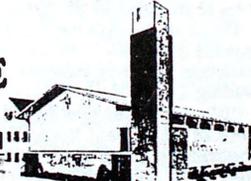
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LOWRIE



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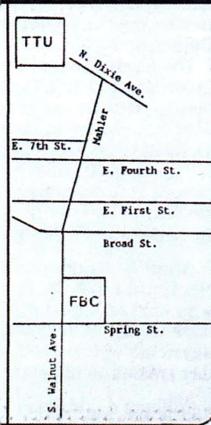
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7:00 P.M. Prayer Meeting



## FMB appoints three missionary couples with Tennessee ties

RICHMOND — Three couples with Tennessee ties were among 40 people recently appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Donald and Carol Minshew were appointed to Angola, where he will help establish a Bible institute and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Minshew, pastor of Lake Forest Church in Walls, Miss., since 1980, is a native of Georgia, but considers Memphis his hometown. His wife, the former Carol Peyton, was born and reared in Memphis.

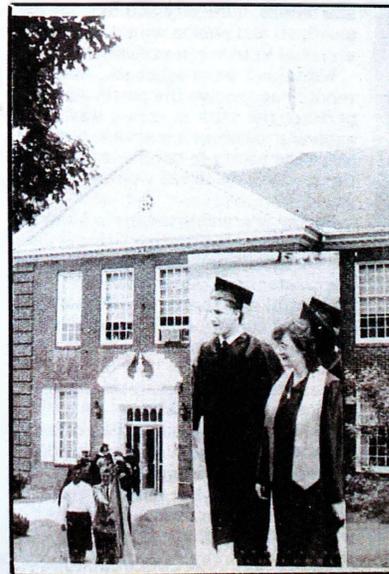
Minshew and his wife both consider LaBelle Haven Church in Memphis influential in their

Christian growth. Donald and Patricia Pierson will live in Belize, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

A native of Illinois, Pierson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pierson of Flintville.

Andrew and Sherry Tuttle will live in Peru, where he will work with students and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Mrs. Tuttle, the former Sherry Pillow, was born in Jackson. Her father, Nathan Pillow, is director of evangelism for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.



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# TenneScene

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

## Churches ...

Members of Green Hill Church, Mt. Juliet, recently held a groundbreaking service to mark the beginning of construction of a new 720-seat sanctuary, and additional educational and office space. The project should be completed in March of 1991.

The congregation of Bartlett Church, Bartlett, recently dedicated new outdoor recreational facilities, which consist of four baseball/softball fields, concessions, restrooms, and a storage building. In addition, Vacation Bible School was held for 783 children. Ninety unchurched families were identified as prospects and 35 children made professions of faith.

Homecoming services will be held Aug. 26 at Mt. View Church, Antioch. The morning worship service will be followed by a special dinner.

State Line Mission, Iron City, formerly a mission of Green River Church, Waynesboro, was constituted as a church during a special service held July 22. Nine people made professions of faith during the first service, which was attended by 43 people. All nine were baptized at the end of the service. Jere Phillips, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Mission Department, was special speaker.

Members of First Church, Dresden, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 19.

Members of Silver Point Church, Silver Point, will celebrate the church's 15th anniversary Aug. 26.

Members of Clark Street Church, Johnson City, recently voted to renovate the sanctuary. The project was made possible by a financial gift from the estate of the late Raymond Denton, a longtime member of the church. The renovation will be complete within six weeks.

The Fincher Quartet will perform Aug. 26 at homecoming services at Spring Creek Church, Paris. Jackie Fincher will be guest speaker at the morning service followed by a potluck luncheon.

Members of Unity Church, Allardt, will celebrate homecoming and dedicate their new fellowship hall Aug. 19. Paul Hall will speak during morning worship, followed by luncheon and special music.

Homecoming will be celebrated Aug. 19 at Calvary Church, Fayetteville. Luncheon will be followed by performances by Soul Seekers and Princemen.

Homecoming will be celebrated Aug. 19 at First Church, Iron City.

## Leadership ...

Jamie Powell has resigned as youth minister at University Parkway Church, Johnson City, to accept the pastorate of a mission church in Arkansas.

First Church, Chattanooga, called Jo Ann Renegar as pastor's secretary.

Shelby County Association reported the following leadership additions at member churches. Leader names, churches, and titles follow: Jerry Essary, Ellendale Church, Memphis, minister of education and youth; Steve Daniell, West Frayser Church, Memphis, minister of music; Sam Campbell, Arlington Church, Arlington, associate pastor; Jeffrey Jones, First Church, Fisherville, associate pastor and family minister; Oretta Arnold, Ardmore Terrace Church, Memphis, youth director; and Ellen Sechrest, Forest Hill Church, Memphis, minister of youth and education.

Eric Hogstrom, pastor of Trinity Church, Clarksville, resigned effective July 31 to become campus minister at Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma.

Hilldale Church, Clarksville, called Mark Miller, McAllen, Texas, as minister of education effective Aug. 1.

Bible Union Church, Martin, called Bob Armour as interim pastor.

Thurman Penick joined the staff of Jolley Springs Church, Gleason, as interim pastor.

## Missions ...

Men at First Church, Livingston, recently formed a Brotherhood organization. To carry out a goal to serve in missions, the group works evenings making home repairs for retired people.

Bill Choate, minister of music at First Church, Kingston, and his wife, Dorothy, along with their daughter and her husband, Carole and Jeff Blankenship, recently returned from a mission trip to Australia. They held music workshops at Epping Church, New South Wales, and the Greensborough and Diamond Valley Church of Victoria.

A team of 27 mission volunteers from Central Church of Fountain City, Knoxville returned Aug. 11 from Lake Bambi, Mich., where they did construction work at the Michigan Baptist Conference Center, and led Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs.

Several Sullivan Association churches offered financial support for a camp for youth from five housing complexes of the Kingsport Housing Authority. Eighteen of the 42 youth made professions of faith.

Youth from Calvary Church, Kingsport, went to Myrtle Beach, S.C., recently to lead day camp for 81 children visiting a local campground and to present three concerts. Fifteen children made professions of faith.

A youth mission team from First Church, Nashville, went to Rochester, N.Y., July 28 to minister to Laotian people, teach Backyard Bible Clubs, and hold mother's and teen clubs. College students from the church left the same day for Ocean City, Md., to conduct a beach ministry.

Workers from nine states traveled to Tennessee recently to construct a church building at Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station. The building was completed except for finishing work within seven days.

The Foreign Mission Board International Service Corps has employed several people with Tennessee ties to serve in posts around the world. Robin Barr, Jefferson City, will serve as a literacy education worker in Eastern Europe. Anne Davies, Knoxville, will work with Cooperative Services International in Asia as an English teacher. Bill and Mary Warmath, Clarksville, will serve in Japan as an interim pastor and church/home outreach ministry worker respectively. They are both Union University, Jefferson City, graduates.

## People ...

Shirley Williams, wife of Donald Williams, pastor of Emmaus Church, Newbern, was killed in an automobile accident July 19. She is survived by her husband; a daughter, Tammy Veal, Dyersburg; and a son, Lynn, Princeton, Ky.

## Revivals ...

As a part of its centennial anniversary celebration, First Church, Kenton, held revival July 22-27. Former pastors Henry Wooten, Tuscon, Az.; Leroy Grissom, Lexington, Ky.; Hoyt Wilson,



**NOTE BURNING** — A note burning service was held recently at Laurel Bank Church, Friendsville, after the church became debt free. Pictured from left are Pastor Troy Cody, trustee Bobby Beaty, and trustee Clarence Morgan.

Lexington, Tenn.; Bob Sanders, Mounouth, Ill.; Robert Brown, Winchester; and Seville Borum, Cape Girardeau, Mo., led the services. Russell Duffer, Houston, Texas, who was licensed to preach at the church in 1927, also spoke. Terry Owens led music.

A youth revival was held Aug. 3-5 at West End Church, Knoxville. Stanley Knight, a sergeant with the Knoxville Police Department, delivered the messages.

First Church, Troy, will hold revival Aug. 26-30 with evangelist John Bramlett, and music evangelist Elwood Doss of First Church, Martin.

Hugh Callens, Memphis, will lead revival Aug. 19-24 at New Hope Church, Paris.

Revival services began Aug. 12 at Ramah Church, Leoma. Bob England is leading the services, which will conclude Aug. 16.

Jim Millsaps and Sam Boone will lead revival Aug. 19-24 at Rockview Church, Niota.

Snow Hill Church, Dowlletown, will hold revival Aug. 15-19. John Evans will be evangelist. The congregation celebrated homecoming Aug. 12.

Ron Boswell began revival Aug. 12 at First Church, Woodbury. Services will conclude Aug. 17.

Liberty Church, Somerville, held revival July 22-27 with evangelist Ronnie Maxie.

A Harvest Day revival will be held Aug. 26 at Oaklawn Church, Memphis. Jimmy Nettles will be guest speaker.

## Clay accepts pastorate

David Clay was called as pastor to Spring Creek Road Church, Chattanooga, effective July 15.

He most recently served as pastor at First Church, Mount Washington, Ky. In addition, he was pastor of Alpine Church, Chattanooga, and other churches in Georgia, Missouri, and Kentucky.

He was ordained in 1968 at Jewel Church, St. Louis, Mo.

The Memphis native earned a bachelor's degree from Union University, Jackson, and a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He and his wife, Judy, have two children.



**DAY CAMP PARTICIPANTS** — Approximately 72 youth from the Nashville area attended a day camp sponsored recently by Nashville Association. Talking to the campers are Peggy Reams of Franklin, camp director, and Sei-Hun Kim of the Nashville Association staff. Lunches for the week-long camp were provided by Woman's Missionary Union members from Parkway Church, Rivergate Church, Tusculum Hills Church, Westwood Church, and Forest Hills Church. Harpeth Heights Church and Covenant Church provided counselors. — Photo by James Redding

## Rock Springs celebrates 150th anniversary

Current and former members and friends of Rock Springs Church, Greenbrier, commemorated the church's 150th birthday July 15, with morning and afternoon services.

Former pastor Frank Kirby of Kentucky brought the message in the morning service.

A plaque from the Historical Society of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Belmont offers seminary extension

Belmont College offers tuition scholarships to all seminary extension students for fall semester. Two 13-week courses will be taught, beginning Sept. 4.

A study of the book of Job will be taught by Marvin Nail, pastor of Whitsitt Chapel Church in Nashville. The class will meet from 5:30-7 p.m. on Tuesdays in room 105 of Fidelity Hall on Belmont's campus. The cost of the texts and study guide for this course is \$39.95.

Formation for Ministry will be taught by Bill Sims, pastor of First Church, Ashland City. The class will meet on Tuesdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m. in room 105 of Fidelity Hall. The cost of the texts and study guide for this course is \$44.90.

Registration for both courses is during the first class session on Sept. 4. For more information contact Belmont's office of religious affairs, (615) 385-6435.

was presented to the church in the morning service. The plaque was a "salute" to the church on its 150th anniversary.

An exhibit room was prepared by the church's homecoming committee: Tommie Jo Callis, Faye Evetts, and George Hutcherson. The exhibit room had photos of buildings, (including the second church building in the late 1800s and the third building dating about 1902, people, events, and a history of the church.

The members, former members, and friends enjoyed a fellowship meal in the fellowship hall at the noon hour.

The afternoon service was devoted to music. Special music was presented by former music director Ken Cooper and his family and by the Kirby family.

Following the afternoon activities, the church had its first service of revival with Hiram LeMay preaching.

A pictorial directory and a special history were prepared for the 150th anniversary of the church. Paul J. Tabor is pastor at Rock Springs.



**PREACHERS' SCHOOL OFFICERS** — Individuals recently elected as officers of the West Tennessee Preachers' School held at Union University include, from left, former West Tennessee pastor John Harrison, president, pastor of Bethany Church, Lansing, Mich.; Memphis evangelist Hugh Callens, vice president; Donald Houston, secretary, pastor of Liberty Church, Fulton, Ky.; and Wayne Perkins, music leader, pastor of Bethel Church, Greenfield.

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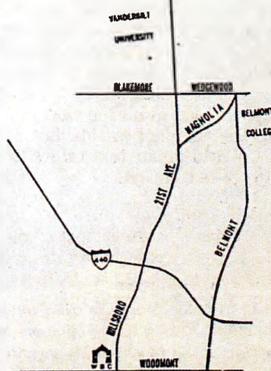
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# Saul's downfall begins

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

A man of God must caution himself against three deadly sins — impatience, pride, and disobedience. These sins eventually cost Saul the kingdom. Five principles can be seen in Saul's downfall in chapters 13 and 14.

**Misappropriate worship (13:1-16)**  
In the second year of Saul's reign he assembled a special fighting force to war against the Philistines. These 3000 troops were divided into two companies with 2000 staying with Saul and 1000 assigned to Jonathan. Jonathan attacked and defeated the Philistine garrison, but Saul took credit for it. The Philistines countered by massing a huge army. When the men of Israel saw it they fled and hid wherever they could.



HAUN

Rather than wait for the priest, Samuel, Saul panicked and offered the sacrifice before battle himself (v. 9). He disobeyed God (Numbers 18:5). A spiritual flaw was detected in Saul's character — impatience under pressure. Saul felt the answer was in a ritual rather than a relationship with God. Any time religious ritual becomes a substitute for a righteous relationship with God it is misappropriate worship and will lead to our downfall.

**Misconceived warfare (13:17-23)**

What is a football team without equipment or a carpenter without tools? They are unprepared and ineffective. Even more so, what is a soldier without weapons? A Philistine ban on blacksmiths for fear Israel would make swords and spears led to an Israeli army that could assemble, but not fight.

It is possible that the church has been an army that can assemble, but can not fight a spiritual war. It is a misconception to think we can do battle with our adversary without putting

on the "whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:11).

**Misdevoted walk (14:1-23)**

Saul became a sloppy leader because he did not allow the Lord to direct his footsteps (Proverbs 16:9). He had no communication with Jonathan. He was unprepared to follow up when Jonathan routed the enemy. Nor did he listen to God to know what course to take (vv. 18-19). Again Saul showed his impulsiveness by acting before God gave him the plan (v. 20).

## BIBLE BOOK

August 19 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 13-14

On the other hand, God used Jonathan, not because of the size of his force (only himself and his body guard), but because of the size of his faith.

Problems loom larger for those walking outside God's will. Yet the man who walks with God can face large obstacles knowing his God is not intimidated by the strength of the enemy or the complexity of the problem. If God has called you to action, bravely commit what few resources you have to God and rely on Him for victory!

**Misguided wisdom (14:24-25)**

Saul's character also revealed unwise and foolish decisions couched in self-centered thinking. Saul declared a curse upon anyone who ate anything before evening — before he could defeat his enemies. As a result, Saul's men were too weak to fight, so hungry they ate raw meat still containing blood (Leviticus 7:26, 27). Saul almost had to kill his son to defend his pride.

Real wisdom gives one the ability to admit error and sinful impulse rather than risk the integrity, well being, and lives of others.

**Misunderstood wonders (14:46-52)**

Why was Saul so successful right after he had disobeyed God and been told his reign would end? (13:13, 14). Perhaps God used Saul as a blessing on His people. Also, the Lord was preparing David to be king. These events had future implications.

Regardless of God's reasons for delaying Saul's demise, his reign ended exactly as God said it would. We must never confuse prosperity with God's blessing. To do so is to misunderstand His purposes and set ourselves up for disappointment, defeat, and downfall.

# Who is wise?

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

A prevalent modern philosophy is that if people are taught the facts, they will put them together properly and live better lives. According to that philosophy we should no longer have unwanted pregnancies, racial strife, venereal disease, or wars. Well, so much for the world's wisdom. But where does one turn for wisdom? Who is wise? Our text will answer these two questions if one is willing to understand.

**Experience joy in trial (1:1-4)**  
James, probably the brother of our Lord, wrote this message to Jewish Christians who had troubles. Everyone has trials. The need is to learn how to find joy in the



PIPPIN

midst of trials. On the surface, "joy in trial" is contradictory, but James got to the heart of the issue where trial and travail are transformed into a matter of rejoicing. The plant is trial and the fruit is patience, which is the joy of doing without that others may be happy or the happiness of enduring ill for the sake of Jesus.

To remain under misfortune when it cannot be helped is difficult. It is in that situation that the Christian can rise to be cheerful and joyfully patient, thus conquering the bitter results of trials. The repetition of trials which grow patience produces the finest product in God's garden.

**Go to God for wisdom (1:5-8)**

Honest people painfully admit a deficiency of wisdom. What did James mean by wisdom? According to 3:13ff, wisdom is practical and means living like Christ. God is the only merchant

with this product and the only price He has put on it is "ask." However, to ask and receive, the request must be made in faith, which is a working confidence in God that leads one to expect to receive what one asks. God does not answer prayers which insult Him by doubting Him. James compared the doubter to a wave driven by the wind and a double-minded man. Such a person will not receive wisdom even if he asks for it.

## CONVENTION UNIFORM

August 19 Lesson

Basic Passage: James 1:1-8; 3:1 to 4:12

Show it (3:13-18)

A person's manner of daily life will show the kind of wisdom he has opened his heart to, true wisdom from above, or earthly wisdom which is "sensual, devilish." The characteristics of these two kinds of wisdom spring from their roots.

Wisdom from above is from God and manifests itself in a good life, meekness, purity, peace, gentleness, reason-

ableness, mercy, goodness, single-mindedness, and sincerity. Earthly wisdom is from the devil and leads to a life characterized by bitter jealousy, strife, sensuality, evil, confusion, and every evil practice. Whereas Godly wisdom comes through experiences of faith by which men give themselves to God (prayer, meditation, study of His Word, and instruction in Godliness), earthly wisdom fills men's minds and rules their hearts as they give themselves to purely human impulses, desires, and ambitions. Again, the fruit is in the root.

Who is wise? Is it the one with special intelligence or advanced education? No. It is the one with Christ in his heart who walks with God, talks with God, learns from God, and lives for God. He is wise because he receives wisdom from God. He is the one through whom God can show Himself in His wondrous saving power. He is the one through whom God can bring purity and righteousness in His world. This can be a better world IF God's people would be wise!

# Live as children of God

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

A contemporary poster is imprinted with this message: There are two important facts about the universe: (1) There is a God; (2) You are not he.

The gnostics in John's day, were guilty of self-deification, irrationality, and distortion of Biblical truths. They were proponents of a dualistic concept of humanity which saw man as having two separate entities, flesh and spirit. Since all flesh was considered evil and had no bearing on the spiritual realm, one could commit sins of the flesh without any spiritual consequences. John spoke against these misconceptions and encouraged believers to live as children of God.



WREN

However, we are commanded not to love the world.

In verse 15, the word world does not refer to God's created world, because we are to love and protect it. It does not refer to people, because we are commanded to love others. The word for world, "cosmos," is taken from a verb meaning, "to order or arrange," and refers to a system. We hear about the world of sports and the world of finance. They are not worlds, but systems. World in our text refers to a system opposed to God.

Why do we misplace our love? John mentioned three reasons: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life (v. 16). Satan uses these to distort God's purposes and keep Christians from living as God's children.

Christians need to remember the world and things of the world are transitory. Things of the world satisfy for a while, but cannot last.

John realized the church at Ephesus was guilty of this very sin. Even Jesus spoke to them saying: "I have this against you, that you have left your first love" (Revelation 2:4).

On the other hand, one who does "the will of God abides forever" (v. 17). We are to obey His command not to love the world, but to love properly (Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35).

## LIFE AND WORK

August 19 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 John 2:15-3:10

Hope sincerely (2:28-3:3)

The Christians in Ephesus were urged to realize the awesome love God had bestowed on them. The word "bestowed" (v. 1) implied completion and permanence. He loved them comprehensively and endlessly. Those who received His love (John 3:16) were born of God and became members of His family (v. 1). The translators of the King James version in 1611 omitted a phrase found in the Greek text which states, "... that we should be called children of God, and we are" (v. 1).

John was confident that he was a child of God.

He reminded believers they were not what they used to be, might not be what they ought to be, and were not what they were going to be (v. 2). He believed Jesus would return, believers would see Him as He is and be conformed into His likeness.

This hope in the return of Jesus served as a catharsis leading them to purify themselves, "just as He is pure" (v. 3). The practice of purification gave them confidence that they would be both accepted and acceptable at His coming (v. 28).

Live sinlessly (3:9-10)

The gnostics accepted all perverted and immoral lifestyles. John reminded them those born of God could not accept such teachings because of the incompatibility of sin in the life of a child of God.

Christians are encouraged and empowered to live sinlessly because God implanted His own nature in us. God's seed engenders us with a desire to live holy lives (v. 9). Whether we live sinlessly or not depends on our parentage (v. 10).

**Love selectively (2:15)**  
Christians are commanded to love God, one another, and enemies.

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Southeastern Seminary students make history in Czechoslovakia**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — A group of students from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was the first group since before World War II to hold an open air evangelistic meeting in the town of Pisek, Czechoslovakia. The seven students and one professor shared testimonies, preached, performed pantomimes, and sang for the crowd of about 120 people gathered in the Pisek city park.

After the meeting on the street the group distributed tracts to and mingled with the Czech people who had gathered. They were able to share the Gospel and invite them to further evangelistic services held nightly in a local Baptist church.

"We saw evangelistic results at every meeting held in the churches. People were converted every time. I consider this a tremendous success in light of the backward condition of many of the churches in Czechoslovakia," said Phil Roberts, associate professor of evangelism and church growth.

**Eastern Europeans to get funds for building, renovating churches**

GLORIETA, N.M. — In a time of open doors in Eastern Europe, Southern Baptists will help open or reopen the doors of numerous new or renovated churches there. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will invest nearly \$1.25 million in churches and other capital projects in seven Eastern European countries during 1991, according to action taken by trustees during their July 23-26 meeting at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, estimated the \$1.25 million to be more than six times the board's capital funds expenditure in Eastern Europe this year.

Earlier this year, the board allocated \$1 million for Bibles, Gospel films, and other resources to help Eastern European Baptists evangelize their nations and strengthen their churches. Another \$1 million, from Southern Baptist hunger relief donations, helped buy seeds and related supplies for needy Romanian farmers. The board also is expanding its full-time work force in Eastern Europe from ten to nearly 100.

The capital funds expenditure reflects a one-year emphasis on helping Eastern European Baptists with various projects stymied by former communist regimes of the region, Ballenger said. Many hoped-for church construction or renovation projects never got off the ground because of government restrictions, he noted.

The board's capital expenditures in Eastern Europe in future years likely will move back toward previous levels, he said. The board will continue its primary focus on locating Southern Baptist personnel in the region to help Baptists with evangelism and church growth plans.

**Rural churches will change to survive, DOMs predict**

GLORIETA, N.M. — If about two dozen directors of missions from rural associations are right, the rural church of the future may look considerably different than it does today. The DOMs from across the western and north central United States participated in a conference on rural America during home missions week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. They were asked to project what rural Southern Baptist churches will be like in the 2020.

They predict fewer rural churches, due to consolidation and disbanding of dwindling congregations. Churches that survive will feature streamlined programs, smaller facilities, greater use of technology, and more ethnic ministries, the DOMs said. For example, the FAX machine could become the primary means of communication between rural churches and denominational offices, several participants suggested. "The associational office that doesn't modernize will be bypassed," one DOM commented.

The group also predicted an increasing number of non-denominational or community churches as no one denomination is able to sustain work in some areas. Gary Goreham, a sociology professor from North Dakota State University, led the three-day session that explored trends and issues facing rural America, the impact of the farm crisis on rural churches and the future of the rural church.

Despite a dwindling population in many areas and the financial devastation of the farm crisis, the rural church will endure as an institution, participants said. However, the churches that survive will be the churches that change, they agreed.

**Kentucky RA counselors killed in auto accident**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Two counselors-in-training at Kentucky Baptists' summer missions camp for boys died in a head-on automobile crash July 30.

Tim Covington and Jim Davidson died when the car Covington was driving was struck by a car driven by James Scott Mattingly of New Haven on state Highway 52 in LaRue County, shortly after noon. Covington and Davidson, both 17, died at the scene.

Mattingly, 20, died that afternoon at Humana Hospital-University in Louisville. Davidson's 20-year-old brother, Brett, was critically injured and taken to University Hospital.

Covington and Jim Davidson had worked at Camp Rabro, a Royal Ambassador missions camp for boys at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near Baghdad, and at Royal Ambassador camp at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly near Aurora for a total of eight weeks this summer.

Covington was the son of Ronald and Sandra Covington, members of Second Church in Greenville. Davidson was the son of Larry and Terri Davidson of Boston, near Louisville. Larry Davidson is pastor of Rolling Fork Church, Boston, and a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where Mrs. Davidson works.

**Baylor president bans dancing, considers new 'Truett' seminary**

WACO, Texas — Baylor University President Herbert H. Reynolds has continued a ban on dancing on campus and has taken the first step toward starting a Baptist seminary. Should Baylor trustees later approve beginning the seminary, it would be named the George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Baylor trustees voted in late July to let Reynolds decide the issue of dancing on campus, and approved reserving the name should the school opt for starting a new seminary. Reynolds' decision to continue the 145-year-old tradition of no dances on campus puts to rest for the time being an issue that had been simmering since February when a student task force asked that dancing be permitted on campus.

Though it was not unanimous, trustees also approved Reynolds' request that the university register the name, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, with the Texas secretary of state in case the school decides to begin a seminary in the future. Truett was pastor of First Church, Dallas, for the 47-year period from 1897 to 1944. Reynolds said Truett "epitomized all that is good of Baptists, beginning with his unwavering commitment to religious liberty and religious freedom."

Reynolds said the decision to reserve the Truett name was to provide for any future contingency "should there be a time when it appears we might well be advised to consider establishing a school of theology, divinity school, or seminary, depending on how comprehensive the program is intended to be." He said he hopes the existing six Southern Baptist theological seminaries will continue to offer programs with historic Baptist principles such as autonomy of the local church, the pastor as the undershepherd not chief executive, priesthood of the believer, and religious liberty.

But if the six seminaries move in a different direction, "we would want to be in a position to ensure that our denomination is well served by the kind of advanced programs that Baylor, as the largest of our Baptist institutions, is able to provide," he added.

Baylor University Press Secretary Michael Bishop, in a statement to news media, added that Reynolds was serving notice that "we know how to start seminaries. We have the faculty; we have the library, and we think we would be flooded by applicants from seminary professors who are not happy in a totalitarian environment."

Establishing a new seminary would require approval by the Baylor trustees beyond reserving a name with the secretary of state, which is only the first step in the process.

**Judge rules in favor of churches in land use case**

BOSTON — Churches should not be required to provide off-street parking in the same manner as shopping centers and office buildings, a Massachusetts court ruled. The decision was handed down June 28 by Justice George N. Hurd Jr., in Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The court case was the result of a three-year battle between the town of Needham, Mass., and three church groups who planned to share a new building. It would be the first new church constructed in the town in 30 years. Greater Boston Baptist Association will have offices in the new facility where Mennonite and Messianic Jewish congregations will meet on Saturdays and Sundays.

The court also ruled that churches using moveable chairs rather than pews should not be subject to a different occupancy standard for zoning purposes. The building inspector in this case had required the churches to provide more parking spaces because the sanctuary would contain interlocking padded chairs rather than stationary pews.

Although this case will have clear implications in Massachusetts, it could also impact zoning in other parts of the country, said Larry Martin, director of missions for the Boston association.

**Conference for blind formed at New Orleans SBC**

NEW ORLEANS — The Southern Baptist Conference for the Blind was organized at a special meeting during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. The inaugural meeting was attended by six individuals who are blind or who minister to the blind.

The conference will meet annually, with its 1991 meeting in Nashville and its 1992 meeting in conjunction with Home Missions Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Five objectives, adopted for the conference, are to provide opportunities for fellowship among blind members of Southern Baptist churches; to provide opportunities for blind Southern Baptists to develop leadership skills; to encourage blind church members to participate actively in their churches; to make Southern Baptists aware of the many blind people among their churches and communities and to encourage Baptist leadership to provide needed ministries; and to offer assistance in the development and distribution of educational and evangelistic materials for the use of blind individuals.

Charles Couey of Nashville was elected president of the new organization. People who are interested in receiving information about the Southern Baptist Conference for the Blind can write to Couey at 103 Brenda Lane, Antioch, Tenn. 37013.

**Palen resigns from position at Baptist Joint Committee**

WASHINGTON — Kathy Palen, director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, will leave the staff of that agency in late August to begin study at Yale Divinity School.

Palen, 34, joined the BJC staff in September 1985. She was elected to her current position in March 1989.

During the past five years, Palen also has served as a Washington bureau correspondent for Baptist Press news service, as well as reporting for the interdenominational Religious News Service. She has provided news coverage of the Supreme Court, Congress, and White House.

Before joining the BJC staff, the Oklahoma native served as director of public relations at Oklahoma Baptist University.