

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

56,323 accept Christ

Germantown, Two Rivers lead Tennessee effort in Kenya

By Connie Umstead and Craig Bird
MOMBASA, Kenya — The four-week Kenya Coastal Crusade ended in late July with reports of 56,323 people making professions of faith in Christ and 84 congregations being organized.

The evangelistic effort united about 540 Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States, 60 Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Kenya, and Kenyan pastors and laypeople. They worked in four areas along the Kenyan coast and at one inland location during the pair of two-week campaigns.

Two large groups from Tennessee churches were part of the effort — one from Germantown Church, Germantown, and another from Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

The 18-member Germantown group of young adults worked with four churches in Mombasa, which is predominantly Moslem. They used puppets to draw crowds to open air crusades, and shared their faith through the puppets, music, and personal testimonies at street meetings and door-to-door. A Kenyan would interpret for them.

The Germantown team was the only group using puppets to minister during

Veto centennial history

BSSB trustees affirm CP, hear positive growth report

NASHVILLE — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board heard a report on the fiscal growth of the board during the 1980s, adopted a resolution supporting the Cooperative Program, and learned that a history commemorating the board's centennial would not be published during their Aug. 13-15 meeting in Nashville.

During the semiannual meeting trustees also adopted a \$190.4 million budget for 1990-91, up \$6.7 million from the current year's budget.

In his report to the trustees Aug. 13, BSSB President Lloyd Elder said, "Southern Baptists can count on us — officers and trustees — to be faithful to the Gospel of Christ and the management of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

Elder reminded trustees "we are facing our greatest challenges in turbulent days." He noted that a turbulent environment requires stability in leadership.

He cited a decade of fiscal progress at the board and in the denomination.

For example, he said revenue provided from the sales of board products and services has increased 78.8 percent in the last ten years, from \$96.2 million in 1979 to \$172 million in 1989. In comparison, for the same period the Consumer Price Index, a measure of price increases for products and services,

the first two-week phase of the crusade. Other teams used music, preaching, and visitation.

The 16-member team from Two Rivers Church worked with the national tribal people in the Malinda and Kulifi areas. The group worked with local pastors doing evangelistic work and in the afternoons held worship services or Bible studies in local churches.

"There was a remarkable openness like nothing we've ever seen," said Frank Drinkard, Germantown Church's minister of recreation. "The first couple of days we couldn't believe it could be so easy to share about Jesus. People were praying in the streets to accept Jesus. You don't see that on the streets of Germantown or Memphis or Nashville."

Brian Haines, a college-aged volunteer, agreed. "The people of Kenya were literally starving to hear the message of Jesus' love and how they could have eternal life through Christ," he said. "I had no idea how to approach the people, what to say, or how they would react, but I found that the Lord can use us in spite of who or what we are."

Volunteer Jill Robinson, a freshman

in college, shared Haines' discovery about God's ability to use everyone.

"The first person I gave my testimony to accepted Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior. I was amazed that through all of my stumbling words, he understood how to be saved and readily accepted Jesus," she said. "In many instances my words were so simple and jumbled, but God still used them to reach people."

Seton Tomyn, minister to single adults at Two Rivers, agreed with the Germantown members.

"What affected me most personally was the openness and receptivity of the people there to the Gospel. It was evident they were 'prayed up' before we got there," Tomyn said.

Tomyn noted the Kenyan effort was a "life-changing" experience for the members from Two Rivers. "We all came back with a burden for increased prayer and financial work and for increased missions education for our church as a whole," he said.

The Two Rivers minister said the readiness of the natives, many of whom came out of a history of paganism, to change from their traditions to accept Christ and the oppor-

tunities He provides was amazing."

He contrasted the openness in Kenya to the United States. "We came back to a place where people are cold to the Gospel," Tomyn observed.

But the eagerness of the Kenyans to accept Christ provided Tomyn a fresh outlook. "It gave me a new boldness to want to share Christ with the people here," he said.

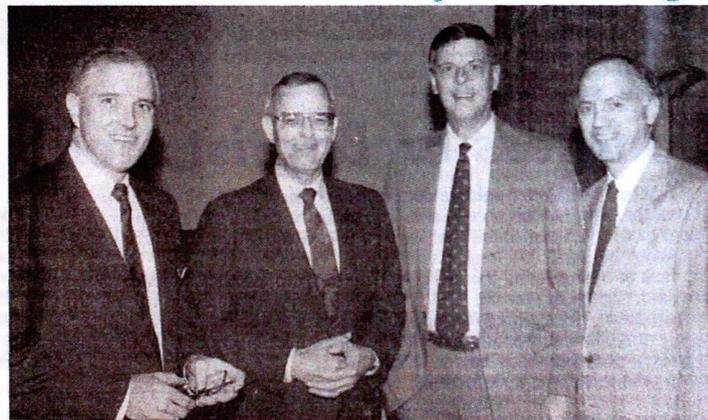
Crusade results are even more miraculous when one considers how becoming a Christian affects a former Muslim's life, volunteers observed.

Todd Pennington, a Germantown volunteer who is a senior in high school, recalled a child asking to talk to his puppet after a show one day.

Children "began asking questions of the puppet. Good, hard questions like, 'The Bible says I should tell my friends and family about Jesus, but if my family knew I was a Christian, they would not give me food and not have me as their child. What should I do?'"

"Besides trying to come up with an answer that would fit, I had to let it sink in that this was a very real, very common question," Pennington said.

(Germantown, Two Rivers, page 3)



TENNESSEANS — Trustees Jerry Sutton, left, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville; Gene Mims, second from right, pastor, First Church, Cleveland; and Roland Maddox, Bellevue Church, Cordova; visit with BSSB president Lloyd Elder.

—Photo by Connie Davis

registered a gain of 48.8 percent.

For the October-November-December 1989 quarter, he said 33,108 churches or 89.4 percent of the 37,051 churches in the SBC ordered some or all of their Sunday School literature from the board. The Sunday School enrollment of these churches equals 96.3 percent of the total SBC Sunday School enrollment.

Elder mentioned that from January

through June of this year the board had circulated 21.4 million pieces of Sunday School literature. In that same period of time the board received only 237 critical letters, one critical letter for every 90,312 units of literature, or .00001 per unit.

Elder reminded the trustees "we have a tremendous amount of exposure for agreement or disagreement," but even with such a good ratio "we can do better, we must do better."

Supports CP

Following Elder's report, trustees were given opportunity to dialogue with the president. Several trustees questioned Elder about remarks he made July 22 at Glorieta (N.M.) Bap-

tist Conference Center on whether he perceived a threat to the Cooperative Program.

Elder said in part: "I do know that Southern Baptists' missionary participation and support is built on trust. We are a volunteer organization. I also know that local Southern Baptist churches have tough decisions to make. There are a vast number of ways to support missions, and broad-based participation and involvement and trust building have served us well."

Questions centered around Elder's statements that churches have "tough decisions to make" and that "there are a vast number of ways to support missions."

Trustee Joe Knott, an attorney from Raleigh, N.C., said support for the Cooperative Program is not a "tough decision. If you want to be a Southern Baptist, you support the Cooperative Program."

In response to trustees, Elder said: (BSSB trustees, page 5)

An inside look

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Editorials

History and heritage — Baptist and Reflector Day

Sunday, August 26, is designated as Baptist and Reflector Day on the denominational calendar. The designation calls attention to a newsjournal which has served Tennessee Baptists since 1835.

Well, the Baptist and Reflector is a descendant of several "names," but this one has been the "tag" since 1889 when the American Baptist Reflector was consolidated with the Tennessee Baptist.

This observance was not put on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar to honor editors or other staff members, nor was it designated only to cite tradition.

More than likely, Baptist and Reflector Day was originated to help Tennessee Baptists realize the value of information, education, inspiration, and interpretation — as presented

by a line of distinguished newspapers and people.

The first Baptist newspaper in Tennessee was produced in 1835 by R. B. C. Howell, a great journalist who also was pastor of Nashville's First Church. Howell was a Baptist stalwart who played a dominant role in organization of the Southern Baptist Convention in Augusta, Georgia, in 1845.

Though Howell and others like him struggled hard with Baptist papers through the years, the idea of a Baptist courier has been difficult to catch hold in great numbers. The circulation reached its highest mark under Alvin C. Shackelford at 85,000 in 1985-86. There are a million members of Tennessee Baptist church congregations.

Since 1975, costs of producing and mailing

a denominational paper have risen to ridiculous levels. Postage now costs more than printing — and the United States Postal Service is asking for a hike of tremendous impact.

Early in January, postage rates will increase between 25 and 35 percent for denominational papers like the Baptist and Reflector. This will amount to about \$80,000, in a year when budget increases are not possible.

We urge Tennessee Baptist churches to remember their newspaper on Sunday. Remember the paper and its staff daily in your prayers. Remember us when you make budgets for the coming year. Remember that your paper is your best and only messenger with timely and important news about Tennessee Baptists. — WFA

Sending a message — alcohol is dangerous to your health

Southern Baptists have a longstanding, widespread consensus about the need to counterbalance alcoholic beverage advertisements. Robert Parham, associate director, Christian Life Commission, says Baptists are not alone.

In testimony before the United States House of Representatives a few weeks ago, Parham cited a poll by the Roper Organization last November.

The survey, conducted for The Wall Street Journal, indicated that 67 percent favored warning labels about the dangers of alcohol — while only 16 percent opposed them.

Sixty percent favored equal time for public health messages, and 48 percent want to ban all advertisements for beer and wine from television. The survey found that 42 percent want to eliminate ads from magazines and newspapers.

Earlier this year, a survey by Gallup found that 74 percent of Americans favored

putting health warnings on beer, wine, and liquor ads similar to those now placed on cigarette ads.

Tennessee Baptists should be interested in a Tennessee poll taken in April, which revealed that a significant majority of adult Tennesseans say alcohol advertising should be banned.

The Social Science Research Institute poll also showed that 66 percent of Tennesseans favor a ban on whiskey ads, 61 percent favor a ban on beer ads, and 58 percent are opposed to wine ads.

Parham was testifying in support of the Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act (HR 4493). The bill, which has a "twin" in the U. S. Senate, is sponsored by Rep. Joseph Kennedy of Massachusetts and 25 co-sponsors, none of whom represent Tennessee. The Senate bill, S. 2439, is sponsored by Senators Albert Gore and John Glenn, Ohio. The bills would require strong warning messages on alcoholic beverage broadcast and print

advertising.

The evil of alcohol abuse is well known and thoroughly documented. Our national health and well-being is being diminished steadily by its influences. But harm to the public in deaths, family distress, shattered dreams, broken futures is overlooked by the industries that originate the causes.

We mention only a reminder from the U. S. Surgeon General's office. Mass communications is a major source of youth's learning about alcohol abuse and that alcohol ads tend to glamorize and give a distorted "good" view about the product. No information about the risks of drinking alcohol accompanies the ads.

These two bills are worthy of Baptist support. The Baptist and Reflector urges Tennessee Baptists to support Senators Gore and Glenn and Rep. Kennedy in this fight. Write to congressmen. Talk to friends. Make this a bright hour in combating the evils of alcohol. — WFA

Brotherhood Commission leader speaks

Smith tells Congress of Baptist men's ministries

By Mike Creswell

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — The president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is calling on Southern Baptist lay people to pray for spiritual renewal within their convention to end political strife.

James Smith made the plea Aug. 13 in a report to the Fifth World Conference of Baptist Men. The men's meeting was being held in conjunction with the 16th Baptist World Congress of the Baptist World Alliance Aug. 14-18 in Seoul, South Korea.

Smith characterized the Southern Baptist Convention conflict as "a preacher fight" and claimed most lay Southern Baptists do not even know of the conflict. "Many of the people who are members of our churches are not aware of even the dimensions or the significance of what is going on," he said.

Smith said he has been urging lay Southern Baptists "to pray and go on praying for a great spiritual awakening within our midst, a great movement of God that will turn brother back to brother and church to church and help Southern Baptists make a great impact ... for the evangelization of our world before the return of Jesus."

The Brotherhood leader said he does not think the fight can be won on a political basis. "I do not think that is God's way," he said.

The task of evangelizing the world, Smith said, "is too big for the preachers to do," explaining that "world evangelization was not in God's plan to be a preachers' movement. It's going to take this great task force of the laity."

After his speech, Smith told a reporter that the political strife currently crippling the Southern Baptist Convention is "primarily a spiritual problem and secondarily a preacher problem."

Increasingly, he added, Southern Baptist laymen are involved in performing ministry and "doing things" rather than merely attending meetings.

Smith reviewed for the delegates recent highlights in the mission ministries of almost 600,000 Southern Baptist men and boys. These included construction of some 300 church buildings in the United States last year, saving some \$20 million in construction costs, and putting roofs on more than 50 hurricane-damaged houses on the Caribbean island of St. Croix. Also, in South Carolina, Baptist men provided

350,000 meals and did extensive reconstruction and cleanup work for weeks after Hurricane Hugo last year.

This year, he said, volunteers have helped with evangelistic campaigns in Kenya that have led more than 50,000 people to make commitments to Jesus Christ.

In South Korea, where Christianity has spread rapidly in recent years, the Brotherhood Commission is paying the salary of a full-time professor teaching lay ministry at the Baptist seminary. The course, required for all students, will help students go out with "more of a vision to utilize the ministries of the layman," Smith said.

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Germantown, Two Rivers lead Tennessee effort . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Another man the group met was formerly a wealthy Muslim leader. When he became a Christian and donated land to the local church, Muslims retaliated by burning his home, and confiscating his land and possessions. His response was "Praise be Lord!"

Drinkard said his feelings about the Kenyan Crusade are hard to put into words, but he added that what impressed them most was "that the Holy Spirit was working before we got here" through the missionaries and local pastors.

The work is still continuing, even though the volunteers are now home. An innovative follow-up and discipleship program promises even greater results in the coming months as new believers are trained and begin spreading their faith in their villages and neighborhoods, crusade leaders said.

Many volunteers pledged \$40 per person to finance the 14-week follow-up program.

The \$50,000 project was developed in the opening days of the crusade by missionaries, Kenyans, Foreign Mission Board officials, and Billie Hanks, a Texas-based evangelist and discipleship seminar leader.

In Tennessee, members of First Church, Jackson, raised about \$16,000

to build churches in Kenya. (See Aug. 15 issue of the Baptist and Reflector for this story.)

"We've got to get on this (follow-up) hot before the ravens swoop in," Hanks said, referring to the tendency of cults to spring up when people are exposed to the Gospel, but not grounded theologically.

Enos Weswa, who teaches at the Kenya Baptist Theological Seminary, has been given a two-month leave to coordinate the program and teach pastors to train laypeople in discipleship.

In Mombasa, the 35,515 people who signed spiritual commitment cards will receive letters inviting them to a series of rallies on the topics of assurance of salvation, maintaining daily fellowship with Jesus, and the Bible Way correspondence program.

The Kenyans also recognize the importance of discipleship. In a letter addressed to Drinkard, Kenyan and new Christian Charles Gathinji said, "You contributed much to my spiritual strength. Due to God's miracle, many received Jesus. It's now upon me to water the seeds you planted here in Kenya so that they grow and bear much fruit."

Volunteers from at least 52 churches in 16 states went to Kenya to spread their faith in a Muslim culture, to continue and accelerate the Christian



KENYAN COMMUTERS — A mass of Kenyan workers wait to board a ferry that will take them to their jobs on Mombasa. During "early-bird soul winning," volunteers from Germantown Church passed out tracts among the 4000 commuters and talked with them about salvation. LeRoy Atchley, a Germantown volunteer, said people would reach out for the tracts. The volunteers never saw one tract thrown away.

revival that has been changing the spiritual face of Mombasa for almost five years.

They left singing a medley of the old standard, "Victory in Jesus," and a song composed for the crusade, "God Give Me a Heart For Africa." They left with memories of people asking to become Christians — and then cutting witchcraft charms from their arms or taking Muslim prayer caps off their heads.

Two other Tennessee churches were represented at the Kenyan Crusade, Greenhills Church, Collierville, and First Church, Jackson. In addition, a team of 16 people represented Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. — *Umstead is news assistant for the Baptist and Reflector. Bird writes for the Foreign Mission Board. Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor of the Baptist and Reflector, also contributed to this story.*

Chaplains, pastors react to Fort Campbell deployment

By *Connie Davis, assistant editor*
FORT CAMPBELL — "You don't ask a Screaming Eagle, 'Are you ready to go.' They're ready to go," observed Clarksville pastor Verlon Moore.

Among military circles, it is understood the 101st Airborne Division is ready because of its role in combat and its reputation as a physically and technically demanding division.

At least 17,000 of its members began deployment to Saudi Arabia Aug. 15, just 13 days after the Aug. 2 occupation of Kuwait by Iraq. An unconfirmed number of troops had left prior to the Aug. 15 announcement.

Several sources reported activity has doubled or tripled on the base. Traffic, including convoys and army equipment being hauled on trucks, has increased. Soldiers can be seen wearing desert fatigues and chemical warfare protective face masks. Other troops run in sweats to prepare for the heat in the Middle East.

Chaplains — nine out of about 40 are Southern Baptist — could not report on the recent events. They are preparing to be deployed and trying to meet the many needs of the soldiers and families.

The Soldiers' Chapel on post is remaining open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. Also chaplains are performing many marriages for couples who are trying to beat the deployment schedule.

Southern Baptist chaplains include Maj. Sonny Moore, Captains Tommy Preston, Dave Coram, Eddie Sumbler, Charles Walker, Barry Presley, Jim Duke, Larry Holland, and Randy Walker.

Cumberland Association sponsored a 12-hour prayer vigil among its 36 churches Aug. 19, reported Wesley Pitts, director of missions. The association also is ready to help

families of soldiers by providing food and clothing through its Helping Hands Ministry based at Gracey Avenue Church, Clarksville, and by serving as a counselor and source for referrals, said Pitts.

Baptists also are responding through local churches.

A son in Saudi Arabia
Paul Eaves is a Southern Baptist pastor who deployed from Fort Campbell to fight in the Vietnam War, where he earned a purple heart as a helicopter fighter pilot.

The retired major is Installation Range Officer at the post — manager of the land and training resources for the installation. And he is bivocational pastor of Cross Creek Church, Indian Mound. The church is in Tennessee near the southern border of the post.

His 21-year-old son was sent from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., to Saudi Arabia Aug. 13.

"One guy asked me if this was Armageddon."

Eaves is comforted by his commitments and experiences. He explained that soldiers at divisions like those at Fort Campbell and Fort Bragg are often on alert and have been sent to Grenada, Panama, and other sites in South America recently.

They are well-trained and well-equipped and have sworn to "support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic."

"My son is not more important than somebody else's son," said Eaves, who also claims his Christianity supports him.

"The soldiers seem purposeful by Army standards, but in the eyes of the guys and gals you see that sense of urgency."

Because of the deployment, Eaves

confirmed his information on the about 20 soldiers and their families who work for him. Through social events, he seeks to form a "family" of his workers and their families to counter an impersonal society and to minister to them.

"Christians have an opportunity for a great home missions effort because there are many people whose situations have changed a great deal." Waiting until families face death or disability may be too late, said Eaves.

Of the 344 members of his church, about six families are affected by the deployment. He and the other members pray for the soldiers and families by name in church meetings and try to keep them involved in church activities which can take their minds off the deployment.

Former chaplain
David Atherton, pastor, Kenwood Church, Clarksville, and former chaplain at Fort Campbell, can understand the plight of nearly 50 percent of his congregation.

"I feel like I should be there because a lot of these guys were my soldiers," he said.

"Given the mission of Fort Campbell, the 101st Airborne, all of this is absolutely necessary."

Atherton reported the church is assigning military families to non-military families. If the crisis escalates, the military families may meet in a support group. The families affected also were recognized at a service and their names are posted for a prayer reminder.

The recognition time was very emotional, he said, noting the children suffer along with the parents.

"You just do what a family is supposed to do," he said, referring to the church. Emotions run the gamut, from those who are mad at God to those who are ready to fight. "One guy

asked me if this was Armageddon," Atherton said. He discussed some of his theology with him.

Atherton hopes the community will cross the barriers that separate civilians and military.

"If this is what it takes to get us to evangelize and witness, then so be it. . . . Our soldiers can't refuse to go. Should we dare refuse to go as soldiers of the King?"

He encouraged prayer for the chaplains, who "represent us, our conviction, and our denomination." — See follow-up story in next week's Baptist and Reflector.

WELCOME NEW READERS

The issue of the Baptist and Reflector is being distributed to several thousand more readers this week through the observance of Baptist and Reflector Day in Tennessee Baptist churches.

If you want to receive the paper, please return the form below to: Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

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Our Readers Write

Questions posed

The ongoing furor regarding the firing of the two Baptist Press editors, Al Shackleford and Dan Martin, has brought much into sharp focus.

Paul enjoined Christians to "provide all things honest in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17). In total disregard of this inerrant Scripture, our Executive Committee officers first "lovingly" offered, behind closed doors, a buy-off package to these editors if they would quietly resign, or be "dealt with harshly" if the truth were leaked. When the truth did leak, the full committee then met behind closed doors, with armed guards, and voted overwhelmingly (but not unanimously) to fire the two editors.

The charge? These editors were allegedly biased, "not reporting Convention news in a fair manner." Was this because their "bias" did not slant the news in the right direction?

The bottom line of all this tragic mess comes down to two questions: (1) Would the Baptist Press editors have been fired if their alleged bias had slanted news releases in favor of the current convention leadership? (2) Will such an Executive Committee replace them with editors who will be required, on pain of dismissal, to report convention news without bias against anyone, "fundamentalist-conservative" or "moderate-conservative"?

Roger Heidelberg
4900 Winchester Rd., Apt. 1
Memphis 38118

Worthy of print

As a Christian and a Southern Baptist I am concerned over the firings of Dan Martin and Al Shackleford. Should we not know both sides of any issue worthy of being printed?

But I am more concerned over the bickering that goes on in the whole Southern Baptist Convention. How can our local Southern Baptist churches keep down friction in the churches if they have the SBC as a pattern to go by. Romans 12:18 says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

John 8:32 says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." So let us have the truth and nothing but the truth. Also let our fervent prayer be for peace and harmony with all men.

Mary A. Harton
210 Parkburg Road
Jackson 38301

Proud 'fundamentalist'

I am proud to be called a "fundamentalist." It only says that I have a foundation on which to place my faith. That foundation is Jesus Christ as revealed by God's infallible Word. The media, religious and secular, has excited people by the slogan, "freedom of the press."

The press made much of the fact that Shackleford and Martin had the support of the religious and secular press. I am not competent to evaluate the worth of praise from the religious press, but I can say with confidence that praise from the secular press is to their detriment. The secular press has always enjoyed beating up on "conservatives."

Of all the letters criticizing the Executive Committee for their actions, I believe most have not read everything that Baptist Press has released. They are accepting the word of "liberals" that reporting was fair.

In your guidelines for letters it is stated, "Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone." Most letters published in the last two weeks impugned the character and integrity of the Executive

Committee. Dr. Paschall in an article, Aug. 1, says it is time for "conservatives" to be magnanimous. Where was the magnanimity during the 20 or more years when "liberals" were in control?

Henry G. Harris
379 Oakland Rd.
Clarksville 37040

Recent letters have impugned the integrity of those other than the Executive Committee — as most readers note. All readers would do well to abide by the guidelines. — Editor

Time to wake up

According to news reports, First Church, Fort Worth, Texas, voted July 22 to seek affiliation with the SBC. The church was voted out in 1948. We already have the spirit of J. Frank Norris in current leadership.

How does our Executive Committee and those who claim to believe so strongly in the Bible justify their "gun totin'" diplomacy in the firing of our editors? The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 10:4 — "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

I am an "ultra-conservative" who believes the Bible is without error, but this political group that has gained power through the disguise of conservative reminds me of fanatics. Why can't we Southern Baptists wake up and stop being intimidated by the Pharisees?

Reece Harris, pastor
Sinking Creek Church
Rt. 5
Johnson City 37601

Singing in unison

Concerning the recent Baptist and Reflector editorial, certainly there is room at the cross for all of us. Unfortunately, there is no room in the boardrooms and committee meetings for those who do not "toe the line" and sing the "fundamentalist" party song. There is an old saying that the land at the foot of the cross is level, no one is above another.

President Morris Chapman has an unprecedented opportunity to draw Southern Baptists together by proclaiming this truth now and living it out in his appointments. Until all Southern Baptists are again welcome on boards and committees, we will have only the same sounds we have had in the past years instead of singing our song in unison.

The suggestion that a fine Christian like Howard Olive caused an executive session and armed officers at the Executive Committee meeting in July helps to destroy our work together.

Executive sessions which bring about firings of good men, innuendoes about denominational servants who have served faithfully for years, and harassment of seminary faculties and administrators, have drowned out our singing.

God help us to sing together again, before we forget how.

Marvin G. Cameron, pastor
First Church
P. O. Box 347
Gatlinburg 37738

Main purpose

I have thought the purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention was missions paid for by churches together through the Cooperative Program. Yet we have had leaders whose churches gave two percent and threatened to withhold CP gifts if certain candidates did not win the presidency.

Another leader said he would not take any church member to the SBC unless they voted like he did because he was the only one in his church who knew who

God wanted elected.

Thousands of dollars were paid to a Church of Christ parliamentarian at the SBC meetings. Thousands of dollars were spent to meet and fire two longtime journalists.

If in 1992 the CLC supports a candidate for United States president in the name of the SBC, we will know one of the main purposes of the "cleanup" campaign and there will be no SBC anymore.

John H. Baskette
1055 Engle Ave.
Chattanooga 37421

With this issue, the Baptist and Reflector ceases printing of letters relating to the firing of Baptist Press staff members Al Shackleford and Dan Martin by the SBC Executive Committee.

We received more letters than can be used — and the number exceeded those received by the paper on any other topic in several years.

Letters were printed by ratio according to negative or positive response to the committee's action.

— Editor

Boost giving

I have read with dismay reports of churches designating or withholding funds from the Cooperative Program. Please recognize that, in withholding or designating, you do not support a certain group or position. Neither do you harm the members of the Executive Committee or any other body within the convention. It is possible however, to do irreparable harm to the cause of Christ and the almost 8000 missionaries who depend upon our Cooperative Program giving.

It would be tragic to return to the pre-1925 method of giving where each entity had professional fund-raisers who went from church to church begging for money for their particular ministry.

As one of Tennessee's elected trustees to the Home Mission Board, I urge not only continued giving, but an increase in giving so that we can claim our nation and world for Christ.

Edward (Tommy) Futrell, pastor
Southside Church
1928 Wheeler St.
Johnson City 37604

Inappropriate action

I express my concern regarding the recent decision of Carson-Newman College to bestow an honorary doctorate degree to Dolly Parton.

As a Christian woman and a Baptist, I find this totally inappropriate. I see no reason for a Christian college to reach beyond the Christian community for someone to honor. Should the church — or a Christian college — honor someone "of the world," someone in the entertainment industry?

This is a strange message indeed being sent to Christians — especially women — and particularly young women.

Henrietta Brown
Rt. 1, Box 67
Adamsville 38310

Thorny issues

I have long taken pride in the Christian Life Commission — the dedicated men and relevant programs sponsored. They zeroed in on the basic moral and spiritual problems of our time and society. When Richard Land became leader of the CLC, along with many others, I wondered what would become of the agency. In answer to the question about upcoming changes, Dr. Land said it would be "more than they ('moderates') would like and less than they expect."

Unfortunately the changes have been more than we had dreamed.

What about homeless people — out on the streets? What about mothers with AIDS who doom the unborn child to agony and death? What about cutbacks in federal funds for pregnant women? What about our national disgrace of the death rate of children in the first year of life? What about a tax structure that further enriches the rich and hurts the poor?

What about 34 million people below the poverty level? A recent report said that the top one percent of rich people takes in almost as much income annually as the bottom 40 percent. Some have hastened this problem because of supporting an administration responsible for it.

D. P. Brooks
2712 Western Hills Drive
Nashville 27214

Feudin' and fussin'

A smalltown leader told me more than 20 years ago, "You Baptists really like to keep a mess stirred up, don't you? That Baptist church, all they do is fuss and fight."

What would he think of Baptists now? Maybe his words are what 95 percent of us Baptists need. Maybe God is tired of us being so non-caring about the lost and dying world.

When our faith, which we have savored down through the ages and which was labored over by faithful and God-fearing forefathers, is threatened by injustices such as the one executed July 17, it is time we Baptists band together. Exercising our freedom of speech, we must allow the mind of Christ to be in us — regardless of the fears others would bring upon us.

Bettye Smith
2120 Donnington Cove
Germantown 38138

Can't get over it

I was saved eight years ago and I can get over it! When I came to know Jesus personally it was the most exciting day in my life. All I wanted to do was share what I knew about my Savior. I thought that most of the people attending church would feel the same way. However, after becoming a church member I learned there were other things that seemed to be important to those who are the spiritual leaders in our Southern Baptist Convention, and I can't get over it!

When I hear of a "fundamentalist" preacher who states from the pulpit that if there is anyone in his congregation that doesn't like the way things are run, then they can hit the back door, I can't get over it! This legalistic attitude of "It's my way or the highway" has no place in our churches.

When I hear of "moderate" pastors who say they will withhold their money or designate it, I can't get over it! Whatever happened to the "cooperate" in Cooperative Program?

It is time for both sides to realize the hurt they are causing in our convention. It is a shame when churches are dividing because someone would let God speak to them through His Word one way, and others would say that is wrong. Whatever happened to the priesthood of the believer?

Let us stop trying to do things our way and start doing things God's Way. Let us realize that God will bless the good and He is the only judge. Let us get on with what God has called us to do, win others for Christ. Maybe someday the world will look at our Southern Baptist Convention and say, "Look at all the love these people have, I can't get over it!"

Solon Freeman Jr.
687 Cedar Brake Dr.
Memphis 38018

BSSB trustees affirm CP, hear positive growth . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"Apparently what I thought I had done very forcefully in that setting (Glorieta) is the opposite of what some of us understood me to have done. I think whether someone is giving three percent to the Cooperative Program and ought to increase or someone giving 30 percent is considering cutting back. I want us to call for the broadest possible support."

The next day, trustee Mark Brooks, an Arkansas pastor, introduced a resolution encouraging all Southern Baptist churches "to continue supporting the Cooperative Program at their present or increasing level."

The resolution, passed in a voice vote with no opposition, stated that "trustees in agreement with our president (BSSB President Lloyd Elder) do hereby publicly declare our continued support and affirmation of the Cooperative Program," the denomination's unified funding mechanism.

"Profound disappointment in any attempt to decrease or withhold mission giving through the Cooperative Program" also was expressed in the resolution.

Sunday School Board trustees became the second body this month to affirm the Cooperative Program. Trustees of the Home Mission Board adopted a resolution of support during their Aug. 8 meeting.

After adoption of the resolution, Elder said: "I certainly feel the spirit right here needs to be conveyed. I concur with this statement."

The Sunday School Board is supported by sales of its products and services and does not receive any funding from the Cooperative Program. The board makes an annual contribution through the Cooperative Program for the operating budget of the Southern Baptist Convention. The 1988-89 contribution was \$593,000, while the contributions for 1979-89 totaled \$4.4

million.

Financial matters

Trustees learned that total revenue from operations of \$128,423,000 was \$2,385,000 or 1.8 percent below budget but was \$6,427,000 or 5.3 percent above last year after the first nine months of the fiscal year.

The 91-member board approved a 1990-91 budget of \$190.4 million which is \$6.7 million above the current year's budget.

Final approval was given to an average 5.8 percent increase in church literature prices to become effective with the April 1991 issues. Also, Sunday School periodicals will be increased an additional 4.4 percent, effective October 1991, to cover additional costs related to Breakthrough Sunday School literature improvements being introduced that quarter.

Because of inflation, operating costs, and facility maintenance, trustees approved an average seven percent rate increase for 1991 summer conference center rates.

Centennial history

Chairman Bill Anderson said the reason for stopping publication of *Celebrating Heritage and Hope* was broader than a person or issue. "It's not so much the book that is a problem," Anderson said. "It's a history of a period which is in some tumult."

"Any history of the convention or its agencies and institutions is going to offend people on either side" of the Southern Baptist controversy, Anderson said. "We don't think that's wise. It's a good book, well-written, by a fine author. But why risk offending?"

Author Leon McBeth, chairman of the church history department at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, stands by his book. "It is a balanced interpretive history of the first 100 years of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

Trustee officers and board administrators declined to cite specific problems with the manuscript, which was to be published in October or November.

The decision to counsel Board administrators not to publish was made because "this board has not wanted to fan the flames of controversy," said Don Moore, chairman of the board's general publishing committee. The Indiana pastor said, "The book was unbalanced."

McBeth said letters and comments he received gave him an indication of reasons for stopping publication. "I had the understanding the fundamentalist trustees wanted a harsh treatment of Lloyd Elder in this book," he said in a telephone interview.

Though there was some discussion about the manuscript, no one asked Moore's workgroup for reasons why it counseled BSSB leaders not to publish. Nothing was mentioned about a possible plan for another history.

Apparently the history cannot be published by any other group. McBeth has been paid \$18,000 — but he was not to receive royalties. Trustees voted to return their personal copies of the manuscript to the board and one copy will be stored in the archives.

Other actions

In other actions, trustees:

- Heard an update on the progress of *The New American Commentary*, including the announcement of the first volume for publication in the

40-volume set. In June 1991 the commentary on Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, written by Richard R. Melick Jr. of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, will be published.

- Authorized the deletion of five products, the addition of six new products, and one title change. Items to be deleted include three foreign language periodicals, a youth Bible study audio cassette, and a leisure-listening tape.

- Heard about the BSSB's involvement, along with the Foreign Mission Board and other evangelical groups in the Moscow Project, a plan to provide four million New Testaments for distribution in Moscow in the summer of 1991.

- Approved a recommendation from Charlene Slotter of Texas that the Park Plaza Hotel, located within walking distance of the board, be asked to do away with the movie channels that show "pornography." Trustees were told the board provides about \$250,000 worth of business to the hotel annually.

- Convened in a special plenary session with Sunday School Board employees. Trustee Chairman Bill Anderson, Clearwater, Fla., Vice Chairman Gene Mims, pastor of First Church, Cleveland, and Elder led the celebration, along with several board employees. — *Contributing to this article were Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; Linda Lawson and Jim Lowry of the BSSB news office; and Marv Knox, editor of the Western Recorder, Louisville, Ky.*

SBC leaders sign CP statement

SEOUL, Korea (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman and executives of five SBC agencies issued a statement supporting the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget system and opposing "any deviation from this proven practice of cooperation."

The SBC leaders warned that such deviation "will most assuredly create confusion among our Southern Baptist family, complicate the receipt and distribution of funds, and weaken our witness for our Lord Jesus Christ around the world."

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, and the agency heads are attending the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Seoul.

Signers included Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville; Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission, and Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC; and Chapman.

Their statement came just one week before an informal group of "moderate" Southern Baptists were scheduled to meet in Atlanta to discuss alternate mechanisms for SBC churches to channel their missions giving cooperatively.

About 2000 are expected to attend the Atlanta meeting at the Inforum, a convention center in downtown Atlanta, according to Ouita Bottorff, executive director for Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, who is handling arrangements for the meeting.

The statement issued by Chapman and the SBC agency heads made no reference to the Atlanta meeting, but

strongly urged increased support of the Cooperative Program. The statement reads:

"During these days of worship and fellowship with Baptists from nations around the world, we have been given cause again to reflect on the urgency to spread the Gospel throughout every land.

"While we recognize the autonomy of the local church, we fully affirm the Cooperative Program as the principal means by which Southern Baptists successfully support missions, evangelism, Christian education and other ministries within our convention.

"Deviation from this proven practice of Cooperation will most assuredly create confusion among our Southern Baptist family, complicate the receipt and distribution of funds, and weaken our witness for our Lord Jesus Christ around the world.

"We ask all Southern Baptist churches to maintain their commitment to world missions through the Cooperative Program and when possible, to increase Cooperative Program giving."

Annuity Board assets increase

DALLAS — Total assets of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention are nearing \$3 billion, trustees were told in Nashville during their July 30-31 meeting.

Treasurer Harold D. Richardson reported a sharp recovery in earnings during the second quarter after a lackluster performance in equity and bond markets during the first three months of the year. Total earnings for the first six months exceeded \$100 million.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

In "Jericho: A Missions Festival" held this summer at Ridgecrest and Glorieta, worship leader Esther Burroughs of the Home Mission Board provoked some interesting thoughts.

Planting the seeds of varying needs about missions, Burroughs struck the participants with stimulating ideas. They were asked to pray for and about certain needs and situations.

Much of what ordinary Christians pray about are things quite common in church and personal life. We have thought of, discussed, and prayed about them many, many times.

Occasionally do we hear requests or suggestions that strike sparks in our prayer chambers of the heart.

But Burroughs' collection does that. Look, listen:

- Of the five billion people living on earth, nearly two billion have never heard the name of Jesus.

- Of 11,500 people groups with their own language, culture, and identity, 2000 are unreached with the Gospel.

- The 100 countries where Southern Baptists do not have formal missions work comprise 80 percent of the world's population.

- Nearly 70 nations are restricted or hostile to Christian missionaries.

- More than 80,000 lost people move

to cities each day.

- By 2000 A.D., the five largest cities in the world (none of which will be in the United States) will each have more than 20 million residents.

- Total gifts of all Southern Baptists to foreign missions in 1988 was \$147.4 million, an average of four cents per lost person in the world.

- More than 1700 children die of hunger and related diseases every hour.

- Worldwide there are 400 million people on the verge of starvation, yet three of every ten Americans die yearly due to overeating.

- American garbage cans are fed better than 30 percent of the world's population.

- Lined up single file, the world's hungry people would circle the globe 25 times.

- Of all the 14-year-old American girls alive today, 40 percent will become pregnant by their 19th birthday.

- Every 68 seconds, a teenager attempts suicide in America.



ALLEN

Campers return year after year to Discipleship Training Camp

By *Jeanne Davis*, assistant editor
LINDEN — Some campers would attend Discipleship Training Camp no matter what!

David Cox of Herriman and Terry Austin of Memphis have attended every year since they were buddies at Trenton Street Church, Herriman — for 26 years and 29 years respectively. Both schoolteachers and coaches, they come to recapture their youth, help the children, and renew friendships with other workers who return.

Retired pastor Arnold Porter and his wife, Violet, of Centerville, have been working at the camp for 18 years. Even hip replacement surgery several years ago didn't keep Porter, 69, away. With the aid of crutches he served as a counselor all four weeks of camp that year.

Retired Tennessee Baptist Convention worker Nelle Elder of Nashville has been a TBC camp worker for at least 35 years — 13 years at Discipleship Training Camp. During the 31 years she worked with Evangelism and Discipleship Training departments, Elder even served as camp cook. Now she is registration and office director.

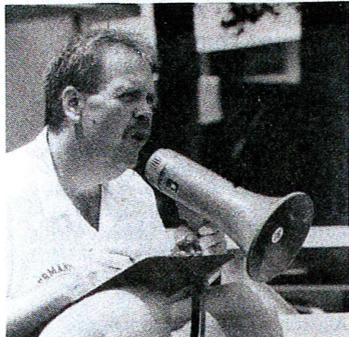
Twelve of the 33 workers who served during the three weeks of camp have served more than 15 years, reported Johnnie Hall, Discipleship Training Department director. Hall has worked at camp all 31 years of his tenure with the department.

But dedicated workers are just part of the equation. A total of 829

adults, youth, and children attended the three weeks of camp.

All attended sessions on Discipleship Training and Doctrine of Creation, the Southern Baptist Convention doctrinal study for 1990. Youth and adults learned more about witnessing in evangelism conferences. Campers worshiped together — one night at a special campfire service.

But campers also took other activities seriously — talent night and the



COLOR COMMENTARY — Terry Austin of Memphis, a counselor, announces a softball game.

recreation competition. Campers amassed points in the usual activities



SAFE OR OUT — First baseman Brad Bynum of First Church, Bolivar, tries to make the catch before Matt Harris of Pleasant View Church, Clarksville, reaches the base.

Jeannie Moore, a counselor from Parkway Church, Goodlettsville, took time off from working to finance her college education to come to camp because of her experiences as a camper.

Cox, who served as a counselor during all three weeks of camp, explained Discipleship Training Camp influenced him to become a Christian as a boy and as a counselor enabled him to meet his wife, Cathy Betts Cox of Greeneville. He even used his military leave one year to attend camp.

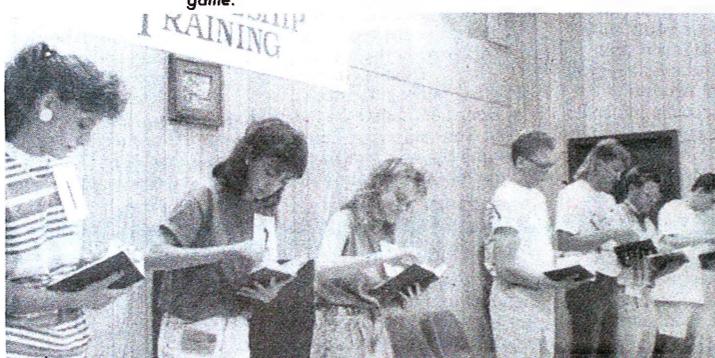
He enjoys working with Hall, nicknamed Flip-flop for shoes he has worn, and the other Discipleship Training Department staff. He has been able to repair sound systems, electrical games, and church vehicles while at camp. But the best result of his investment is in the lives of the children each year, Cox added.

Cox's childhood friend, Austin, explained, "The purpose of camp is to reach these kids, just expose them to Christ."

"I think we enjoy it more than the kids do some times. The only time I see some of these people is once a year and I consider them family," added Austin.

The Porters not only have attended for 18 years, but for the last eight have served every week of Discipleship Training Camp.

"It's more of a vacation than getting in your car and driving a thousand miles in a day or two," said Arnold Porter, who still plays 27 holes of



DEMONSTRATION — Campers, from left, Carrie-Ann Segreaves, state 1990 champion, Robyn Taylor, and Heather Harris, all of First Church, Huntingdon; Charles Winter, Maplewood Church, Clarksville; Ruste Via, Crossroads Church, Bells; Jeff LaBorg, pastor, Crossroads Church, Springfield; and Roger Veasley, First Church, Paris, demonstrate a Bible drill.



BIRTHDAY — John Brick, left, of Pleasant View Church, Clarksville, was recognized by Johnnie Hall on his 11th birthday.

Fire destroys Bethel Church in Henderson

HENDERSON — A fire swept through Bethel Church in Henderson during the early morning hours of Aug. 16, destroying the structure and its contents.

Pastor Ron Davis said a passing truck driver spotted flames and called the fire department, but it was too late to contain the fire in the education wing where the fire apparently started. As of Aug. 17, the cause of the fire was still undetermined.

Bethel's sanctuary was built in 1930, but the education wing had just been constructed. It was dedicated in late June, Davis said.

Davis estimated replacement cost for the facility would be approximately \$350,000-\$375,000. The church was insured for \$200,000.

All church records and one-half of the pastor's library was destroyed by the fire, Davis said.

Despite the shock of seeing their church burned to the ground, members responded in a resounding way, Davis related.

The church was scheduled to begin revival Aug. 19. Members, however, never considered canceling services, Davis said.

Members spent Thursday and Friday rounding up a large tent, chairs, a

piano, and a sound system to continue worship services. "They have come together as one," Davis affirmed.

In addition, community support also poured into the church. Davis said several local churches, both Baptist and other denominations, offered help and even use of their facilities. "In a crisis, people really come together," he observed.

Davis said immediate plans are to use the tent and begin work on rebuilding the church. He has been in contact with the Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department for plans.

The Henderson pastor noted that when he first got to the church and saw it destroyed he cried for about 30 minutes. "Then I said, 'That's enough, there's work to be done.'"

Davis observed, "The devil meant it (the fire) for bad, but God meant it for good. We'll come out of this victorious."

During the first night of revival, there was one new addition by baptism and one addition by letter, reported Maurice Hays who is preaching the revival this week. Hays, BSU director at Jackson State Community College, noted there was "a good crowd" in attendance. — *Lonnie Wilkey*

such as swimming, three-legged sack race, and canoeing, and the more unusual camp pastimes of checkers, horseshoes, golf, and choir.

"It's the best thing you can do for youth because of the spiritual emphasis here," said Jim Graves, minister of music for two weeks of camp and minister of music and youth, Pleasant View Church, Clarksville. He has attended the camp for 15 years.

Elder, Johnson issue statement on telecommunications

NASHVILLE (BP) — Leaders of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission have re-opened discussions on ways the two agencies can work together in a telecommunications ministry for Southern Baptists.

RTVC President Jack Johnson and BSSB President Lloyd Elder have met twice since the June 21 decision by Sunday School Board trustees to terminate the Baptist Telecommunication Network on Oct. 1. Elder said earlier discussions between the agencies have been held beginning with the start-up of BTN and ACTS.

In a joint statement released Aug. 2, they said, "Our mutual objective is to explore options for working cooperatively within our respective program assignments to enhance one telecommunications system for the benefit of

Southern Baptist churches and the entire denomination and to offer customer-supported video products."

Areas of discussion include "joint research, relationships with state conventions, joint productions, the possible marketing of RTVC programs and services through BSSB channels, and marketing of BSSB products and services through the ACTS Network," the statement continued.

However, they emphasized, "As these discussions proceed, we may eliminate some of these areas and discover others with greater potential."

Elder and Johnson said they have not set a date for completing their talks. "Our stewardship demands both careful deliberation and appropriate speed," the statement said.

Grahams wait at embassy in Kuwait City for release

By Mary E. Speidel

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (BP)— Maurice Graham of Shelbyville spent part of his 41st birthday Aug. 14 relaxing by the pool with his family in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

Outside the U.S. Embassy compound in Kuwait City, where the Southern Baptist family is staying, Iraqi soldiers patrolled the streets while American troops continued to pour into neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Graham, his wife, Laurie, and their sons, Peter, 13, and Aaron, ten, are among the approximately 3000 Americans trapped in Kuwait following the Iraqi invasion there Aug. 2. The Grahams, Southern Baptist workers in Kuwait, have taken shelter in the U.S. Embassy compound in Kuwait City.

A U.S. State Department official contacted Mrs. Graham's mother, Margaret Nuzum of Hutchinson, Kan., Aug. 14 with the first direct message from the couple since an Aug. 2 phone call. The report was that "they're eating well, they're swimming in the embassy pool, and they're feeling very safe in the embassy," said Mrs. Nuzum.

Mrs. Nuzum wasn't too surprised to get such an upbeat message from her daughter and son-in-law. According to family and friends, remaining calm

amid crises is something the Grahams do well.

Before his appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1986, Graham handled plenty of crises as pastoral care director for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. A chaplain under the appointment of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, he regularly counseled families of children with terminal illnesses.

"He was able to be a strength for other families during crisis times with death and dying all around them," said longtime friend Michael DuVal, pastor of Thaxton (Va.) Church. "I have no question in my mind that people in the embassy compound in Kuwait are turning to Maurice Graham for strength, counseling, encouragement, and hope. He is one who always has time for people."

The weekend before the Iraqi invasion, Graham took time to call his boyhood Sunday School teacher Elbert Landers at home in Shelbyville. He had just learned Landers had bone cancer.

"He called me from Kuwait and told me that he loved me and was praying for me," said Landers, who taught Graham when he was a youth at Southside Church in Shelbyville.

Landers remembers when Graham, as a teenager, told the congregation he wanted to be a Christian minister. Some, including Landers, wondered if Graham would make it because he had a speech impediment and learning disability.

"But I hadn't put God in it," said Landers. "I was just thinking about what Maurice could do."

At press time Monday there were no new developments, according to FMB press representative Erich Bridges. He confirmed that Iraqi leaders have ordered all foreign embassies in Kuwait to close by Aug. 24 or diplomatic personnel will lose their immunity and risk detention. What would happen to private citizens in those embassies is not yet known, but it is feared westerners would be taken to Iraq, Bridges said.

In fact, one of Graham's teachers told him he would never graduate from high school, said DuVal. Graham, who has dyslexia, not only finished high school but went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees.

"There is in Maurice a tenacity almost like a bulldog," said DuVal.

Laurie Graham shares that same quality. "She really just doesn't give up," said her mother.

Mrs. Nuzum recalls that her daughter began teaching piano at 14 and taught herself to sew and play the guitar and banjo. After teaching herself to play a neighbor's banjo, she then taught the child who owned the instrument how to play. "She isn't stopped by anything," she said.

The Grahams moved to Kuwait about three months ago as the first Southern Baptist workers in the country. They work at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City, where he is associate pastor working in youth and music. Mrs. Graham is a church musician.

Before transferring to Kuwait, the couple had worked in Liberia. Graham was chaplain of a Baptist school in Monrovia. Mrs. Graham worked in church music.

After a furlough in Tennessee, the couple transferred to Kuwait. "Laurie was so positive and excited about going to Kuwait," recalled Theresa Jennings, of Memphis, a close friend of Mrs. Graham's.

Jennings said she received a letter from the couple several days after the invasion. In the letter, dated July 30, Mrs. Graham joked about the fact that most of their household goods were still in Liberia, now in the midst of a civil war.

"She may have the dubious honor of having household goods in two wars at the same time," joked Jennings.

But those who know the Grahams say material things don't mean much to them. "That isn't high on their agenda," said DuVal. "What's important to them is meaningful personal relationships."

J. V. Davis called to Ararat Church

Ararat Church, Jackson, recently called J. V. Davis as pastor.

Davis has served as pastor of churches in Massachusetts, Indiana, Kentucky, and Mississippi. He has served on the Massachusetts and Indiana Baptist executive boards, and on Southern Baptist Convention committees.

He was ordained in 1962 at First Church, Zion, Ill., and graduated from Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Charlotte, have four children.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

I have been praying wrongfully. I have been using our Lord's petition in John 17 concerning the unity of the people of God as my petition. You will remember that Jesus prayed, "neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word: that they all may be one as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may also be one in us; that the world may believe thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). What I had failed to realize is that the Father has already answered this prayer. He answered this prayer on the day of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit came, He made us one.



LOWRIE

Paul explains this oneness in the Ephesians letter. He reminds us that there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father. The Lord Jesus does not have two bodies — just one. There are not two Holy Spirits — just one.

I have changed my praying. I am now praying that the Lord will help us

realize who we are. When we are divided, or do things that deny our oneness, we are working against our true identity in Christ.

I know that such thoughts are considered by many as empty idealism or a refusal to accept reality. But what is reality? Is reality what I see with my eyes or what I read in the Word of God? I believe reality to be what I read in the Word of God. While I take seriously what I see with my senses and hear from others, I choose to base my life on what I read in the Word of God. If we are in Christ, we are one. If we know Jesus as Lord, we are one under Him. There is just one shepherd.

I guess this really is the basic commitment of my life and ministry. I am committed to pray, preach, and work to help all God's Baptist people realize who we are. Beneath all of the labels and accusations, we are really one. We are going to be shamefully embarrassed by our attitudes and actions when we stand together before His judgment seat.

Dear Tennessee Baptists, you are brothers and sisters, members of the same body, stones in the great Temple, heirs of the same inheritance, bound for the same city. Don't ever forget it!

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TenneScene

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

Churches ...

Open house will be held Aug. 26 at the new location of Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, when the cornerstone from the old building will be moved to the new building. The first services at the new site will be Sept. 2 and will include a building dedication in the morning and D. L. Lowrie speaking in the evening. The child development center opened in the new building Aug. 6 with 100 preschoolers enrolled.

Mouth of Richland Church, Rutledge, was recently named as one of the top ten churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention in per capita gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The per capita gifts were based on a resident membership of 25 or more.

Members of First Church, Joelton, celebrated the church's 75th anniversary Aug. 5.

The sanctuary, educational building, and old church building of Zion Church, Brownsville, were recently redecorated.

A 20th anniversary celebration was held Aug. 5 at First Church, Cleveland.

Members of New Prospect Church, Rutledge, gathered recently at the site of their future sanctuary for a ground breaking service. The land was a gift from Grace Harbin.

The first Romanian worship service in Nashville will be held at 10:45 a.m. Aug. 26 at Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville. Guest minister will be Vasile Vadan, pastor of Iris Church in Romania.

Education ...

Belmont College, Nashville, has been named to the 1990 John Templeton Honor Roll for Free Enterprise Teaching. It was one of 95 institutions of higher education nationwide receiving the recognition out of more than 1300 surveyed.

Suzanne Matheny, a student at Belmont College, Nashville, was elected president of the Association for Student Development in Southern Baptist Colleges and Universities at the group's recent annual meeting. Dan Patterson, a Union University, Jackson, student, was elected membership chairperson.

Leadership ...

Broadway Church, Knoxville, recently called Jeffrey A. Sames as pastor. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He formerly served as pastor of a church in North Carolina.

Clifford Crossland recently retired from the pastorate of Immanuel Church, Portland, where he served for 23 years.

First Church, Hohenwald, called O. M. Dangeau as interim pastor.

Jack Epperson recently joined the staff of Lamontville Church, Calhoun, as pastor.

Herschel Woodburn has retired from the pastorate of Silverdale Church, Chattanooga, where he served for 14 years.

Calvary Church, Lebanon, called Thomas Smith as full-time pastor after having served as interim pastor.

Steve Lacey has been called as music director to Eastside Church, Martin.

Mike Peterson has been called as pastor of Long Heights Church, McKenzie.

Main Street Church, Martin, called John Hazlewood as interim pastor.

Charlie Hobbs has accepted the interim pastorate of English Creek Church, Newport.

Pine Springs Church, Greeneville, called Marvin Witt as pastor.

Macedonia Church, Gordonsville, called Charlie Pollard as pastor.

Ordinations ...

Joey Hughes was ordained as deacon of Clark Street Church, Johnson City.

James Saint was ordained as deacon at Charlotte Road Church, Nashville.

Greg Kelly was ordained into the ministry Aug. 12 at Clymersville Church, Rockwood. He was called as

interim pastor to an Illinois church. He is also a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Tim Glover was ordained to the ministry Aug. 12 by Parkway Church, Goodlettsville.

Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga, ordained Pat Davis to the ministry Aug. 12.

Larry Nichols was ordained to the ministry Aug. 12 at First Church, Union City.

Shiloh Church, Woodbury, ordained Donnie Odom as deacon Aug. 19.

Stock Creek Church, Knoxville, ordained Greg Miller, minister of education and youth, to the ministry July 29.

Jimmy Gourley was recently ordained as deacon at Poplar Springs Church, Lexington.

Calvary Church, Cleveland, ordained Jeff McGough to the ministry.

Joe Davis was ordained to the ministry at Idlewild Church, Athens. He is pastor of Goodwill Church, Cleveland.

Revivals ...

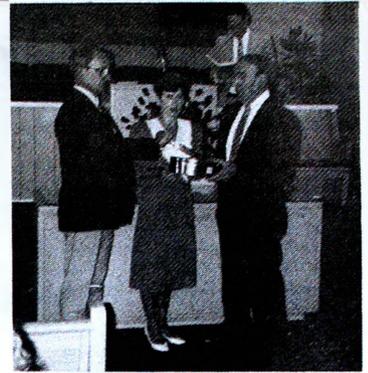
Revival will be held Aug. 25-30 at Calvary Church, Union City. Laverne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky., will lead services.

First Church, Pulaski, will hold a tent revival Aug. 27-31.

Union Friendship Church, Como, began revival Aug. 19, which will conclude Aug. 24. Floyd Lammersfeld is leading the services.

Beck Mountain Church, Elizabethton, began revival Aug. 20. Rick Scarborough, pastor of Retta Church, Fort Worth, Texas, will lead the services, which will conclude Aug. 24. Pastor Bobby Gardner will lead music.

Dyer Association reported Macedonia Church, Ripley, will hold revival Sept. 2-7 with evangelist John Adams. In addition, First Church, Trimble; Springhill Church, Dyersburg; Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes; Mt. Tirzah Church, Newbern; Zion Hill



DEBT RETIREMENT — Members of Calvary Church, Parsons, recently held a note burning service to commemorate the retirement of the debt on the church's educational facilities. Pictured from left are Danny Roberts, deacon chairman; Patty Myracle, treasurer; and Thomas Carrington, chairman of the house and grounds committee.

Church, Friendship; New Mitchell Grove, Halls; Harmony Church, Newbern; Mary's Chapel Church, Ripley; and Parrish Chapel Church, Friendship; all held revivals recently.

Bill Northcott led revival Aug. 5-9 at Mansfield Church, Mansfield.

Lawrence County Association reported the following churches held revivals recently: Center Point Church, Leoma; Liberty Grove Church, Loretto; Mt. Horeb Church, Ethridge; Oak Hill Church, Leoma; and O.K., Lawrenceburg.

Indian Creek Association reported Bethlehem Church, Westpoint; Kelley's Chapel Church, Waynesboro; and Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, all held revivals recently.

The following churches in Gibson County Association have revivals scheduled during late August and September. Churches, dates, and leaders are listed: Beech Grove Church, Dyer, Aug. 26-31, James Kinsey; Emmanuel Church, Humboldt, Sept. 16-19, Garry Burkacki; Immanuel Church, Trenton, Sept. 30-Oct. 5, Jerry Summers; Maranatha Church, Humboldt, Sept. 10-14, Wayne Rowan; First Church, Medina, Sept. 9-16, R. A. Boston; Mt. Pisgah Church, Bradford, Sept. 16-19, O. M. Dangeau; and Southside Church, Humboldt, Sept. 4-9, Bill Rice.

Ron Dunn led revival July 22-25 at Hopewell Church, Savannah.



FELLOWSHIP HALL DEDICATED — Members of Oak Grove Church, Milan, held dedication services for their new fellowship hall, which was constructed by members of the church with assistance of friends. Construction began in August, 1989. Shawn Parker is interim pastor.



GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW ADDITION — Twenty-one years after the first mission meeting of 14 people was held, Eddie Little, from left, pastor of First Church, Hickory Withe, along with Otis Boggs, Richard Stephens, and Chip Mann, members of the building committee, and the church family, broke ground recently to expand church facilities for the third time. The new classrooms and fellowship hall will almost double existing space, giving them 14,770 square feet. The church paid for a new auditorium in seven years, and funds for the new building have already been contributed.

Don't be the missing link, missionary urges

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — A foreign missionary pleaded with Southern Baptists not to be the missing link in world evangelization.

Clifford Vick, a church planter in Leuven, Belgium, issued the challenge during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. The week-long missions con-

ference is jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission.

"The ultimate goal of all mission efforts is to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ," he said. "They must hear the Gospel message, but how will they

hear?"

Vick based his message on four questions found in Acts 10 that form "essential links in the Gospel chain:" belief, hearing, calling, and sending.

"The great danger comes when there are weak or missing links in this chain," Vick declared. "If any link in the chain is missing, it can all fall apart and the goal of bringing people to Christ can break down."

For example, if Southern Baptists believe the Gospel is intended for everyone, they must give everyone the opportunity to hear the Gospel, Vick said. "If any nation of our world does not hear the Gospel, there is a missing link in the Gospel chain."

Vick explained that at least 1.3 billion people in the world have never heard the Gospel explained one time. In addition, there are millions who have been exposed to the Gospel but have never really heard it, he said.

"Here in America we have more opportunities to hear the Gospel than in just about any country in our world. That really isn't fair," he said.

"Is it fair that some should hear the Gospel hundreds and even thousands of times while others in our world have yet to hear it even one time?"

Pitts accepts pastorate of Knoxville church

South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, recently called James E. Pitts, a Knoxville native, as pastor.

Pitts returned to Knoxville from Valdosta, Ga., where he was pastor of First Church since 1967. He was pastor also of Caney Ford Church, Harriman; Salem Church, Fountain City; and First Church, Rogersville, before going to Georgia.



PITTS

In addition, he has served on the Executive Boards of the Tennessee and Georgia Baptist conventions.

Pitts graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Phyllis, have one son and one daughter.

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Saul rejected and David anointed

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

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death . . ." (Romans 6:23). Ultimate death is not only physical, but spiritual. It is separation from God. Saul's disobedience led to God's power being removed from his reign as king.

Compromise (15:1-16)

Samuel told Saul of God's orders to destroy the Amalekites. The Amalekites were some of the first middle-East terrorists. Their raids on Israeli camps had been a thorn in the



HAUN

Israelites' side since they entered the promised land. They were also a corrupt, idolatrous people whose intermingling with Israelites could be disastrous.

Rather than carry out God's orders completely, Saul compromised by saving the best of the sheep, oxen, and lambs for himself and his men. God

expressed sorrow he'd ever made Saul king. God did not change His mind, but His attitude toward Saul changed. Samuel confronted Saul's compromise with some bad news.

Consequences (15:17-35)

Every choice we make carries consequences. Saul's partial obedience to God had severe consequences. Samuel revealed God's anointing power was no longer on Saul. Saul confessed his sin and pled for forgiveness, but his kingdom was taken away.

Even today God will forgive our sin, but the consequences remain to be faced. We may forgive the bank president who embezzles from his bank, but he has given up his right to be president of the bank.

Choices (16:1-13)

Samuel received instructions from the Lord to go to Bethlehem (house of bread) and look for a man named Jesse whose son was to be king. God's standards of measuring a man are not ours. From all outward appearances, David's brothers were of the same

stock as Saul. Saul was tall and handsome. One by one the boys met with Samuel — Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, and four others. Each one was rejected. Samuel was warned of the Lord to look for character, not appearance. Finally, Samuel asked, "Is this all there are?" "Well, there is the youngest," Jess replied.

David was summoned from the fields. "He's the one!" Although young and not as big as his brothers, Samuel secretly anointed David as king. The Bible says the power of God came upon him. A new king had been chosen, although legally Saul was still king.

Conflict (16:14-23)

The Holy Spirit had left Saul and God allowed an evil spirit to bring torment and conflict in his soul. Saul was driven to madness that eventually led him to attempt to kill David (19:1).

Some of Saul's aides suggested music as a cure. As part of God's plan, David was summoned to play the harp to soothe Saul. As a musician, God eventually used David to write many

of the Psalms.

Courage (17:1-18:5)

Often times to avoid a bloodbath, opposing armies would pit their best warrior against the other army's best warrior. When nine feet, nine inch tall Goliath stepped forward to fight, Israel shook in its sandals. When David stepped forward, the Phillistines laughed and Goliath mocked him. David chose five smooth stones to confront this mass of man. He rejected Saul's armor, as well as a sword, spear, and shield. Rather he fought in the name of the Lord (v. 45) and for God's glory (v. 46).

BIBLE BOOK

August 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 15-18:5

Verse 49 says "David slung it" (stone) and "God sunk it" into the forehead of Goliath, killing this enemy and causing chaos among the Phillistines.

Saul honored David by making him his special assistant (18:5) and commander of the troops. A close bond also developed between David and Saul's son, Jonathan.

Hearing and doing

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

One of my mother's favorite expressions when concluding her correction of my youthful, but wayward, steps was, "Do you hear me?" Of course I heard her. Usually when she said that, her volume was above normal and she was holding my arm. That, however, was not her meaning. She wanted to

know if I were going to walk in the right path and never again in the wayward one.

When I was wise, I heard her and my steps followed the correct way. In a similar way, the wise hear the instruction of God and walk in the paths of righteousness. That is the kind of hearing God seeks of men.



PIPPIN

Demonstrated by conduct (1:22-27)

The admonition (v. 22) states the futility of mere listening with no effort to put into practice what one hears. There is life in the Word of God if it is put to the test of life. No amount of hearing the Word means anything if it is not lived.

"Hearers only" are Word samplers; tasting, but never eating. Some people have a craving for hearing and frequent revival services, imagining they accomplish a great deal by simply having their ears tickled with some new sensation. For a brief moment they behold their natural reflection, but move on quickly, forgetting any flaws that the Word wants to correct. That their ears were tickled is all they remember and the application of the Word is lost.

However, the real student lingers with the Word until he grasps its message, and then he puts that

message into practice. He translates the word of truth into his own life and becomes a living epistle. He shows that the Word has taken root in his life for he controls his tongue.

James added two other practical tests of hearing in verse 27. The first is mercy toward the suffering such as the widow and the orphan. The second is one's response to sin: the hearer leads a life of purity. The hearer applies the Word to his conduct and becomes a

CONVENTION UNIFORM

August 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: James 1:22 to 2:26

bridge to God for those who judge religion by him.

Demonstrated in impartiality (2:1-8)

The one who really hears the Word should not be guilty of acts of partiality (receiving or rejecting persons on the basis of outward appearance). In the church where the Word supposedly governs conduct, giving preferential treatment to persons of status or station denies the Word and is sin. It is also foolish. The poor have been

chosen by God as "heirs of the Kingdom" (v. 5), while the rich have long been the oppressors of Christians.

The person who is wise knows God is full of love and grace and does not judge a man by his outward appearance. The doer of the Word will follow that example. He will live by the royal law, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Leviticus 19:18). "Royal" means "kingly," but refers here to God as the source of the supreme law governing man, the law of love.

When my mother forcefully said, "Do you hear me?" I definitely was wise to do what she said. It saved wear and tear on my seat. But as I have learned since then, it directed my life away from the devil's path that leads to destruction and to the narrow way of God which leads to life. When I "listened," my life was made better.

God speaks to those today who will listen. He speaks to direct them away from paths of destruction to the path of life. But man must listen. When he does listen, his life will show it. Are you listening?

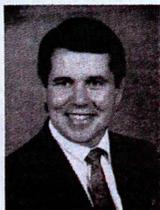
Love one another

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

Headlines and news stories read: Church splits, members divided; Association dismisses church; The Southern Baptist Convention is a house divided; Southern Baptists lose members and impetus in an internal struggle; Divided and antagonistic; 'Conservative' bashing; Retaliate against 'Liberals.'

It is not only the world that is in need of "love, sweet love," but also our convention, associations, and churches. These places where love should be practiced most seem to be the places where it is practiced least.

John wrote to a church that was experiencing internal conflicts. This estrangement surfaced because of the



WREN

false teachings of the gnostics, and led to a diminished effectiveness. John reminded them of their Christian responsibility to love one another as children of God.

Principle of love (3:16-18)

Jesus Christ did not die a martyr, but voluntarily laid down His life because of His love for us. Consequently, we are able to enjoy the blessings of eternal life through a personal experience with Him. There are tremen-

dous blessings to be received as we emulate His love.

If one closes his heart to the needs of others, God's love does not abide in him. When Jesus explained the entrance requirements for heaven, love was essential (Matthew 25:31-46).

LIFE AND WORK

August 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 John 3:11-18; 4:7-21

Jesus told Simon service was the proof of love (John 21:15-17).

Children of God are to love in deed and truth. Christians in John's day were guilty of loving in word and in tongue (v. 18). Christian love is manifested in a willingness to sacrifice something valuable to enrich another's life.

Power of love (4:7-12)

God is the source of love. Those who are born of God practice love (2 Peter 1:4). To know God experientially is to love (v. 8). Obedience, light, and life are characteristics of God's children.

The supreme expression of God's love is the incarnation (vv. 9-10). He manifested His love for humankind by coming into the world and dying on the cross to "be the propitiation for our sins" (v. 10). By this action, He showed His unconditional love to those who had sinned against Him (Romans 5:8).

Practice of love (4:19-21)

God loved us even before we thought of loving Him. As God's children, we have inherited this love, and it is an in-

dications that we are His. His love should impel, propel, and compel us to love one another (v. 11).

He who claims to love God must love his brother, regardless of position, personality, or theological posture. The person who claims to love God, but "hates his brother, he is a liar" (v. 20).

The distinguishing mark of a Christian is not subscribing to a doctrinal position, giving money, joining a church, or even being baptized; it is love for others. Jesus taught, "By this all will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). This love is not romantic love (eros) or friendship (philia), but self-sacrificing love (agape) which is described in 1 Corinthians 13. Our churches, associations, state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention need to practice this love. Let us remember, "He who loves God must love his brother also" (v. 21). May we pray with the apostle Paul that we will "increase and abound in love toward one another" (2 Thessalonians 3:12).

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Missouri congregation reads entire Bible in 66 hours

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The first reader stepped to the podium at 6 a.m. "In the beginning . . ." Nearly three days later, the final reader concluded, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

Members of Memorial Church in Columbia, Mo., recently read the Bible through in observance of the 1990 International Year of the Bible. The project took more than 400 readers, and about 66 hours. Initially, the reading was expected to take 60 hours, noted pastor Robert Lively. When it became evident that it would take several hours longer, more people volunteered to come back and read than there were time slots to accommodate.

The Bible-reading project first was suggested by Harold Renfrow, a member of the congregation and former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil. Renfrow had participated in similar readings in Brazilian churches, and observed positive results including renewal of churches, commitments to Christ, rededications, and commitments to ministry. Working through Memorial Church's Sunday School, readers were enlisted for 15-minute time slots.

Rob Bryant completes 'Row Across America'

NASHVILLE — Rob Bryant rowed to the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on July 30 — 119 days and 3280 miles after he started a grueling journey which began in Los Angeles on April 2. He was met by representatives of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, Senator Charles Robb of Virginia and several congressmen in recognition of powering a three-wheeled rowing machine across the country. Bryant, a paraplegic, is a member of South Cliff Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

He received a flag flown over the capitol and a plaque which recognized Bryant, DynCorp, his employer which gave him full salary while he attempted the trip, and the Row Across America effort to give attention to physical fitness.

The trip was not without dangerous and anxious moments, Bryant recounted Aug. 9 on his first day back at work in Fort Worth. During the trek across Kentucky, he had a 102-degree fever for two days, a period about which he remembers little. And in Wheeling, W.Va., he overturned his RowCycle, cracking his safety helmet, breaking a toe, and cracking a shoulder.

Bryant is the author of *Lord, Lift Me Up*, a book published by Broadman Press of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. His first book recounts his injury in a fall from an oil rig, the resulting paralysis, and the record-setting walk he achieved, on crutches, from Fort Worth to Dallas. He is planning a second book on his Row Across America adventure.

Documentary to explore changes in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is producing a one-hour television documentary on recent and current historical changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and the changes' impact on Christianity. Former "Good Morning America" host, David Hartman will host the documentary.

"The documentary will explore the role individual Christians and some churches played in the moves toward democracy and examine opportunities for church growth and the freedom to spread the Gospel in new and innovative ways," said Robert Thornton, vice president of television production and programming for the RTVC.

"In profiling individual Christians, it will emphasize their past struggles, present lifestyles and hopes." Thornton and Bernie Hargis, an RTVC television producer, returned to Fort Worth recently from a survey trip and soon will return to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, accompanied by a camera crew, to videotape the documentary, slated to be shown on ABC in December.

HMB to launch emphasis on marketplace evangelism

ATLANTA — A new emphasis on marketplace evangelism will be launched Nov. 1-4 in the first of two national conferences sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Marketplace evangelism is a new term being used by the HMB's lay evangelism department to describe a witnessing and ministering lifestyle of Christians in the workplace.

"Marketplace evangelism is the natural extension of what we've been doing for years in lay renewal," said Reid Hardin, HMB director of lay evangelism. "This is our effort to encourage the laos — the people of God — to renew their faith and then move out into their communities to minister to others."

The HMB is recruiting 100 churches nationwide to be pilot churches in the marketplace evangelism emphasis. Pilot churches will share results of their launching marketplace evangelism through a variety of strategies and models.

Southern Baptists will receive the first glimpse of the new emphasis during "The Laos in Marketplace Evangelism," a four-day conference to be held in Boston Nov. 1-4. Hardin said the conference differs from many HMB-sponsored events because it is designed for laypeople as well as for pastors and denominational workers.

Progressive Convention leader opens door to Southern Baptists

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention has invited disillusioned members of the primarily white Southern Baptist Convention to join his predominantly black convention. Fred C. Lofton extended the invitation during a news conference Aug. 6, on the eve of his convention's annual session in Louisville, Ky.

"We have met here this week, not to argue about Biblical inerrancy, but to put into practice the mandates of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, one in which he states, ' . . . I have come to set the captives free,'" said Lofton, senior pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Church in Memphis, Tenn.

"We especially invite those Southern Baptists who are disillusioned with the

far right in the Southern Baptist Convention to come and join us as representatives of the New South, with an agenda for a new region with new possibilities and potentialities for the Christian church to become an inclusive community of faith, hope, and love."

A Baptist church can become a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention if it contributes one percent of its budget to the convention, said PNBC General Secretary Tyrone Pitts. The convention was organized in 1961. It has 1.8 million members in more than 1700 churches in 46 states and four foreign countries.

Missouri Baptist group holds organizational meeting

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — "Conservative" Baptist pastors and laymen are holding a series of seven organizational meetings throughout Missouri and are planning to launch a new monthly newspaper. The first two sessions were held at Frederick Boulevard Church in St. Joseph, Mo., and Calvary Church in Republic, Mo.

According to Kent Cochran, one of the organizers of the meeting, five more gatherings are scheduled in various parts of the state during the next few weeks. Cochran, a member of Gashland Church in Kansas City, said "conservative" Baptists will begin printing their own monthly publication in August, and are planning to nominate a "conservative" candidate for president of the Missouri Baptist Convention next October in Kansas City.

Cochran described the efforts as "parallel to what's happened on the national level in the last 12 years." Cochran added that Missouri "is not the only state" where "conservatives" are holding similar organizational meetings, but did not specify any other states. He said the first two meetings have drawn about 20 participants each, noting that local pastors have contacted him and other laymen about leading the meetings. Local pastors make most of the arrangements, he added.

150 Missouri pastors, laypeople examine alternate giving options

COLUMBIA, Mo. — An unofficial group of 150 Missouri Baptists recommended a "Missouri Plan" for cooperative support of Southern Baptist Convention causes that would exclude financial support of the SBC Executive Committee and SBC Christian Life Commission, but provide support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Missouri pastors urged the Missouri Baptist Convention's executive board to recommend financial options other than undesignated giving through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget. If the executive board declines to recommend such a plan for consideration by messengers to the Missouri convention in October, "moderate" pastors and laymen attending the convocation said they would introduce such options from the convention floor in Kansas City.

The convocation was advertised as a meeting for "Missouri Baptists desiring to see trust, fellowship, inclusion, and cooperation re-established in the SBC." Bart Tichenor, pastor of Little Bonne Femme Church which hosted the meeting, was elected the group's moderator.

In addition to a "Missouri Plan" budget proposal, the group suggested as another option that Missouri Baptist churches consider channeling missions giving through a proposed Cooperating Baptist Missions Fund, which is expected to be established during a national meeting of moderate Baptists in Atlanta, Aug. 23-25.

Participants also adopted a memorial which calls for individual state conventions to elect representatives to serve on the SBC Executive Committee, the SBC Committee on Nominations, and as trustees of SBC institutions. That proposal also will be presented to the MBC executive board, calling for the board to present the memorial for consideration by MBC messengers.

Unofficial Arkansas group explores responses to SBC

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — An unofficial group of 56 people from about 20 Arkansas Baptist churches established a committee to recommend responses to "recent tragic events" in the Southern Baptist Convention. Purpose of the 16-member committee is to recommend appropriate responses, review ideas discussed during the Little Rock meeting, making recommendations for action, set a date for a future meeting, and establish avenues for dialogue among diverse groups in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Southern Baptist Convention.

Emil Williams, pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, Ark., moderated the meeting held at Second Church in Little Rock. Williams said the group did not select a name, but identified themselves as "a group of Southern Baptists from across Arkansas who are concerned with the damage that is being done within our denomination." Williams described the meeting as "therapeutic" for those who expressed their anguish over recent events in the SBC.

Williams emphasized the purpose of the meeting was not to discuss the election of any person or to put anyone in a bad light. "We did, however, discuss our role in protecting many who are under extreme pressure throughout our beloved convention." The group also agreed Arkansas Baptist churches need some way to redirect contributions to Southern Baptist Convention causes. "No one suggested that we withhold funds," Williams said. "Everyone felt that there should be some redirecting of funds."

Southern Baptists get taste of disaster relief

GLORIETA, N.M. — Southern Baptists got a taste of disaster relief ministries during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. On Monday night of the week-long missions conference, the dining hall closed and participants gathered around a mobile feeding unit to experience an authentic disaster relief meal.

One mobile disaster relief unit served 80 gallons of tea, 102 gallons of beef stew, 78 gallons of green beans, 72 gallons of peaches, 9000 crackers and 80 pounds of cookies to 1850 people. The meals prepared and served by Louisiana Baptist Men are only a fraction of the 10,000 meals the modified tractor-trailer rig is capable of preparing daily during a real disaster, said Cal Jones, associate director of Brotherhood in Louisiana and coordinator of the demonstration.