

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## 'Moderate fellowship' moves to alternative funding

By Jim Newton and Wm. Fletcher Allen  
ATLANTA — More than 3000 "moderate" Southern Baptists from across the United States voted almost unanimously as they organized a new fellowship here in a three-day Consultation of Concerned Baptists.

Baptists from as far away as Hawaii and New York gathered in Atlanta's Inforum Aug. 23-25 in an historic session. The group stopped short of forming groundwork for a new convention. Though some participants seemed to favor such action, the vast majority preferred an alternative in funding. In establishing the Baptist Cooperative Missions program, the group approved what some called "a bucket" to receive designated funds going to Southern Baptist entities.

The holding group has an Atlanta address with a board of directors to oversee the funding plan.

Laypeople were present in large numbers for the sessions. At Thursday night's plenary session, almost two-thirds of the audience was comprised of laypeople.

Tennessee Baptists were present in quantity. At least 175 Tennesseans attended a Thursday night "state" meeting.

Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody

Church, Atlanta, and loser to Morris Chapman in the June SBC presidency election, gave the opening address.

There were several workgroup meetings, dealing with: Mechanism for Alternative Funding, Forms for Fellowship and Functions, Local Church and Denominational Relations Process, Strategies for Accelerating Missions and Evangelism, Support for Seminaries and Theological Education, Enriching Literature for the Local Church, Alternative Process for Ethics and Public Policy, and Alternative Information Systems.

Plenary sessions dealt with each topic and provided time for discussion. Workgroup leaders from Tennessee included: Andrew J. Prince, pastor of West Hills Church, Knoxville; Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Church, Nashville; David Crocker, pastor of Central Church, Johnson City; Douglas Watterson, pastor of First Church, Knoxville; Floyd Craig, Craig Communications, Nashville; John Halbert, Impact Seminars, Nashville; and Carl Kell, Command Corporation, Nashville.

During the closing session, the participants elected a 60-member interim steering committee to propose future meetings, plans, programs, and budgets for the unnamed fellowship.



**BAPTISTS ATTEND** — More than 3000 Southern Baptists participated in a three-day consultation in Atlanta.

The interim steering committee was authorized to receive and distribute funds through the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program, Inc. The non-profit corporation will provide an alternative funding mechanism through which moderate SBC churches can give to causes they support. (See related story.)

The interim steering committee, chaired by Daniel Vestal of Atlanta, was given seven assignments, in-

cluding developing plans for a convocation next spring "for further planning and action of this body."

Date and place of the spring convocation will be determined by the interim steering committee.

Participants rejected a motion by David Hopper of Norman, Okla., urging the steering committee to consider holding the spring meeting in Augusta, Ga., where the Southern Baptist Convention ("Moderate fellowship," page 5)

## Grahams, others, still in U.S. embassy in Kuwait

By Art Toalston  
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait has water and "sufficient supplies" to care for an undisclosed number of Americans who have taken refuge there, according to the State Department.

Southern Baptist workers Maurice and Laurie Graham and their 13- and ten-year-old sons remain among other U.S. citizens who took refuge in the embassy after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

The State Department spokesman confirmed news reports that Iraqi forces cut off water and electricity to the embassy, and have blocked entry and exit at the compound, after the United States refused to obey an Iraqi order to close the embassy Aug. 24. Other countries' embassies still open in Kuwait in defiance of the Iraqi order also have lost their utility service, according to news reports.

"We're in communication with our embassy," the spokesman said Aug. 27. A skeletal staff of about ten embassy officials is "functioning, their morale is good, and they're trying to serve the American community," the spokesman said. According to news reports, the embassy has an emergency system for electricity.

Otherwise the State Department

spokesman would not discuss supplies of water and food available to Americans at the compound.

The Grahams sent a cable Aug. 23 to relatives in the United States reporting: "We are still at the embassy with many others in good hands."

Mrs. Graham's mother, Margaret Nuzum in Hutchinson, Kan., said she is working to keep a positive outlook about the plight of her daughter, who grew up in Hutchinson; her son-in-law, a native of Shelbyville, and two grandsons trapped in Kuwait.

"If going to pieces would help, I'd go into a million pieces," she said. "But it wouldn't help a bit."

Relatives of the Grahams had hoped the couple and their sons would be able to leave Kuwait as part of a 33-car convoy of non-essential U.S. personnel and officials' dependents that left for Iraq Aug. 23 with assurances they would be permitted to depart for the United States.

Graham reported in his cable, however, "Only those with diplomatic passports can safely travel out of Kuwait today."

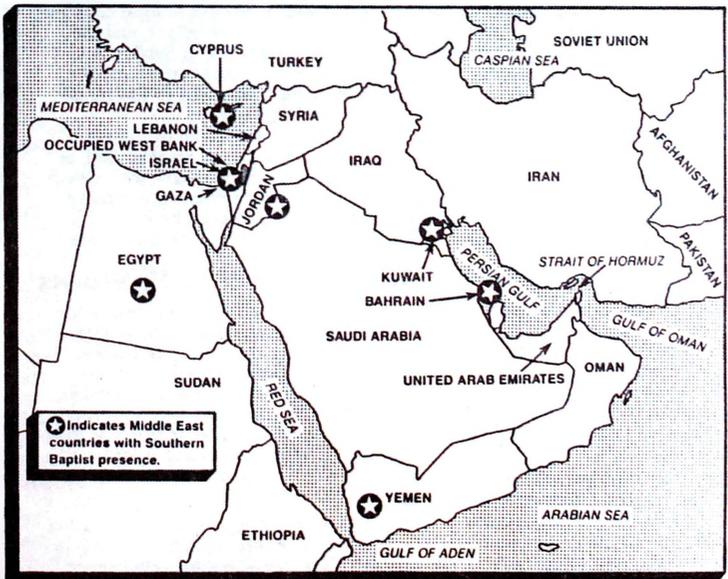
At the helm of the embassy in Kuwait is Ambassador W. Nathaniel Howell, who as a youth was a member of Court Street Church in Portsmouth, Va., and later was active in the Baptist

Student Union during his studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Meanwhile, 12 Southern Baptist personnel and ten of their children from

Yemen are scheduled to arrive in Cyprus Aug. 28, said Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa.

(Grahams, page 5)



**MIDDLE EAST SITUATION** — No Southern Baptists employed by the Foreign Mission Board are in Iraq or Saudi Arabia. However, the onslaught of Iraqi troops into Kuwait has stranded one Southern Baptist family, Maurice and Laurie Graham and their 13- and ten-year-old sons. Some 160 Southern Baptist workers are assigned to the Middle East and the Muslim countries and areas where they work (indicated by stars on map): Lebanon, Syria, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Egypt, Yemen, Cyprus, and

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## Editorials

# Week of Prayer for State Missions — Sept. 2-9

There was a weekly television program long ago which depicted some fortunate person being given \$1 million.

The story of the recipient was usually a tear-jerker. The benefactor was an eccentric billionaire who sought out worthy persons. On occasion, the gift would result in the beneficiary's being tested.

The billionaire used the same representative to give out the checks for \$1 million. He gained great satisfaction from his task — even though it was not his money which he dispensed.

What can \$1 million accomplish — to what good use can such a sum be put?

The Week of Prayer for State Missions happens in Tennessee September 2-9. The Golden State Missions Offering goal is \$997,000, spearheaded by Woman's Missionary Union. And that sum will not

be used to benefit only one person — or one family. There are slightly more than a million Baptists in the Tennessee Baptist Convention — and one dollar per person would help surpass the \$997,000 goal. But we don't know where all these million people call home. Some have moved far away, some have died. Others have moved to new homes across the county, and others are chronically absent from church.

We have 779,308 resident members in our congregations. A dollar from each would almost match the goal.

Though the monetary goal and the ministry goal of the Golden State Missions Offering are complimentary and worthy — every Tennessee Baptist may not participate.

Dig deep, you who believe in state missions. The goal is a challenge — but one that can easily be

met when we are generous and have sufficient Christian compassion to see Jesus when we see needs in our state.

"Soaring to New Heights with Faith and Love" is the theme for the Week of Prayer. Often in our American zeal to overcome problems with dollars, we overlook the power and necessity of prayer.

God grant us the wisdom and courage to pray down from our Lord unmerited answers to problems. Dollars alone cannot solve what mankind needs. Dollars can equip and feed and clothe and build buildings — but prayer strengthens the giver and the receiver. Prayer makes happen that which does not, cannot happen, in any other way.

Other ideas and news about the Week of Prayer for State Missions is on page 7, this issue. Let us covenant to participate with Christlike compassion and generosity. — WFA

## It's made to order, MissionsFest 1990 in Memphis

We are calling it "a foreign missions experience," and it is on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar.

If you want some rich experiences about foreign missions, plan now to attend MissionsFest Tennessee — October 12-13. The MissionsFest celebration will be hosted by Eudora Church in Memphis where Calvin Harvell is pastor.

Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks and a group of foreign missionaries will help Baptists celebrate God's plan for his people in foreign missions.

The weekend experience is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. Churches and individual Baptists should attend.

Though the event has Tennessee sponsorship,

participants will come from the neighboring states of Arkansas and Mississippi.

The program is designed to bring up-to-date information on Baptist work overseas. Keith Parks will give opportunity for a question-answer exchange.

Those who attend will hear and feel missionary life through conferences, personal contact with missionaries, and by walking through a "Global Walkaround," a hands-on exhibition prepared by the missionaries.

Information will be shared on opportunities for missions service, and attendees can view a film festival of latest FMB videos and film features.

There will be a commitment service, a symbolic service "commissioning" furloughing missionaries

preparing to return to the field.

A Saturday seminar features Parks leading in a discussion of the missions message of the Bible. A dozen conferences are planned for Saturday morning on missions topics.

Beginning on Friday evening at 5, MissionsFest Tennessee concludes Saturday night after the commitment service. The entire program is designed for people who influence church budgets, those who teach or plan missions studies and events, people who influence whole church programming, and people who are interested in personal involvement in missions — and pastors.

We will feature more information about MissionsFest and give available hotel/motel listings in an early issue. Right now — mark the calendar for this great weekend emphasis. — WFA

## Growing churches must be flexible to needs, Stacker says

By Jim Lowry

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The erosion of the effectiveness of church growth among Southern Baptists calls for increased attention from churches, according to Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Stacker, addressing pastors in the Growing the Church of the 1990s conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center in mid-July, said churches need to mix old and new evangelism methods to successfully reach people.

Stacker echoed church growth specialist Lyle Schaller's recently expressed sentiment that most churches, including Southern Baptist churches, are stuck in a time warp 40 years

behind the trends.

As an example, Stacker cited the ratio of baptisms to church membership in the 50-year period from 1939 to 1989. With 269,155 baptisms in 1939 and 351,107 in 1989, the ratio was one baptism for every 18.4 in 1939 and one for every 42.5 in 1989.

This comes at a time when the number of staff members in local churches is higher than ever before, and the average attendance in Sunday School, for instance, in 1989 was 3.8 million every week, compared to 1.69 million in 1939, said Stacker.

A trend in American life which churches must face, Stacker said, is the obsession people have with speed based on an achievement mentality. "Most people respond best to church initiatives which can be done in the

shortest time period."

The concept of flexibility also must be considered by churches as people become accustomed to 24-hour services allowing them to achieve more every day at times convenient to their personal schedules.

Trends in aging, population changes, media impact, pluralism, resistance to change, leisure, globalization, and competition all must be met head-on by churches, Stacker said, if Southern Baptists are to realize the potential of the denomination.

In the area of population changes, Stacker said a recent study by the Baptist General Convention of Texas estimated that 95 million people, or 37 percent of the population in the United States, live in multi-family housing. Only three to five percent of that

number attend any church.

Population increases will occur in sunbelt areas such as Florida, Texas, and California, Stacker said. Southern Baptist work traditionally has been strong in most of these areas, which points to the need for new work in old areas, Stacker said.

"Growing churches meet the needs of the people," Stacker said. "Flexibility must be evident in willingness to change to two worship services, two Sunday Schools, flip-flop services, or change the time for Sunday School and worship."

"Southern Baptist Convention churches have depended too much on transfer members and not on conversion of unchurched people for growth," he continued. Evangelism is essential for church growth, Stacker emphasized.

## Charitable tax deductions in danger, BJC warns

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs calls attention to the fact that charitable income tax deductions are again under fire.

Oliver Thomas says that one of the national budget deficit proposals now "on the table" would place a cap on such deductions.

The Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee have gone on record as supporting full deductibility for charitable contributions.

A national "budget summit" committee reconvenes Sept. 5. According to the Washington-based BJC, charitable contributions will no longer be fully tax deductible if a proposal now under consideration by Congress and the Bush Administration is enacted.

The proposal is being considered as

a source of money to help reduce the national budget deficit. The BJC points out that taxing the tithe and other charitable contributions is not the proper approach to deficit reduction.

Such contributions, says Thomas, are not dollars consumed or saved — they are voluntarily contributed for benevolent purposes and differ from other tax deductions.

Domestic budget cuts of the last ten years, says Thomas, should encourage more tax incentives for voluntarism. Tax policies that encourage and support charitable work are beneficial to society and cost effective, he added.

Thomas urges interested Baptists to contact members of the U. S. Senate, House of Representatives, and President Bush.

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# Moore deployed; other Fort Campbell chaplains on standby

By Connie Davis, assistant editor  
FORT CAMPBELL — Chaplain (Capt.) Dave Coram must be ready within two hours to leave for Saudi Arabia.

Coram is just one of several Southern Baptists stationed at Fort Campbell whose lives are uncertain at this time because of tensions in the Middle East.

"This tends to put things into perspective," Coram said. He is facing military conflict for the first time. "It has brought me a little closer to my family." Of his three children, Coram is most concerned about his 13-year-old son, who remains aloof.

It is a tense time, he explained. "When you sit down to eat supper you don't know if it's the last supper you're going to have together."

"We tend to examine our calling. . . . I don't have any regrets because I feel this is where God would have me to be — so I'm at peace with it."

Coram hasn't lost his humor. He wondered about baptizing in a desert.

Of the six Southern Baptist chaplains at Fort Campbell, Chaplain (Maj.) Sonny Moore was deployed Aug. 17. Captains Eddie Sumbler, Tommy Preston, James Duke, and Coram will be deployed within the next five weeks. Charles Walker may be deployed. He is recovering from surgery.

About 40 chaplains serve the 15,000 troops and 2000 support personnel of the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell. Deployment of the division began publicly Aug. 15 after the Aug. 2 military takeover of Kuwait by Iraq.

Sonny Moore is deployed Martha Moore, wife of Chaplain Moore, faces a year of separation — the first during their 25-year marriage.

## Concord Baptists plan day of prayer

Concord Association in Murfreesboro is sponsoring a day of prayer for the safe return of American service personnel from the conflict in the Middle East.

James Powers, director of missions for the association, invites Tennessee Baptists to attend a brief outdoor service at Southeast Church in Murfreesboro on Sept. 2 at 3 p.m.

For additional information, contact Powers at (615) 890-6409.

Moore was pastor for 16 years before joining the Army chaplaincy eight years ago. Church members from the Mississippi church they formerly served have supported her and the Home Mission Board's chaplaincy department also has offered its help, she said.

The days before his deployment were especially hectic because the Moore's oldest daughter, Pam, rescheduled her wedding. Her husband left for Saudi Arabia four days after the Aug. 11 ceremony. It was an emotionally charged time, explained Moore.

And it was difficult to be apart from her husband on their 25th wedding anniversary, which was Aug. 21, added Moore, but the couple agrees his service as an Army chaplain is God's plan for their lives. The young soldiers need his humor and sensitivity more than I do now, she added.

### Seeking God's will

Sgt. 1st Class John McGatha had to make a big decision when the 101st Airborne Division was deployed to Saudi Arabia. He had already filed his retirement papers, but he wanted to do his patriotic duty as he had done in Vietnam.

He also had to consider practical matters like the house his family just bought. Though a Christian only three years, McGatha sought God's will.

After prayer and conferences with Harvey Britton, family life minister, First Church, Clarksville, where the family is actively involved, McGatha found his ministry at home — through his job and church.

As part of the rear detachment of his battalion, until retirement, he will be the link between the soldiers and the families. And at First Church, he will be involved in ministries like a military family support group.

However, if war is declared, he will be in the Army "for the duration plus six months," as the Army puts it, said McGatha.

"The soldiers are enthusiastic about going. They're scared in a way, but they're enthusiastic."

He encouraged people to write soldiers and chaplains at 101st Airborne Division, APO, New York, N.Y. 09309.

### Helping about 250

First Church, Clarksville, has about 250 military-related members.

Dennis Newkirk, who has served the church about two years, admitted he had never pastored "in this situation before."



MOORE

"There is no one in this town that won't be affected," said Newkirk.

The church staff has developed several programs to try to meet the needs and reach the community because of the crisis.

Deacons and selected families will adopt a military family. A letter-writing effort, Project: Barnabas, and outreach through cable TV, newspapers, and radio will be launched.

Teachers of youth and children will be trained to identify stress-related problems of students and special activities will be planned for them. A committee also will develop a referral

## Arizona couple escapes from Kuwait

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Acting on faith that friends and family in the United States were praying for their safety, Bill and Sharon Gilbert escaped from Iraqi-controlled Kuwait Aug. 13 in a bullet-pierced, church-owned car that had been used by fellow Southern Baptists Maurice and Laurie Graham of Shelbyville and Kansas.

With the Gilberts and their driver in the Graham's car and four other British and United States citizens in a "borrowed" rental car, the seven escapees drove 45 miles across the desert through a line of Iraqi tanks before crossing the Saudi Arabian border to safety.

The Gilberts, now members of Meadow Lake Church, Yuma, Ariz., formerly were active members of Columbus Avenue Church, Waco, Texas, and First Church, Salado, Texas.

Gilbert, a retired United States Air Force officer, had moved to the Persian Gulf area in February to work with a telecommunications company under contract with the Kuwait Department of Defense. Between the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and their harrowing Aug. 13 escape, the Gilberts and other foreigners were shuttled from one hotel to another in Kuwait City.

"We decided we didn't want to spend Christmas in Kuwait — or in Iraq," Gilbert said, "so we left Monday morning at about five o'clock and made the two-hour trek to the border."

Mrs. Gilbert explained that they timed their escape for sunrise Monday because she felt certain their Southern Baptist friends in the United States would be praying for them during Sunday evening worship services.

As dawn was breaking in the Persian Gulf and the Gilberts were leaving the

ministry.

"This is our preoccupation right now," said Newkirk, noting that soldiers are leaving.

"They're ready to go"

Verlon Moore, pastor, Hilldale Church, Clarksville, not only believes the soldiers are prepared for the crisis in the Middle East, but the church is ready.

"This is an opportunity for the church to be the church," said Moore, adding it is "thrilling" when he has contacted a military family and they report calls from Sunday School members and deacons.

"There's no rank here (Hilldale Church). Everybody here is in the army of God."

Of the church's 2000 resident members, about 18 families may be deployed, reported Moore. Those families have been assigned to deacons who will call them once a week.

Moore, who has served in the Army, added, "The Army is as compassionate as they can be." It assists the soldiers with legal matters like wills and provides good financial and spiritual support to families, he noted.

"We need to remember what our revivals were about," he said, referring to the "Here's Hope, Jesus Loves You" simultaneous revivals held across the Southern Baptist Convention this spring. "Here's Hope, Jesus, not Sadaam Hussein, but Jesus Christ," said Moore.

SAS Kuwait Hotel, half a world away First Church, Taft, Texas, was holding a special prayer meeting in the front yard of Marshall and Marjorie Chrestman, Mrs. Gilbert's parents.

The Gilberts and their driver — an Australian forester whom they knew only as "Mad Max" — took the Mitsubishi Gallant that had been driven by the Grahams, Southern Baptist workers at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City.

"We stole it, really," Gilbert said, adding that Iraqi artillery had destroyed the National Evangelical Church and the car that belonged to the church. Bullets had shattered the auto's passenger window.

## Arizona convention taps Dan Stringer

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Dan C. Stringer was unanimously elected executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention by the state's executive board Aug. 7.

Stringer, 62, has been living in Scottsdale, Ariz., since shortly after his retirement as executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention in 1989.

Stringer's employment is subject to approval "by a two-thirds favorable vote of the messengers in an annual or special convention session," according to the Arizona convention's constitution.

Harvey Kimbler, state convention president and search committee chairman, has called a special convention for Aug. 28 at Trinity Church, Casa Grande, Ariz.

If approved, Stringer will succeed Jack Johnson, who became president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission July 1.



**SURVEYING DAMAGE** — Madison-Chester Association Director of Missions Herbert Higdon, left, surveys the remains of Bethel Church, Henderson, with Pastor Ron Davis. The church was destroyed by fire Aug. 16. Davis reported Aug. 22 that the fire marshal said the fire was of undetermined origin, but did rule out an electrical fire. Davis said the insurance company is still investigating the fire. The church is continuing services under a tent on church grounds. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

# Our Readers Write

## Special friends

I have just finished a week working with the mentally retarded at "Special Friends" Camp at Camp Linden. This is one of the best ministries I have been involved in during more than 30 years in the ministry.

Liz Lee, Jim McDonald, and a staff of high school and college students do a remarkable thing for this week and the week following at Camp Carson.

The campers are urged to involve themselves in crafts, art, sports (swimming, indoor baseball, fishing, etc.) as well as Bible study. They are involved in a worship service each night. Hats off to a group doing a good service for Tennessee Baptists.

John Tinsley  
4225 Kenosha  
Memphis 38118

## Sustain the family

When there isn't enough food for everyone, parents have a problem. They must decide how to distribute the available food. Does the breadwinner get fed in the hope that he or she will be able to find a job and feed the rest of the family? How about allocating on the basis of the size of the child or the age of the family member?

Would the family pick out one or more of the children and decide to stop feeding them altogether so some, at least, might live? Perhaps the favored ones would be fed and the less favored allowed to perish for lack of sustenance. For 65 years Southern Baptists annually have faced the dilemma of feeding their children from a pantry that isn't well enough stocked to satisfy all their ap-

petites. The system has worked well. Each child has been supported in relation to the size of its task and its priority position in the mission program of Southern Baptists. No child has grown fat, but all have remained healthy.

Just as children don't please their parents with every action, Southern Baptists' children sometimes fail to please. Is it good parenting to sustain only the most favored children? I think not. To do so is to condemn some children to debilitating weakness and even death.

The Cooperative Program came into being in order to allow every church member to participate in all of the mission ministries of Southern Baptists. Just as every member is encouraged to tithe to support all of the ministries of the local church — even those that may not be priority for the individual — every church is encouraged to divide its income cooperatively so that state and national ministries can be sustained.

Which of their children will Southern Baptists choose to starve in an effort to adjust the Cooperative Program budget to reward the more favored ones? I'm not ready for that, are you?

Richard T. McCartney  
Radio and TV Commission, SBC  
6350 West Freeway  
Fort Worth, Texas 76150

## Evaluating individuals

Some reactions to the announced intention of Carson-Newman College to award Dolly Parton an honorary degree are perhaps reflective of "righteous" thinking. We should remind ourselves, however, that Jesus did not look at individuals as stereotypes representative of whatever evils might attach to the

persons thus grouped. He always valued persons on the basis of their response to him.

How easy it is to miss the central messages of the Bible when we attempt to evaluate individuals and, especially, church-related institutions.

W. W. Bass  
715 W. Ellis St.  
Jefferson City 37760

**GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on religion-related subjects are welcomed. Letters should be brief and concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be shortened and edited at discretion of the editor. Unsigned letters will not be read or used, but writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. There must be at least six weeks between publication of letters from the same writer. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Short letters are preferred. Address and phone number must be included.**

## Pornographic art

Can a Christian love the Lord with all his heart, keeping the First and greatest Commandment (see Luke 10:25-27) and ignore his teachings?

The National Endowment for the Arts is tax funded. It has bought and displayed much vile, anti-Christian and pornographic art.

The NEA has not funded or displayed any vile art using the figure of a non-Christian religion as a subject, such as Buddha, Mohammed, or Allah, to mention a few. It is therefore discriminating against Christians, regardless of the reason, and should be prosecuted for it.

Congressman Sidney Yates (D-IL), who chaired a committee which allegedly sought a way to stop tax-funding vile, offensive art, admitted during debate that the amendment they proposed would change nothing, and it didn't. Congressman Pat Williams (D-MT), who chairs the committee which funds the NEA, called people who oppose this vile art, "Evangelical cuckoos." The NEA got \$171 million in 1989 and wants \$175 million in 1990.

Both heaped praise upon NEA Chairman John Frohnmayer for resisting censorship. The three claim to be guardians of freedom of expression.

Please write your congressman about this or send him a copy of this letter. Please also send a copy to President Bush, the White House, Washington, D.C. 20205.

Robert S. Dubiel  
439 Parish  
Martin 38237

## Not primates

I was surprised to learn from Chaplain Keele and Mr. Pennington in "Our Readers Write" section recently that Genesis 1-4 is nothing more than Babylonian, Egyptian, and Jewish myths. Is this true also of John 3:16; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8, 10-9-11; John 14; etc? Or are these sections of the Bible as well as the rest of the Bible the Word of God, as I was taught and as I believe.

Mr. Pennington wonders why one cannot believe in evolution. If I may, I would like to suggest at least two reasons. First, there is not one shred of scientific evidence to support the fallacious theory of evolution nor its step-sister theistic evolution. Second, but more importantly, the notion that God created through laws of nature and the so-called process of evolution contradicts the testimony of the only eye witness of the event.

In Matthew 19:4 Jesus Christ said, "Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female."

Henry M. Morris, commenting on these words of Jesus said, "With these clear statements, the Lord Jesus settled forever (for those who believe His words) the question of human origins and the historicity of the Genesis account of creation. God created Adam and Eve full-grown in the beginning, united as husband and wife — not a population of primates slowly evolving into people over millions of years . . ."

Terrance R. Craig  
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)  
RR 1, Box 476  
Mosheim 37818

## Salute to BTN

I have written to Dr. Lloyd Elder of the Sunday School Board, but I felt I needed to share my thoughts with Southern Baptists who read this state paper.

The Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) has been cancelled and operations will cease Oct. 1. What a tragedy!

Only 1600 plus churches out of more than 37,000 took advantage of this marvelous and innovative approach to Christian education and training. This is amazing in light of the great influence of the electronic media in our world today.

For five to six hours, Monday to Friday, with some special weekend teleconferences, BTN broadcasts the very best Sunday School, discipleship, mission, leadership training, and convention information programming possible. The Sunday School Board did this at a cost that was economically accessible to every church's budget. And, yet the ten percent of SBC churches needed to keep it going was not reached.

BTN was on the cutting edge and those who did not realize it have let it slip away. To those whose vision began and gave leadership to this project, I personally want to express my gratitude.

M. Keith Williams  
Warm Springs Church  
111 E. Warren Ave.  
Fremont, Calif. 94539

## Applauds Carson-Newman

I would like to respond to two letters regarding Carson-Newman's awarding an honorary doctorate to Dolly Parton.

Apparently the two gentlemen are unaware of the great contribution Dolly has made in helping young people of Sevier County further their education. In addition, she has made employment possible for many people in our area and you will find her to be greatly admired around here.

My hat is off to Carson-Newman and I'm sure you will find 99.9 percent of the people agree with their decision.

Dorothy E. Orr  
208 East View Ave.  
Jefferson City 37760

## Michael Lester accepts Etowah pastorate

Michael S. Lester joined the staff of North Etowah Church, Etowah, Aug. 26 as pastor.

He was most recently pastor of Skyline Heights Church, Johnson City. Lester has served as pastor of an Elizabethton church, and a Virginia church. He was ordained in 1981.

Lester graduated from Hyles-Anderson College, Crown Point, Ind., and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson, City.

He and his wife, Kathi, have two children.

## Spring City pastor sees revival results

My story about Here's Hope revivals begins last October. I'm the director of evangelism for our association and I, of course, was in the process of promoting the Here's Hope revivals in our association. While attending my community ministerial association meeting, it was suggested by one of the non-Baptist pastors that we have some type of joint community effort to spread the Good News.

It was finally suggested that we all have our revivals at the same time. Don Baker, Central Church; Billy Jones, Wolf Creek Church; and I smiled as the group pressed for doing it in the spring. We agreed and quickly added that we had a problem — our dates and speakers were already set. The rest of the ministers agreed to have theirs at the same time — April 22, the week designated for East Tennessee.

At our next meeting, we began planning a joint visitation effort and promotion ideas. Then the Four-square Church pastor, Ira Frazier, suggested we have a theme or catchy phrase that would make advertising easier. I said, "What about 'Here's hope?'" and they all liked it. Then I added, "Here's hope. Jesus cares for you" and they loved it.

I later gave them the promotional items from the Home Mission Board. The advertising team (Methodist and Foursquare pastors) began placing ads in the local paper. Leaflets were printed, and a visitation rally and visitation were planned.

The joint visitation was unique in that many went door-to-door with members of not only another church but other denominations inviting people to revival. It wasn't an ecumenical move, but a message of love to the community from all the churches. Too often we are pictured as being at war with each other.

The results were great. When the Saturday morning all-out visitation came about, the whole community was excited. Churches that had seldom or never had revival meetings were involved — and many of their people were not sure what a revival was. But they were familiar with the theme "Here's hope. Jesus cares for you."

Reports of decisions among non-Southern Baptist churches were not available, but people were saved at several churches. In our three Southern Baptist churches belonging to the North Rhea County Ministerial Association, we had 24 people saved. The unique report was that everyone had great attendance. Each pastor stated that it was the best attended revival ever.

People who came were either a part of the church family or someone who was unchurched. The results are still out because of lives still being affected as a result of our Here's Hope revivals.

It may not work everywhere or all the time. Here in Spring City, it was an answer to prayer and God used and blessed this effort. — Terry Meeks, pastor, First Church, Spring City.

# Group approves mechanism for funding Baptist missions work

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — A new mechanism for funding Baptist missions work was overwhelmingly approved by 3000 "moderate" Southern Baptists attending a Consultation of Concerned Baptists in Atlanta Aug. 24.

The funding alternative has been chartered as Baptist Cooperative Missions Program Inc., and will become active Oct. 1.

Moments after the vote, Benjamin Owen of Madison Avenue Church, Covington, Ky., presented a \$75 check as the first contribution to the fund. The money was given to missions by children in Vacation Bible School at the Kentucky church.

Consultation organizers claimed the new funding mechanism does not create a new denomination, although several consultation participants said

they believe it could be the first step toward a new convention. (See related story.)

Those attending the meeting claim they have been cut off by the "conservative resurgence" that has changed the makeup of the denomination's boards and agencies over the past 12 years.

John Hewett, pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C., said the new funding alternative gives moderates "the gift of solidarity" and will allow churches to give a "profound, public dissenting witness" to current SBC leadership.

Details of how the new plan will operate are sketchy. For now, the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program will receive only designated funds from individuals, churches, and state conventions. Funds may be designated to ex-

isting SBC agencies and institutions, as well as to non-SBC entities.

"All we're doing between now and next spring is creating a bucket. The details of a plan are not here and will not be until next spring," said Sapp, who was coordinator of 40 workgroups discussing alternative funding.

Sapp presented a four-point proposal to the assembly, which was approved by a show of hands. Across the main auditorium and an overflow hall, less than a dozen hands were raised in opposition.

The proposal was drafted by Sapp and 40 group leaders and recorders who had taken input from the larger body.

The motion calls for (1) "establishing an alternative funding plan for national causes Baptists

believe in"; (2) long-term procedures to be developed by the steering committee; (3) the plan to "take into account input of this meeting"; (4) implementation of a plan identified as "Baptist Cooperative Missions Program" as a "makeshift" plan until a more detailed plan can be drafted.

Some participants suggested the plan be named Bold Mission Trust, a word play on Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust emphasis to present the Gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000.

According to documents distributed at the meeting, the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program was chartered as a non-profit corporation in the state of Georgia Aug. 1. Duke K. McCall, former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is listed as the incorporator.

## 'Moderate fellowship' moves to alternate funding . . .

(Continued from page 1)

vention was organized in 1845.

Rudy Zachery of Maui, Hawaii, opposed the motion, urging the fellowship to forget about political symbolism and meet in a central location that would be more economical.

Organizers of the three-day consultation denied they were taking the first steps to organize a new convention that might split away from the SBC.

Instead they used terms like "fellowship," "renewal movement," and "body" to describe the new organization.

Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church, in suburban Atlanta and an unsuccessful candidate for SBC president in 1989 and 1990, urged participants at both the beginning and end of the consultation to focus on renewal, not on creating new organizations or institutions.

Vestal acknowledged that other renewal movements, such as the Protestant Reformation and Wesleyan renewal movement, created new denominations.

"But let's go back from this meeting and talk not so much about new institutions, but about renewal, . . . about the Gospel," Vestal said.

In an opening news conference, Vestal declared, "Our purpose is not to birth a new denomination or new organization, but to bring about renewal."

Baptists Committed Chairman Jimmy Allen, who chaired the meeting, said the fellowship does not have an official name, and that the convocation's planners have avoided adopting a name that implies organization of a

new convention.

Even though this is not a convention, the fellowship could eventually send out its own missionaries, Allen said.

"If the mission boards keep turning down people for missionary appointment, then the fellowship may have to decide that," Allen said. "We'll just have to wait and see."

He observed that both home and foreign mission boards have rejected appointment of "a lot of people who have been called" but who may be divorced or who are not acceptable theologically to conservative trustees.

The new Baptist Cooperative Missions Program gives Baptists an alternative way to express their conscience, Vestal said. "It will only be a matter of time until the character of SBC institutions will change so drastically that many Baptists will no longer be able to support them in good conscience."

Vestal said this movement is to foster and recreate trust among Baptists who have come to distrust the denomination.

"The Cooperative Program is built on trust," Vestal said. "We are trying to promote more cooperative giving, not less. It just may not be through the same channels as in the past."

In addition to disbursing money received through the Cooperative Missions Program, the interim steering committee was asked:

- to develop a mission statement and operating documents for consideration in the spring;
- to take any further interim actions necessary to function;
- to promote understanding, har-

mony, and community among Baptists who want to become part of the fellowship;

mony, and community among Baptists who want to become part of the fellowship;

• and to develop future strategies based on input from workshops and inter-session groups which met during the session.

The initial 60-member steering committee was authorized to fill vacancies in its membership and to add up to ten additional members, keeping in mind the criteria developed by a 27-member nominating committee chaired by Dick Maples of Bryan, Texas. The interim steering committee will recommend a permanent steering committee for election next spring.

The interim steering committee includes members who have been active in the Southern Baptist Alliance, Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, and Women in Ministry.

Vestal said each of these organizations will meet in the future to decide their relationships with the "fellowship."

Throughout the three-day meeting, several speakers called for an emphasis on Baptist ideals such as priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of local churches, separation of church and state, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and quality theological education.

In the final session, participants voted against adopting any resolutions, including one which would have urged a formal name for the fellowship and utilization of SBC Today as the official publication of the fellowship.

In the closing session, Sherman introduced a motion asking participants to commend Al Shackleford and Dan Martin, director and news editor of Baptist Press who were fired July 17. Sherman praised the two for their commitment to justice, truth, openness, honesty, and integrity.

A special interest group on alternative information systems adopted a resolution expressing support for Association Baptist Press, a proposed alternative news service to be established by an independent board of directors in Nashville.

A group discussing theological education expressed a desire to protect faculty members at SBC seminaries but urged developing alternatives immediately.

"If we think there is not going to be a wholesale bloodbath at Southern

Seminary, we've got our heads in the sand," one participant warned. "It's time for this group to take action."

In a workshop on legal issues, several attorneys pointed out there is little chance of a successful lawsuit by "moderates" who might seek control of the \$3.3 billion in assets of the SBC.

The group was divided between those who foresee a split within the SBC resulting in a new convention and those who want to remain within the existing SBC.

Participants in a group on church literature discussed the possibility of developing their own Bible study materials as conservatives tighten control of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Names of the steering committee and board of directors will be printed next week.

Mark Wingfield, Sara Zimmerman, and Bill Bangham contributed to this story.

## C-N offers seminary courses on campus

Two master's level seminary courses will be offered each Monday on the Carson-Newman campus beginning Sept. 10.

Donald W. Garner, associate professor of religion at Carson-Newman, will teach "Introduction to the Old Testament, Part Two: The Prophets and Writings 2020." This course meets weekly from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and studies the significance of the prophetic books and the Hagiographa.

Three Southern Seminary professors will jointly teach Acts 23600. The course meets each week from 2 to 5 p.m. and will be an introduction of the history of research on the Acts of the Apostles and an interpretation of the text from the perspective of the writer's major emphases and purposes. The class will be taught by Alan Colpepper, Raymond Bailey, and Robert Shippey.

The extension program provides an opportunity to begin or further studies toward a seminary degree, and credit can be transferred to any Southern Baptist Convention seminary. Registration will begin Sept. 10, the date of the first class. No pre-registration is necessary.

Enrollment is open to any person with a college degree. Tuition is \$200 for first course and \$100 for the second. For more information, contact Robert M. Shurden at (615) 475-9061.

## Grahams, others, still in . . .

(Continued from page 1)

One worker, Judy Knight of Reidsville, N.C., originally was scheduled to arrive there Aug. 24 or 25 with her three sons, ages 11, nine, and three. She and her husband, Fletcher, a maintenance worker from Madison, N.C., and their sons are among the group of personnel that left Yemen Aug. 27 with an overnight stop in Egypt en route to Cyprus. Another worker is traveling to the United States, having begun furlough earlier than planned.

The number of Southern Baptist personnel who have left Jordan now stands at ten, including nine who have evacuated to Cyprus and one who also

started furlough early in the U.S.

U.S. embassies in each country have advised non-essential personnel to evacuate in the face of protests and escalated resentment aimed at the United States over its military buildup in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Nine Southern Baptist workers are hoping to remain in Yemen to continue the operation of a hospital Baptists began in 1968 in the town of Jibla.

Nine other Southern Baptist workers also are hoping to remain in Jordan and have been exploring possible avenues of ministry to some of the thousands of refugees who have fled to Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

# Troupe shares message with world at Goodwill Games

By Connie Davis,  
assistant editor

SEATTLE, WASH. — Throngs of people from all over the world visiting the Goodwill Games sponsored by Turner Broadcasting July 20 to Aug. 8 often viewed a non-competitive free performance.

As hundreds gathered at the Seattle Center, one site of the international sports competitions, many were drawn to a group of clowns.

The clowns might be seen emerging from boxes that read hate, confusion. But after they accepted a tag which read eternal life, the words on their boxes were changed from hate to love, from confusion to order. Then the boxes were stacked to form a cross.

"There was a sea of humanity," said Sheridan Barker, director of the Spirit Express clown troupe of Manley Church, Morristown. "You saw people from all over the world. You could look at their faces and see them change as they watched the skits.

"We had steeled ourselves for potential rejection, but by and large we were readily accepted," he explained.

Hundreds of children would crowd around the clowns as they made balloon animals to give away. On each animal, the clowns wrote a Bible verse or God loves you.

The clowns also drew people



**CLOWNING AROUND** — Clown troupe members are, from left, front row, Hubert Davis — Too-be-low, Eddie Overholt — Noodles, Sheridan Barker — Sparky, Edgar Gray — Happy, Lou Ann Reason — Bubbles; back row, Dave Edmonds — Feste, Betty Overholt — Sweet Thang, Mary Wilson — Pinky, Rosanne Shannon — Miss Petunia, Jackie Smith — Rosebud, and Faye Edmonds — Sunshine.

Southern Baptist summer missionaries could visit with or trade pins with — a popular activity of the games. Most pins had to be bought, but the missionaries had free pins provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The missionaries asked people if they could give them a pin and tell them something about the pin, which had a heart and cross against a background of Mt. Ranier in Washington. That allowed them to share their faith with the person.

Forty spiritual decisions resulted

from the ministry of the sole Christian clown troupe at the games. Only one other clown group attended, reported Barker, who is also assistant professor of communication arts, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Spirit Express is made up of 13 adults — from teachers and housewives to insurance agents and cosmetologists, said Barker, who is co-director with member Edgar Gray. The church's minister of activities, Eddie Baker, accompanied the group.

"We don't squirt water in people's

faces with fake flowers, or hit little children over the head with a rubber chicken," said Barker.

"Sometimes Christians are afraid to say the name of Christ but when you realize how much the world is hungering for that you tend to be much more willing and open to witness," he observed. Members visited with people from Russia, Turkey, Japan, and China.

The troupe also performed at First Church, Enumclaw, Wash., and Auburn Church, Auburn, Wash. The pastor of Auburn Church, Garry Benfield, thanked the group because he believed it influenced two boys he had been working with to become Christians.

One barrier to their ministry was obtaining a city sanction, which had not been obtained before

they arrived. Local Baptist leaders and the troupe decided not to be deterred. They were confronted by a city official the second day, but she became so impressed with the group that she helped in securing the sanction, reported Barker.

Barker expressed thanks to the east Tennessee churches who allowed the group to perform in their churches and funded the \$10,000 trip. The group volunteered for summer missions work through the Home Mission Board and was asked to work at the Goodwill Games.

## Southern Baptist replaces Wead as White House liaison

By Darrell Turner

(RNS) — Lee Anne Metzger, the White House's new staff liaison with the evangelical Christian community, is a Southern Baptist who has been involved in political action for both Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum and the National Republican Congressional Committee.

She began work at the White House Office of Public Liaison Aug. 13 during the final weeks on staff of Doug Wead, who is leaving the post amid reports that a controversy about White House overtures to homosexual-rights groups hastened his planned departure.

Wead, 44, is an active and ordained member of the Assemblies of God. He

is the author of several books, including *George Bush: Man of Integrity*, a 1988 campaign biography.

During his year and a half in the Bush administration, Wead has been a consistent defender of the president to conservative evangelicals, who have often faulted Bush and the administration for not advancing their causes as much as they would like. Last year he declared that "this president has been more considerate and more sensitive to evangelical concerns than any other president or candidate for president ever in American history."

Last spring, Wead fielded criticisms from such groups as the National Association of Evangelicals and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, both outraged that the White House had invited representatives of gay-rights organizations to a ceremony in April during which President Bush signed the federal Hate Crimes Act.

In a letter responding to the complaints, Wead wrote that "the president's staff did not serve him well by inviting some of the groups which attended the Hate Crimes Bill signing ceremony."

Several published reports indicate that Wead's departure from his \$55,000 staff position at the White House was prompted by a staff controversy over his objections to the invitation to gay-rights leaders and the comments he made in the letter. However, Maria Sheehan, deputy director of media relations for the White House, insisted that "it didn't have anything to do with

that."

According to Sheehan, Wead had indicated for several months that he was planning to leave to pursue other, undisclosed, career options. "His decision to leave was mutually agreed upon," she said.

Wead himself declined to comment on whether the letter was a factor, but he told RNS, "Reports that I blocked certain groups from the White House were erroneous. I have the deepest respect for all human beings. I believe that if any single person is a victim of a crime of hate, that all of us suffer for that."

## Churches alerted to water cooler recall

NASHVILLE (BP) — Churches that own Halsey Taylor water coolers manufactured before April 1, 1979, should be aware of possible dangers with the coolers.

Some of the water coolers have lead-lined water storage tanks. Studies have shown that ingestion of lead can be dangerous, especially to young children.

Halsey Taylor is conducting a replacement/refund program for those water coolers which have the lead-lined water storage tanks. The program is required under a Consent Order Agreement with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission pursuant to the provisions of the Lead Contamination Control Act.

Churches may contact Halsey Taylor toll-free at 1-800-635-2358.

## Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

### Cosmic redemption

"The creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." — Romans 8:21

Romans 8:19-22 is strange reading. In simple words it means that when Adam sinned, nature itself was affected adversely (see Genesis 3:17-19). And its

redemption is somehow connected with man's redemption (see Romans 8:22-23). This helps to understand the tragedies wreaked upon us by nature gone wild.

We speak of the destructive forces of nature — hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, etc. — as "acts of God." This may be good insurance language, but

it is not good theology. For instance, in Job 1:16 "the fire of God fallen from heaven" was probably a bolt of lightning. In verse 19 the "great wind" (tornado?) destroyed Job's children. A careful reading of this passage reveals that these were not acts of God but of Satan. Those versed in the natural causes of such events explain them from that angle. But this does not rule out supernatural powers behind them. The Bible teaches that Satan's evil power is behind such destructive events. But it also, in Job's case, teaches that God works in their context to enable us to endure them and to bring good in spite of them.

So Paul says that through Christ's redemption even the natural order will be redeemed.

I do not understand it but I believe it, for the Bible teaches it. Also I realize that heaven and earth are different spheres. But in a heaven of perfect bliss there will be no "nature on the prowl."



HOBBS

# Goldens' vision lives on through state offering

By *Connie J. Umstead, news assistant*

An observation made at the turn of the century by a Woman's Missionary Union leader, Mildred Bennett Golden, sparked an idea that evolved into our present-day Week of Prayer for State Missions, which will be Sept. 2-9.

For the last 88 years, Tennessee Baptists have set aside a week to pray specifically for mission work in their state and to give a special offering, which in 1943 was named the Golden State Missions Offering in honor of Mrs. Golden and her husband, W. C., who was executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for eight years.

The Goldens were both concerned about the lack of focus on missions in Tennessee. There were no funds to assist churches or pay state missionaries. When Golden became state missions secretary (later executive director) of the TBC in 1902, his wife assisted him in his correspondence with missionaries.

Mrs. Golden had observed people supporting prayer weeks for home and foreign missions, and believed a similar emphasis would benefit state missions. She suggested her idea to the WMU Central Committee and the pro-

gram got underway.

Materials for the first six-day observance, called "Prayer and Privilege," were handwritten and mailed to more than 1200 churches. The Goldens, with help from friends, wrote, printed, assembled, packaged, and mailed

Faith and Love."

"We have always been aware folks give to those causes for which they pray. The request from any area of missions work is always for prayer and it is the prayer support coupled with the gifts that make it possible for

help pastors of new congregations.

In cooperation with the Home Mission Board, the TBC has launched a big-city mission effort called Mega Focus. Seventy-five percent of Tennessee's population lives in cities. Money will be given to start new churches in densely populated areas, such as Memphis and Nashville.

## Tennessee Baptists Week of Prayer for State Missions September 2-9, 1990 Golden State Missions Offering State Goal: \$997,500

week of prayer materials from their home to Tennessee Baptists for ten years.

The first offering was \$800.

Tennessee was the first state to establish a week of prayer and collect an offering for state missions. The program has served as a model for other states.

The goal for 1990 is \$997,500, which represents the sum total of allocations, not a rounded number, needed to carry out missions work in Tennessee. The theme is "Soaring to New Heights with the work to be done," said Katharine

Bryan, Tennessee Baptist WMU executive director. "In this particular time of Bold Mission prayer, we have a responsibility to engage in bold praying for the lost of Tennessee."

Unless designated to a specific ministry, distribution of funds collected in the Golden State Missions Offering is determined by a group of WMU members, pastors, and lay church leaders who serve on the TBC or WMU executive boards.

This offering "enables Tennessee Baptists to be on the cutting edge of missions in our state in such areas as new church starts, ethnic work, and camps for the developmentally handicapped," Bryan said.

In accordance with Tennessee Baptists' goal to establish 175 new churches by the end of 1995, approximately half of the offering goes to new work. One fund assists congregations in finding building sites and construction, and another fund provides low interest loans to help meet expenses. There is also a salary assistance program to

Another emphasis of the offering is ethnic missions. Seventy-five of the 175 new churches are targeted to be ethnic congregations. Many Tennessee churches have ethnic missions that are large enough to be constituted as churches. Some of the offering will help international students attend missions conferences, and part will contribute to the support of International Friends, cultural and educational groups in Nashville and Memphis.

Other ministries supported by the Golden State Missions Offering include preachers' schools, a ministers' aid fund, disaster relief, Mission Service Corps volunteers, the United Tennessee League, Christmas gifts for native Tennessee missionaries and their children, student summer missions, rural mountain and resort missions, and student scholarships.

Although the offering is not sponsored by WMU, the auxiliary does play a large part in organizing the effort. Study materials specifically targeted to various women's mission groups have been sent to Tennessee churches.

"Because we're missions educators, our role is to supply study materials," Bryan said, adding, "We are to provide an atmosphere for praying and giving."

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Sometimes God acts in mighty ways when we least expect it.

Bold expectations, backed by prayer equally as bold, must excite our Lord.

On a recent missions trip to Kenya, some Texas Baptists found that it was almost like the words written in Daniel, God answered before Daniel finished his praying.

The prayers of the Texas men were answered, and obstacles overcome before they left Texas.

Problems arose with travel plans — and apparently the team would have to take the only other available flight, which would cut their missions trip short by three vital days.

The group leader appealed to an airlines supervisor, explaining the group's urgent desire to build churches and perform medical missions in Kenya.

This group was the first to follow-up the Kenya Coastal Crusade where more than 56,000 commitments to Christ were made just a few weeks ago.

The supervisor understood the mission's urgency, and booked the team on a flight to Mombasa that enabled them to keep their original schedule. They "hit the ground running" and began building churches.

Plans to build a church in a Moslem neighborhood seemed stymied until a Moslem leader saw the medical team in action. Despite extremists' threats, the leader said to the Baptist Men,

"You serve a good God, and He deserves a house here. I'll pay half of the price of the land."

These happenings are enough to convince some doubters that God still is at work among His people, but one more "small" example seals the issue.

Several weeks before the mission volunteers arrived in Kenya, a man from the Masai reservation came to missionary Ralph Bethea requesting a medical clinic for his people.

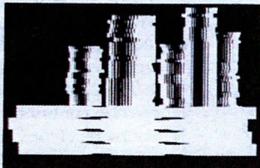
Mechanical problems caused the volunteers to be a day late for what they thought was a scheduled appointment at the reservation, but they were "on time" according to God's schedule.

When the mission team arrived where the Masai were camped, they were met by a Kenyan evangelist known by Bethea. Bethea apologized for the team's late arrival, but the evangelist said the tribe had never received word about the planned arrival!

"Why were you sitting here alone waiting for us then?" Bethea asked. The Kenyan replied that God had assured him that a medical mission team would come — and that he should go to meet them. Bold expectation, prayer, bold answer.



ALLEN



*Soaring to  
New Heights  
with Faith  
and Love*

### Tennessee Baptists 1990 Week of Prayer for State Missions

#### Because You Give

- A new home for Developmentally Disabled Adults is being completed.
- The Disaster Relief Unit is able to maintain and/or replace equipment.
- The Ministers Aid Fund assists annually more than 20 ministers in times of crisis.
- United Tennessee League assists pastors in ministering to families with substance abuse problems.
- Language Ministries touches Internationals in Shelby Association, migrants working in Holston Association, deaf worshiping in Johnson City and Ethnic children and youth attending camp at Camp Linden.
- Student Summer Missionaries work in 6 associations leading Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Studies.
- Tennessee Fellowship of Blind enjoy an annual retreat at Camp Linden.
- Ministries at Polk County Resort and Smokey Mt. Resort receive assistance.
- Weekday ministries in 6 associations receive financial assistance.
- Special Friends Camp ministers to campers showing them God's love.
- MKs and native Tennessee Home and Foreign Missionaries receive a special Christmas gift.
- College students receive scholarships.
- Five associations have on-going ministries of distributing scriptures at prisons.
- New churches receive assistance through one of three loan funds.
- Pastors of new churches are receiving assistance.

## CCC Chairman urges support of campaign

H. Franklin Paschall is honorary chairman of the Children's Centennial Campaign. Dr. Paschall was pastor of First Church, Nashville — the founding church of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes — for 28 years. He has also served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. His statement:

*"The ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is very special. We offer a type of child care that has a dimension not found in a state-run agency. In our ministry to hurting children, we place an emphasis on the Gospel. We help these young people with their physical and emotional needs, but we also focus on their primary need, which is spiritual. We don't accept government assistance because if we did, we could not share Scripture with our children.*

*"I have accepted the position of honorary chairman of the Children's Centennial Campaign because, as a Baptist, I feel a need to do all I can to help in this ministry to the children of Tennessee. I want to urge my fellow Baptists to give every consideration to this worthy campaign and to respond in the fullest measure. I have made my pledge, and I trust others will also give prayerful consideration to their support of this campaign."*



Since 1891, Tennessee Baptist churches have supported the ministries of TBCH to children in our state. The Children's Centennial Campaign is a statewide effort to provide support for a second century of care.

## Gifts support missions to abused, neglected children of Tennessee

When Mrs. Roger Eastman, of First Church, Nashville, founded the Tennessee Baptist Orphanage in 1891, her vision and stewardship made a lasting difference in the lives of abandoned and abused children.

Today, almost 100 years later, Baptist churches across the state are asked to invest time, energy, and resources so this ministry may continue. Through the Children's Centennial Campaign, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes will receive the monetary foundation for the next hundred years of providing care and spiritual guidance to neglected and abused children.

This statewide campaign is part of the 1991 TBCH celebration of 100 years of ministering to children. Dr. H. Franklin Paschall, pastor emeritus of First Church, Nashville, is honorary chairman of the campaign.

A network of regional, associational, and church leaders from across the state have been selected to lead the Children's Centennial Campaign. Through the dedicated work of these men and women, a series of celebration events have been scheduled. Associations in East Tennessee will hold their Events in September and October. Middle and West Tennessee will hold Events in early 1991.

The gifts received in this campaign will provide continued support for the many ministries of the Children's Homes. When TBCH was founded in 1891, most of the children were orphans. Today, the boys and girls face different problems. Many of the children are "orphaned by the living" because their mothers or fathers are either unable to care for them, or have abused them.

Through the constant, loving support of their houseparents and social workers, children learn to work through and overcome problems from their pasts. For those who are troubled by unusually traumatic experiences — such as sexual abuse — special counseling is provided.

The Children's Homes also offers an alternative to abortion by providing shelter and medical care assistance to unwed mothers. For the mothers who choose to place their infants for adoption, TBCH is a fully licensed adoption agency.

The many services of TBCH are provided at no charge to the children, and are supported solely by the gifts of Baptist congregations and individuals throughout the state. Your church's support of the Children's Centennial Campaign will allow this ministry to reach into its second hundred years of helping the hurting children of Tennessee.

There are TBCH main campuses in Chattanooga, Franklin, and Memphis, and satellite cottage homes in Kingsport, Johnson City, and Burrville. A new Boys' Ranch ministry has been established in Millington. Unwed mothers receive care at alternative homes in Greeneville and Franklin, and foster homes in Memphis.

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., an institution owned and operated by the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, has as its objective, ministry in the name of Jesus Christ to orphaned, neglected, dependent, and abused children and their families while leading them to become whole persons in Christ.

## Children's Centennial Campaign Questions and Answers

by Dr. Gerald L. Stow, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Executive Director/Treasurer

**Q** What is the Children's Centennial Campaign?

**A** It is a statewide capital needs and endowment campaign to raise a total of \$7 million for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. The campaign was authorized by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board in 1989.

**Q** Why do we need this campaign?

**A** TBCH is funded from three primary sources: Cooperative Program, the Mother's Day Offering and endowment income. The need for expanded services to meet the growing needs of children and unwed mothers in our state has outgrown existing resources. Additional endowment funds are needed to undergird a second century of caring for hurting children.

**A** Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is a family ministry. We are celebrating 100 years of child care. Each church is being asked to give each family an opportunity to make a commitment to TBCH of \$10, \$20, or \$30 a month, over and above their regular church gift. Some families may choose to make a one-time gift.

**Q** Does this take the place of the Mother's Day Offering?

**A** Absolutely not. The Mother's Day Offering provides about one-third of our budget needs. Churches will need to continue their faithful support of this offering.

**Q** How will the money be used?

**A** Three million dollars will be used for specific capital needs at our three main campuses and four satellite cottage homes. For example, there is a need to replace the plumbing at two of our cottages in Chattanooga. Four million dollars will be placed in endowment; only the earnings will be spent for daily needs of the ministry.

**Q** What other sources of income does TBCH have?

**A** None. We are totally dependent on the gifts of our churches and individuals for our support. We do not charge for our services, nor do we receive any assistance from the state or federal government. This campaign will help us maintain our historic Baptist position of separation of church and state.

**Q** How can my church participate?



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# TenneScene

... From Chuckey, through Norene  
and on to Heloise ...

## Churches ...

Homecoming will be held Sept. 9 at Oaklawn Church, Memphis. The Adams Family Bluegrass Gospel Singers will perform.

The congregation of LaGuardo Church, Lebanon, celebrated homecoming Aug. 26. William Sutters Jr., was guest speaker.

Second Church, Union City, dedicated a new building Aug. 19. Bill George was guest speaker.

The Brotherhood of Rocky Valley Church, Lebanon, recently presented the church with a debt-free pavilion they constructed on the church property.

Members of Island Home Church, Knoxville, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 9.

The congregation of Plainview Church, Bradyville, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 9. Revival will be held the following week led by Bill Shaw.

A new fellowship hall was recently completed for the congregation of Gum Springs Church, Georgetown. They are currently meeting in the fellowship hall while a new auditorium is being built.

## Leadership ...

Dean Wallace recently resigned as pastor of Mount Vernon Church, Halls, to accept the pastorate of a church in Missouri.

West Union Church, Dresden, recently called Charlie Pence as pastor.

Pence served as interim before being called as pastor.

Phil Pippenger recently joined the staff of Waterville Church, Cleveland, as youth minister. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Grace Church, Elizabethton, called Garry Joe Hardin II as minister of music, youth, and children effective Aug. 1.

Members of Pinecrest Church, Johnson City, recently surprised Sam Dalton, youth and Kinder-Kare director, with an appreciation fellowship for his five years of service.

Union McMinn Church, Niota, called Bill Roberts as pastor.

Mark Miller has been called to Hilldale Church, Clarksville, as minister of education, effective Aug. 1. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Members of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, will honor Ray E. Fowler Sept. 9 for serving the church ten years as pastor. Fowler's twin brother, Roy Fowler, will be guest speaker. A covered-dish dinner and reception will follow morning worship.

## Revivals ...

First Church, Hixson, will hold revival Sept. 9-12 led by David Ring. Mike Speck will lead music.

The following churches in Beech River Association held revivals recently: Flatwoods Church, Holladay; Huron Church, Huron; Pine Grove

Church, Wildersville; and Rock Hill Church, Lexington.

Revival was held Aug. 5-11 at Fall Creek Church, Norene. Drew Hayes led services.

Beulah Association reported the following churches held revivals recently: Cypress Creek and Mount Pelia churches, both in Martin; Macedonia and New Salem churches, both in Kenton; Johnson's Grove Church, South Fulton; Pleasant Hill Church, Rives; Reelfoot Church, Troy; Ridgely Church, Ridgely; and Wynnburg Church, Wynnburg.

Second Church, Union City, will hold revival Sept. 16-20 with evangelist Henry Linginfelter.

Stone Association reported the following churches held revivals recently: Cane Creek and Dodson's Branch churches, both in Cookeville; Nash Grove Church, Baxter; and Silver Point Church, Silver Point.

James Clapp led revival services Aug. 5-11 at Greenvale Church, Watertown.

The following churches in Weakley County Association had revivals recently: Bible Union and Oak Grove churches, both in Martin; New Salem Church, Dukedom; and Old Bethel and Palmersville churches, Palmersville.

First Church, Mount Juliet, will hold revival Sept. 9-13. W. W. Harrison will lead services.

## Missions ...

Sixteen youth and six counselors from Lucy Church, Millington, recently

returned from a mission project at New Life Church, Florissant, Mo. The volunteers assisted in Vacation Bible School; distributed VBS flyers in the community; did survey work; and participated in two worship services where they led services, gave testimonies, and provided special music. They also provided a special service for the church's youth.

A mission team of 36 people from White Oak Church, Chattanooga, recently traveled to East Prairie, Mo., where they worked with Westside Church in Backyard Bible Clubs. The group sponsored a city-wide softball tournament and held an evangelistic rally. Thirty-five people made professions of faith.

Bob and Ronnie Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, are home on furlough and are residing in the mission home of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, through December. Concord is Erwin's home church. They can be addressed at 133 Belle Aire Dr., Knoxville, Tenn. 37922.

The Woman's Missionary Union of Madison-Chester Association sponsored Backyard Bible Clubs July 30-Aug. 2 in Centennial Park in Jackson. An evangelistic service was also held for older children during which 18 made professions of faith.

Eleven people with ties to Tennessee have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board International Service Corps to serve as journeymen. Kirk Davis, formerly of Lenoir City, will serve as a mission builder in Zambia. Donna Davison, formerly of Gray, will serve as an MK teacher in Venezuela. Susan Ducker, Chattanooga, will work as an English teacher in Japan.

Jill Hitson, Brentwood, will be a skills training teacher in the Philippines. John Jicka, a Union University, Jackson, graduate, will be a youth worker/pastoral assistant in the United Kingdom. Melinda Mathews, formerly of Lebanon, will be a pharmacist in South Korea.

Scott and Valerie Payne, Tullahoma, will work in Thailand as English teachers. Paula Tabor, Springfield, will work as a literacy education worker in Asia through Cooperative Services International. Todd Williams, a University of the South, Sewanee, graduate, will work as a literacy education worker through CSI in Asia. Dawn Wilson, Soddy-Daisy, will be an MK teacher in South Brazil.

## Education ...

Spiritual Emphasis Week at Belmont College will be Sept. 5-7. Leslie Hollon, pastor of Wornall Road Church, Kansas City, Mo., will speak each morning at 10 a.m. on "The Life Adventure," specifically on "Finding Your Place," "Finding Your Answers," and "Finding Your Happiness."

Suzanne Matheny, staff member 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 of Union University, Jackson, was elected membership chairperson. Both were incorrectly identified as students in the Aug. 22 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

## McPheeters Bend retires debt six years early

McPheeters Bend Church in Church Hill held a special day of celebration Aug. 19.

Church members witnessed the burning of the note on their four-year-old church plant, six years ahead of schedule. The 187-year-old church is now debt-free.

Pastor Larry R. Parrott said the

church began its journey in 1985 when members voted to relocate and build on new property. Church members moved into the present facility Aug. 24, 1986.

Total cost of the relocated church plant, consisting of a two-story, colonial style, 12,760-square-foot building, was \$535,562.

The church had to borrow \$215,000 in December 1986. The note was for ten years with monthly payments of \$2665, Parrott reported.

Church members, led by the late G. Reece Gibson, a local juvenile court judge who died about one year ago, decided to retire the debt sooner if possible.

Gibson convinced "our people to believe in themselves," Parrott recalled.

He noted the church sponsored various projects during the past four years with proceeds going toward the building fund. Projects included quilting, making apple butter, redeeming manufacturers' rebates, and fish dinners.

"The church working together has taken care of the bulk of the debt," Parrott said.

He noted the extra projects were not done at the expense of the church's regular budget. Instead it "strengthened our church with a sweet and peaceful fellowship," Parrott said.

"It has been a beautiful time to be at McPheeters' Bend Church," Parrott concluded.

The traditional founding date for McPheeters Bend Church is 1803. The church is a member of Holston Valley Association. — Lonnie Wilkey



**DEBT-FREE** — Members of the building and finance committee at McPheeters Bend Church in Church Hill witnessed the burning of the note on their four-year-old church plant. From left, Willard Ryans; Mary Rose Newland; Dana Davis; Kim Kelton, chairman; Pastor Larry R. Parrott; Hobert Cavin, chairman of the trustees; Brenda Christian, treasurer; Nina Love, Claudette Kelton; and Ted Harris.

# Missionaries leave Liberia as peace-keeping force waits

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Fran Laughridge confirmed Aug. 15 that they had evacuated Liberia two days before, after new safety concerns arose from a possible move into their area by a West African peace-keeping force.

The Laughridges and their son Edward, 20, left their mission station in Mano River early Aug. 13 and crossed the Liberian border by jeep into Sierra Leone.

The family was prepared to walk into Sierra Leone if roads proved impassable, or if rebel soldiers confiscated their vehicle, Mrs. Laughridge,

of Great Falls, S.C., told a missionary in Ivory Coast via radio Aug. 12. Her husband is from Rock Hill, S.C.

Once in Sierra Leone, the Laughridges drove about 300 miles to the capital, Freetown, where they contacted mission officials in Ivory Coast by radio Aug. 15.

The Laughridges did not say how long they plan to stay in Freetown, but they do not expect to return to Liberia until they talk further with mission officials, Mrs. Laughridge said.

With the Laughridges' evacuation, Earl Williams of West Monroe, La., is the only Southern Baptist missionary remaining in Liberia. Williams has

returned for a short stay at his mission station in Yekepa, where fighting forced him and his family to flee in late March.

Williams first returned to Yekepa in June, while his wife, Jane, of Knoxville, Tenn., and son Kenneth, nine, stayed in Ivory Coast. Since then Williams has moved back and forth between Ivory Coast and Liberia several times carrying supplies of medicine and food.

About 2000 people live in the rebel-controlled Yekepa area. Most are members of the Gio and Mano tribes. Some never left the area; others have re-entered Liberia after evacuating to refugee camps in Guinea and Ivory Coast, Williams said.

Conditions at some refugee camps are no better than in many of the looted Liberian villages, he said.

"A six-year-old child had died the night before," Williams said in a recent letter. "The child became sick in a camp across in Guinea and his parents had brought him into Yekepa. The father begged me to take the child somewhere else for treatment, but it was too late. With no doctor and few drugs, the child did not make it."

Williams has also held worship services in Yekepa.

## TBC Brotherhood Convention dates set

The upcoming Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood Convention will include fellowship meetings based on occupation and interests, and speakers Robert Dixon, executive director, Texas Baptist Men, and Douglas Beggs, director of adult division, Brotherhood Commission.

The meeting will be held Sept. 14-15 at Clearview Church, Franklin.

Other speakers are Doug Manley, 1990 Youth Speakout winner of Cleveland; Leroy Atchley, aircraft salesman, Germantown; Harold Dillon, Columbia; Dewey Dunn, physician, Nashville; Edith Malone, Memphis; Doyle McNabb, Cleveland; and Bob Norman, pastor, Clearview Church.

Gene Williams, Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood president from Church Hill, will preside and music will be provided by the Cornerstone Quartet of Collierville.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ends at noon Saturday.

For more information, contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department at (615) 373-2255.

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# Saul seeks David's life

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

Intense jealousy can turn a friend into a foe. In our lesson this week we see how David was moved from being Saul's favorite to Saul's enemy. Take note of three principles in the life of David.

David's tests (18:6-30)

David went through three significant tests after his victory over Goliath. The first was the test of popularity. David received tremendous praise for his great military victory. In turn this praise caused intense jealousy to well up in Saul's heart.



HAUN

Praise can do one of two things to us. It can cause some to become humble realizing the praise belongs to God alone. In others it reveals pride and a desire for self-glory. Strong is the man who can handle the praise of men.

David passed this important test.

A second test David endured was the test of demotion. David was the head of Saul's troops, but in verses 12-16 Saul's envy and jealousy led to David's demotion to the rank of captain where he would be in charge of just 1000 men. The jealous whims of our enemies are not unnoticed by God. David did not change. He remained faithful.

The third test David endured was the test of disappointment. The daughter Saul promised to the man who killed Goliath (17-25) was given to another man. Saul even used his youngest daughter, Michal, to plan David's death by the Philistines, but David prevailed again. Grudgingly, Saul gave Michal to David in marriage. Saul's jealous anger grew more and more intense.

We see in these verses that some of our greatest enemies are not the giants we battle, but the daily tests we face.

David's trust (19:1-24)

Our nature, after being burned by

someone we thought we could trust, is to become untrusting and suspicious. But David's life depended on trusting the advice of three people.

First, David had to trust Jonathan. The command came to Saul's aides and to Jonathan to kill David. But Jonathan was a trustworthy friend. He attempted to mediate between his father and David. Saul's agreement to spare David was not out of a changed mind and heart. No sooner does David win a great victory on the battlefield than Saul's old envy returns.

David also had to trust his wife, Michal. In verses 11-17 she warned him that Saul was having him watched. David fled at night and Michal put an idol in David's bed to make it appear he was sick and asleep. When the soldiers arrived the next morning they uncovered her secret. Michal blamed the scheme on David and said he had threatened to kill her.

Finally, David had to trust Samuel. Samuel offered David a temporary home to escape Saul's wrath. When Saul heard of Samuel's refuge for David, he sent troops to bring David back. An amazing wonder took place.

The troops began to prophesy in the Spirit of God. This happened three times. Finally, Saul went to bring David back but Saul prophesied too. Although Saul spoke God's words, he was not thinking God's thoughts.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
September 2 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 18:6-20:42

David's troubles (20:1-42)

David was again forced to flee Naioth and return to Jonathan. Jonathan was in total disbelief when David revealed to him Saul's scheme to kill him. Jonathan lied to his father about David's whereabouts. This precipitated rage in Saul's heart. Just as with David, Saul flung a spear at Jonathan. The next day Jonathan reported the news to David. They wept together and then said goodbye.

Even today the devil can use people in our lives to attack us. We must always remain true to God, even when those around us disappoint us and hurt us. When you are wronged, don't become bitter — become better.

# Samuel and Saul

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

God led His people, the Israelites, into their land; He gave them a prescription for a long and successful life (Joshua 1:7, 8); He fought for them against their enemies. Yet there came a day when they wanted a king to set on a throne in their land. The motivation was likely threefold: (1) a rising national pride made them want to be like their neighbors; (2) Samuel's sons, who would likely succeed their father, were corrupt; (3) a developing military threat caused them to want a strong leader with military skills.



PIPPIN

The elders voiced this desire for a king to Samuel (1 Samuel 8:5). The request displeased Samuel because it

was a repudiation of his administration and there was the danger of their turning away from God. However, he took the matter to God and God told him to give the people a king (1 Samuel 8:6, 7). The Lord encouraged Samuel by reminding him this was a rejection of their God, not their judge. Then He instructed Samuel to make it clear the people would pay a heavy price for the kind of rule they wanted (1 Samuel 8:11-18). God honored them by letting them make a choice and they chose a king (1 Samuel 8:19-20). God did not violate that right of choice, but they would have to take the consequences for their choice.

The focus of this lesson is on the public selection of Saul, their first king. Samuel called the people together at Mizpah where he had led them in a spiritual renewal (1 Samuel 7:5ff).

Before the public selection of the

king, the prophet reminded them no king could do for them what God had done. No king could be as powerful and

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
September 2 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 8; 10:17-27

generous as the Lord. To request a king was a rejection of their King. Such a sinful request, though granted, made it necessary for the people to come near God in submission (10:19).

The prophet proceeded to publicly select the king by lot (10:20-21). The public act, regarded as a Divine decision, accredited Saul before the nation and most certainly assured him of his selection by God.

Saul showed several commendable qualities. He did not pursue the office. His hiding among the baggage was a sign of humility. His height was a desirable quality for a military leader. The shame is that these characteristics were later perverted by Saul. In spite of all this, the Lord was able to work.

The people saw Saul, heard Samuel's recommendation, and acknowledged

Saul as their king (10:23-24). They now had their king and it was Divine providence which guided them even though it was against God in intention.

The selection of the king was followed by setting forth the permanent regulations for the monarchy (10:25).

There are a number of lessons in this incident. First, the Israelites were keeping up with the Smiths, but they never asked where the Smiths were going. That is a disastrous course for the people of God. Second, Israel's demand for a king was not best for them. However, God did not turn from them or refuse to work with them. Surely God's children should do no less in their dealings with others. Third, even leaders are subject to God's laws. If they fail to follow Him, they will fail. Fourth, though God knew Saul's weaknesses, He chose to work through him and sought to help him. He will demonstrate the same all-sufficient grace to do the same for us and through us. Go ahead and follow Him when He calls! Fifth, God allows man to make choices, but man must live with the consequences of those choices.

# Growing in the Christian life

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

Football season is near and players are getting prepared. During two-a-day practices, coaches drill players on the basics of football, such as blocking and tackling. The players are also put through rigorous training to get them in tip-top shape.

This five-session unit is designed to help Christians grow and get in shape. We will rehearse basics such as Bible study, prayer, worship, fellowship, doing good, and sharing the good news. The lesson for this week reminds us that Bible study and prayer help us grow spiritually.



WREN

Be your best (2 Timothy 2:15)

The pursuit of excellence in any field requires diligence. Mediocrity abounds today because people are unwilling to apply themselves to be the best. To be

the best demands discipline, determination, and devotion.

The word "study" is not a classroom word and has nothing to do with books and teachers. Translated, it means to "be diligent." This word encourages a person to try hard, do his or her best, and use time wisely.

Paul believed workers would be either "approved" or "ashamed" before God. The word "approved" was used to describe precious metals whose authenticity had been proven in the fires of testing. Paul wanted Timothy to be genuine and able to pass all tests. He did not want him to have to hang his head in shame.

If we pursue excellence in our Christian living, we must properly interpret, apply, and use God's Word. "Rightly dividing" means "to skillfully handle" the Word of God.

As we come to the close of each day, will we be approved by God or ashamed before God? If we pursued excellence, we will be approved.

Do your best (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Christians grow and are able to do their best only as they abide in the Word of God. In verse 14, Paul exhorted Timothy to "continue" in the truths of God's Word which had been taught to him and not run after every faddish doctrine.

It is through the Scriptures that we experience "the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). It is through these same Scriptures that a believer can experience the fullness of God's salvation (v. 15).

The Scriptures are "God-breathed" (v. 16). The direct creative activity of

**LIFE AND WORK**  
September 2 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Mathew 6:5-8; Luke 22:40

God brought the Scriptures into existence. The Bible is different from other books because of its divine origin

and purpose. God inspired fishermen, farmers, tax collectors, shepherds, kings, and others in the divine production of the Bible. God has been responsible for its miraculous preparation and preservation.

The Bible is a pertinent book. It is alive and active. It provides us with instructions we need for Christian living. When errors and mistakes in our lives need attention, the Bible is profitable for "reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (v. 16). The Scriptures equip Christians for fruitful service (v. 17).

To do our best, we must be well-trained, experienced, and competent. There is no way this can be achieved apart from the Word of God.

Pray your best

(Matthew 6:5-8; Luke 22:40)

In verse 5, Jesus assumed His disciples would make prayer a daily habit. He warned them against praying like the hypocrites who used prayer as a speech to impress others. He did not want them to pray like pagans who used empty repetitions.

Jesus reminded his followers that prayer was a matter between them and God.

# Arizona convention cuts budget, trims state staff

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — A pared-down budget for 1991 that cuts seven positions from the staff and trims \$315,000 from the 1990 budget has been adopted by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Three of the seven positions are currently filled by missionaries jointly employed by the Arizona Convention and the SBC Home Mission Board. The positions will be funded until the end of 1990.

The \$4,942,159 budget will be presented for approval at the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in November. The 1991 budget represents a 5.65 percent decrease from the

1990 budget.

During 1990, Cooperative Program unified receipts have not kept pace with the budget adopted last November, and in May the 1990 budget was reduced by \$315,000. ASBC Business Operations Manager Craig Jones attributed the decline to the economy and to "slowly-increasing income and rapidly-increasing expenses."

If adjusted projections are correct, the convention expects to receive \$2,250,000 in Cooperative Program contributions from Arizona Southern Baptist churches in both 1990 and 1991.

Other income sources for 1991 include \$1,195,768 from the Southern Baptist

Home Mission Board, \$41,100 from the SBC Sunday School Board, and \$765,000 in designated contributions for state, home, and foreign missions.

For the first time, the proposed budget provides \$300,000 to pay interest owed to investors by the Arizona Baptist Loan Fund, which is a direct part of the state convention.

The proposed 1991 budget will eliminate seven positions from the state convention staff, including five from the evangelism/missions division and two from the church growth and development division. Further savings will come in other areas of the convention through attrition, as positions that

have become vacant remain unfilled.

Positions being eliminated will result in the termination of Trudy Johnson, director of missions ministries in Phoenix; Jackie McClung, director of church and community ministries in Mesa; and David Garza, church planter/catalytic missionary in Tucson.

Bob Warren, evangelism/missions division director, told the Executive Board he had talked with the three missionaries and assured them the elimination of their positions was not a reflection on the quality of their work. He said the convention will work with the Home Mission Board to help the missionaries find other positions.

# Belmont senior maintains 'drawl' after summer in the Bronx

By Mona Collett

NASHVILLE — Summer missions took Russell Gill away from Middle Tennessee, but his drawl is no less Southern after having spent time in the Bronx.



**SUMMER MISSIONARY** — Russell Gill, a senior at Belmont College, helps a child during day camp at Wake-Eden Church, Bronx, N.Y. Gill is a member of Immanuel Church in McEwen. — Photo by Mark Wingfield

Entering his senior year at Belmont College, this was Gill's first summer missionary assignment. And while the Bronx was not among his first choices for summer missions, his experience proved to be a rich learning experience.

Gill returned from the Bronx as a strong advocate for the summer missionary program. "I'd like for people to see how important it (the summer missions program) is," he says. While the purpose of missions is to help others, Gill is a convincing example of the personal growth opportunities a summer mission assignment offers.

### Spiritual growth

For someone who likes to "stick around home," Gill found himself far away from everything that was comfortable. God was his only source of familiarity in New York City. "He alone comforted me," testifies Gill.

The McEwen/Waverly native is one hour away from home when attending Belmont, and he takes advantage of every opportunity to visit. His seven-week stay in the Bronx is the longest period of time he has spent away from

home. He credits God for protecting him from becoming homesick.

Overall, Gill evaluates himself as a "stronger, tougher Christian" after his summer experience.

### Relationship building

Gill was one of a team of six assigned to Jamaican congregations under the direction of Home Mission Board appointee Sam Simpson. In addition to working with Wake-Eden Church, the team spent time working with Bronx Church. Wake-Eden began as a mission of the Bronx church.

Gill was the only male on the team and he says he learned a lot about interpersonal communication. While the individual team members were very different — "some were introverts and some extraverts," according to Gill — they became a family. They may have had to go their separate ways during the day (all were working in day camp), but sharing the evening meal "brought our family back together," he recalls.

New York City has the reputation of being cold-hearted but "I don't believe that," Gill says. He exercised a

healthy amount of caution in getting around in an unfamiliar city, but he found the people to be receptive.

The summer proved to Gill that "people are the same wherever you go. Children are children. No matter what culture, no matter what environment they live in, they all just want to be loved," he observes.

### Decision making

Some of Gill's teammates are considering careers in missions. "I have another calling," says Gill, a political science major with aspirations to be "a Christian politician." But he affirms the summer mission experience is a good one to help college students in the decision-making process about careers.

Gill was co-director of day camp for seven- to 14-year-olds. He helped plan daily activities along with his supervisor, Maisie Bruce. One of his responsibilities during seven weeks of camp was "driving food to-and-fro" for the 80-plus kids. Reflecting on the fact that he drove all over New York City he shakes his head and says, "I still can't believe I did it."

# Summer missions takes bite out of prejudice

By Mark Wingfield

NEW YORK — Walls of prejudice and apathy came tumbling down this summer for 26 college students immersed in metropolitan New York City for ten weeks of ministry.

"When I was taken out of the Bible Belt and put here, where you don't have a church on every corner and Baptist churches have to fight for survival, it opened my eyes," said Russell Gill, a Belmont College senior from Waverly.

Upon seeing the tiny facilities of Graffiti Baptist Center where summer missionaries held day camps, fed the homeless, and led worship, the Tennessean said, "We've got Sunday School rooms bigger than this at home."

Gill was among 26 summer missionaries assigned to Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, which encompasses the city's five boroughs and suburban New Jersey.

In all, 1369 Southern Baptist college students served as summer missionaries this year. Of that number, 676 were appointed by the Home Mission Board for service across the nation, 310 were appointed by Baptist Student Unions

for work within their state conventions and 383 were appointed by BSUs for work outside their state conventions.

Although every summer missionary faced a change in culture, the 26 who ventured from mostly small southern towns to the nation's largest city took a quantum leap.

Spending a summer in New York City helps students gain a "global awareness of needs," said Mike Chance, who coordinates the summer missions program for the association.

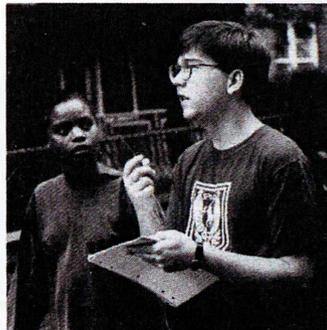
The association assigns summer missionaries to a variety of places, ranging from traditional churches to mission points to ministry centers. Some serve by themselves, while others serve in groups of two to six.

Chad Miller, a Samford University sophomore from Chattanooga, spent the summer working with low-income children at Trinity Chapel in LeFrak City, a cluster of high-rise apartment buildings in Queens.

He and three other Samford students led a day camp, took the children on field trips and assisted with other ministries of Trinity Chapel. Through their work, the

students faced prejudices of race, culture, religion, and economics.

"I've learned more about myself — patience, dealing with totally different kinds of people," Miller said. "I've learned to appreciate where I'm from, my church, and my family."



**SUMMER IN NEW YORK** — Chad Miller, a sophomore at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., leads a field trip for children attending summer day camp at Trinity Chapel, part of a complex of high-rise apartment buildings called LeFrak City in Queens, N.Y. Miller, a Tennessean, is from Central Church in Chattanooga.

# Tullahoma church cited for media library work

NASHVILLE — Highland Church of Tullahoma has been cited as one of six Southern Baptist small churches nationwide for good church media library administration and unusual accomplishment.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church media library department noted that Highland's media library ministers to a congregation of 201 average Sunday School attendance by providing Bible and book repair service. It also provides the church's visitation ministry with resources to meet specific needs.

A video and audio tape ministry also is provided, as well as resources for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School teachers, special emphases, and children's reading programs.

Barbara Freese, a church media library consultant at the board, made the presentation to Eleanor Shaver, director of media library at Highland Church, during Church Media Library Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center July 14-20.

Freese said department personnel evaluated nominations by state media library directors based on the size of the church, the media library's budget, and what had been accomplished.

Don Dixon is pastor of Highland Church.