

Baptist and Reflector

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NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Franklin pastor says: Making most of opportunity while waiting

Selective evangelism causes problems in SBC churches

GLORIETA, N.M. — Instead of recognizing the worth of every man and woman, boy and girl, Southern Baptists are too often guilty of practicing selective evangelism, Rick White said at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

"We may be good witnesses. We may be bad witnesses. But we're all witnesses, and we're not to practice selective evangelism. We are to tell all people everywhere," White, pastor of First Church, Franklin, Tenn., told participants in the Small Sunday School Leadership Conference Aug. 20-24.

While it seems obvious to say the number one task of the church is sharing the Gospel with non-Christians, White said too many people and churches do not practice the priority.

He cited a Gallup Poll in which only 11 percent of Christians listed evangelism as the number one priority.

"Eighty-nine percent in effect said 'we believe there is some other priority for the mission of the church,'" said White.

"I believe abortion may be the national sin of this country, but I don't believe standing against abortion is the number one priority of the church," he said. "I believe in helping the hungry, but that is not the number one priority.

"We may stop abortion. We may feed the world. But if we don't tell the people we help about Jesus, they are hopelessly lost," White continued.

He said many churches need to experience a kind of conversion to become "consumed with reaching people. If we are going to reach this world, something must transpire in my heart and in your heart."

To reach people and experience growth in churches, White said the debates need to cease about quality versus quantity and evangelism versus discipleship.

"If we are winning people, we also will be helping them grow to become reproductive agents themselves," said White.

Churches also need to be willing to adjust their methodologies to the needs of a changing world, he said.

"We need to examine the methodologies by which we are doing church. We need to be flexible," said White.

Finally, he urged, develop strategies and plans to grow.

"I think God blesses a well-organized, well-thought-out strategy for reaching people," said White.

Graham acts as unofficial chaplain

By Erich Bridges and Art Toalston
AMMAN, Jordan (BP) — The first jet to carry women or children foreigners out of Iraq arrived in Amman, Jordan, Aug. 31, but neither Southern Baptist missionary Laurie Graham nor her two sons were among the passengers.

The Grahams were among some 1000 American women and children still being detained Aug. 31 despite Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's promise to free the American dependents.

Mrs. Graham of Hutchinson, Kansas, and her husband, Maurice, of Shelbyville, had been working at a Kuwait church less than three months when Iraqi troops stormed the country in the early morning hours of Aug. 2.

A spokesman at the U.S. State Department said Aug. 31 that Hussein's stated willingness to let foreign women and children leave Iraq and Kuwait so far has been nullified by "so many obstacles and procedures that have been laid down that it has been impossible for anybody to actually succeed in doing so."

For example, the Iraqis are insisting that American women in particular must show proof of having paid all local taxes, the spokesman said, which could be difficult for hostages in war-torn Kuwait.

One reported problem, however, may have been invalidated Aug. 30 when Iraq's ambassador to the United States denied reports that Iraq had demanded that airplanes arriving for hostages must bring in food and medicine.

Convention president sets call to prayer

WITCHITA FALLS, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman has issued a Call to Prayer concerning the crisis in the Persian Gulf region. Calling for a cooperative prayer effort in Southern Baptist congregations, Chapman stated that "the tension in the Middle East has the potential of exploding into a war of unparalleled proportions. The consequences would be devastating to every nation on earth."

Chapman has asked every Southern Baptist church to set aside time in morning worship for a period of prayer beginning 11:11 a.m. on Sunday, September 9. The churches are asked to pray specifically for "our President, his cabinet, the Congress, our diplomatic corps, the men and women of our armed forces and their families as well as those civilians held in the area against their will and their families." Chapman also asked for prayer for the "innocent men, women, and children in the area who are being subjected to the daily threat of violence."

Women and children comprise about one-third of the estimated 500 American hostages in Iraq and 2500 in Kuwait, according to the State Department. By its count in Kuwait, there are some 500 women, about 25 of whom are pregnant; 350 children ages three to 18, including the Grahams' 13- and ten-year-old sons; and 60 infants.

The Graham family took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait after the invasion, along with an undisclosed number of other Americans. The State Department acknowledged Aug. 29 that food and water supplies at the embassy compound were sufficient for only "several days."

"For security reasons, we don't give estimates as to how long they can hold out," the State Department spokesman said Aug. 31.

Meanwhile, Graham has become an unofficial chaplain at the embattled embassy, according to an American woman who was permitted to leave the country Aug. 23.

Graham was leading nightly prayer services at the embassy and was scheduling appointments for anyone wanting advice or a listening ear, said Deanna Darden of Dallas in a telephone interview Aug. 31.

Darden was in a 33-car convoy of embassy-related officials and dependents that left Kuwait Aug. 23. She and 51 other women and children finally crossed into Turkey Aug. 26 after three nights of uncertainty in Baghdad, Iraq's capital. Her husband, Monte, was among some 50 U.S. men in the convoy who were detained in Baghdad as hostages.

Darden, who stayed in a hotel across the street from the embassy, recounted that as Americans came to the embassy compound for refuge, they would take note of anyone who knew something about plumbing or carpentry or other matters that may need attention there.

"One of the ladies said, 'The only thing we need is someone now who can fix peoples' heads.' And the next day Maurice came," Darden said.

Graham's counseling extended to a group of 68 women and children dependents of British military advisers to the Kuwait government. The men had been taken to Baghdad while the dependents were confined for several days at the hotel where Darden was staying.

The Baptist representative's visits to
(Graham acts, page 5)

HMB appoints five Tennesseans



DEAN

ATLANTA — Five missionaries with Tennessee ties were appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in August.

David Dean will serve as director of missions at the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. Cynthia Wallin was appointed to family and church service in Forest, Va. Dianne Boulware, also appointed to family and church service, will serve in Altoona, Penn. Larry and Susan McCrary will travel to Marietta, Ga., where he will be a church planter apprentice and she will work in family and church service.

Originally from Old Hickory, Dean and his wife Carolyn currently reside in Massachusetts where he is pastor of First Church, Sudbury. Dean is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



L. McCRARY



S. McCRARY

Mrs. Wallin, born in Memphis, will serve as a missionary associate in Virginia with her husband Richard, who will serve as a church planter.

A native of Rogersville, Dianne Boulware has been appointed a missionary apprentice in Pennsylvania. She will serve with her husband, James, who is pastor of the Bread of Life Chapel in Altoona, Penn. A graduate of Tift College, Forsyth, Ga., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Mrs. Boulware has held positions as a therapist and a teacher.

Both natives of Knoxville, the McCrarys will travel to Marietta, Ga., to serve as missionary apprentices. He is a graduate of State Technical Institute, Knoxville; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and Southwestern Seminary. McCrary has served as regional vice president for the Tennessee Baptist Recreation Association in 1988. Mrs. McCrary is a graduate of Furman University in Greenville, S.C. She has done volunteer service as an aerobics instructor and a Kids for Christ teacher.



WALUN

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Editorials

Cheer up, saints of God, there's no need to fear

From time to time, groups appear and astound the world with announcements that the world is coming to an end.

With somber news from the Middle East these days, once again we are hearing predictions coming from solemn prognosticators. It's almost as if Chicken Little were still busily scurrying about, telling one and all that the "sky is falling."

The fact is that even though there have been thousands of such predictions about end time calamity — it has not happened. Not since Noah's days has the world been threatened with destruction — at least on God's timetable.

Because of what is happening in the Middle East, some folks say, "Yes, but look at the players on the stage, look at the Bible. Doesn't it all mean that the final days are being played out?"

Only a few months ago a man made money by selling a book about his "computerized" method of naming the date for the world's end. It didn't happen that day either.

Almost thirty years ago, some astrologers in India predicted the world would end on February 4, 1961. You have the answer — it did not happen. But many people believed the astrologers when they said that on that day, a cluster of five planets and other celestial bodies would be centered in one "corner" of the sky.

All that action, they said, would trigger storms, earthquakes, floods, fires. They also said the sky probably would collapse and fall.

Many people, especially in India, changed their plans. Marriages were cancelled. Trips were averted. Businesses sold out.

And when the prediction failed, Hindu priests said the world was saved from destruction because of their prayers and rituals. They held a vigil of 16 days, burned eight tons of firewood sprinkled with 2400 pounds of butter oil.

That was strange action to Christians who know and trust the Living Lord Christ. But the "prophets" would have gotten little attention except for one fact — most people are afraid of death. Pain and destruction we abhor.

But Christians, regardless of the world situation, regardless of the severity of discord and the threat of cataclysmic war, know that God Himself is in charge. He is in charge of this period of history just as He has always been in charge.

Jesus still says to us, "Fear not," and "Let not your heart be troubled." He reminded the curious that not even He knew when the last day would come up on God's calendar.

Fanatics will continue to make predictions. Sometimes the old earth's trials are so desperate that we tend to believe the prophecies. Each in-

stance reminds us that terrible day will come.

But the reality known by each Christian is simple. The Bible teaches that "this same Jesus" who ascended to be with the Father after His cruel crucifixion and consummate resurrection — will return. New Testament witnesses heard the proclamation.

That is a fact, no speculation. One writer says that Christ did it once, and He can do it again. There is no need for prayer vigils — rather, we should prepare for His coming in a lifestyle of prayer. There is no need to burn thousands of pounds of incense-soaked wood — rather, we should burn out ourselves in His service.

The Middle East situation does call for much, much prayer. But the truth that God is in control gives rest to weary hearts. — WFA

How will Congress vote on 'art'?

Baptists are often categorized along with other Christians as "Bible-thumpers" and religious fanatics when they oppose something they deem wrong or unwholesome.

The old and worn statement about "forcing one's beliefs on another" is often used. Accusers easily ignore the fact that it works both ways.

American Family Association of Tupelo, Mississippi, has done much to keep Americans aware of evils in society — such as pornography in every area of life.

We are informed that some United States congressmen are fashioning a parliamentary procedure to re-fund the National Endowment for the Arts without renewed authorization. Authorization must be voted by Congress every five years — and this is the year. The vote should come in September.

However, there may be an attempt to allow House and Senate members to continue to provide tax funds for the NEA without voting directly on the issue of tax funding of pornographic and anti-Christian "art."

The issue is simple. Our tax dollars have funded "art" that is extremely offensive to the Christian community. Many Christians would agree that artists have freedom to create whatever they want to. But tax dollars should not be used to fund that which is patently designed to ridicule and offend one segment of American society.

We believe Congress should have to vote on the funding without any plan to bypass responsibility. Write or call Senators Al Gore and Jim Sasser — and your own congressman. Funding for such pornographic "art" by the congress gives it a stamp of federal approval. — WFA

Whitehead nominee for new CLC post in Washington

NASHVILLE (BP) — Michael K. Whitehead, a Kansas City, Mo., lawyer and deacon at First Church, Rayton, will be nominated as general counsel and director of Christian Citizenship and Religious Liberty Concerns of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

If approved by CLC trustees at their meeting Sept. 10-13 in Nashville, Whitehead will join the CLC's Washington, D.C., staff Oct. 1. He will succeed Larry Braidfoot, who resigned from the CLC staff in May to accept a position as academic vice president at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Whitehead, 40, will specialize in religious liberty and Christian citizenship issues. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans in June approved changes in the CLC's

program statement adding religious liberty as an assignment in addition to Christian ethics, social concerns, and public policy.

In 1980, Whitehead and his law partner, Jim Smart, handled an equal-access case before the U.S. Supreme Court. That case, known as *Widmar vs. Vincent*, involved the right of Christian students to hold Bible studies and prayer meetings in the student union at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. The court ruled in the students' favor. That case is considered a pivotal decision leading to the 1990 *Mergens* case. In the *Mergens* case, the court ruled that the equal-access principle of *Widmar* applies to public high schools as well as colleges.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Missouri, Whitehead received his law degree in 1975 from

the university's law school. He has practiced law in Kansas City since 1978. He is with the law firm of Crews, Smart, Whitehead, and Waits. From 1975 to 1978 he was a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he prosecuted criminal cases.

He was converted and baptized at age ten in First Church, Independence, Mo. Whitehead has served in a number of lay positions at First Church, Raytown.

His other affiliations include the Kansas City chapter of Lawyers for Life, the Washington, D.C.-based Christian Legal Society, the Heart of America Christian Justice Center in Kansas City, and the Kansas City chapter of Coalition Against Pornography. He and his wife, Janet, have

three children.

"We feel Mike is God's man for this job," said CLC Executive Director Richard Land.

New Home Church calls Tim Hodges as pastor

Tim Hodges was recently called as pastor of New Home Church, Martin.

Although he most recently served as pastor of a church in Kentucky, he has been pastor of McConnell Church, Martin, and Bear Springs Church, Dover.

Ordained in 1979 at Lakeview Church, Benton, Ky., Hodges earned a bachelor's degree at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky.

The Calvert City, Ky., native and his wife, Kathy, have two sons.

Union offers two seminary courses

Courses in educational administration and Christian philosophy will be Union University's fall semester offering through its seminary studies program.

The classes, which carry three hours credit each, lead to the master of divinity degree from any of the six seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Registration will be held at 10 a.m. on Sept. 10 at the Jackson campus, said John Adams, vice president for religious affairs at Union. Registration fees are \$75 per credit hour and courses can be audited for non-credit at a rate of \$75 per class.

Classes will meet on Mondays from Sept. 10 to Dec. 10 with a break on Nov. 12.

Educational Administration 42000 will consist of the major areas of concern in contemporary Christian education with emphasis on the role of educational ministry. The class will meet from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Christian Philosophy 28500 will focus on a historical study of the basic issues in the philosophy of religion. It will meet from 3:30-7 p.m. Both classes will be taught in Room C-12 at the college.

Bob Johnson, dean of Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Ky., will lead the administration class while Dr. L. Joey Rosas, assistant professor of religion and philosophy at Union, will teach the philosophy course.

For more information, contact Adams at 668-1818, ext. 300.

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Stetson seeks cut in funding, change in trustee election

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Stetson University has asked Florida Baptists to reduce their funding of the university in exchange for granting the Baptist-affiliated school more autonomy in the election of its trustees.

The proposal, which was drafted by Stetson President Douglas Lee and Florida Baptist Convention Executive Director John Sullivan, was presented to the convention's budget and allocations committee Aug. 17 in Jacksonville and will be considered by the state board of missions in September.

Under the plan, Florida Baptists would give up their right to approve the nomination of Stetson trustees, although they still would participate in the nomination process for the three-fourths of trustees who are Baptists. At the same time, the convention would cut its financial support of the DeLand school almost in half by 1995, and perhaps stop sending any more money to the school by the year 2000.

Lee and Sullivan emphasized the proposal would not sever or dramatically change the 105-year relationship between the convention and the school, which has about 500 Baptist students among the 2000 enrolled. Instead, they said, the proposal would make an increasingly tense relationship more livable.

For years, Stetson has suffered criticism from some Florida Baptists for what they perceive to be a lack of

Eual Ursery dies

Eual Ursery, 61, died Aug. 25 at his home in Clarksville.

Ursery was pastor of Little Hope Church for 17 years, Cumberland Association, and had served on the TBC Executive Board.

He was a native Tennessean and a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville.

John Laida, retired pastor of First Church, Clarksville, led the funeral service at Little Hope Church.

Pastor Ursery is survived by his wife and three sons, William, St. Louis; Danny, Nashville; and David, Clarksville. The family suggests donations to the Little Hope building fund in lieu of other remembrances.

Christian influence on both the curriculum and campus life. Several on-campus incidents, including an alleged rape two years ago in a fraternity house, have strained the relationship further.

"Sullivan told the committee he supports the proposal 'wholeheartedly' as good for Stetson and the state convention. 'It maintains the integrity of our mutual commitment to the Gospel and at the same time allows us to address a long-standing problem, with Christian decorum rather than knee-jerk reality,'" he said.

The proposal gradually would reduce Florida Baptist funding of Stetson from the 1990 level of \$950,000 to \$500,000 by 1995. Convention funding would remain at the \$500,000 level from 1995 to 2000 and be used to build a \$3 million endowment.

Stetson, meanwhile, would seek to raise another \$3 million for the endowment. If the combined \$6 million goal is achieved, the Florida Baptist Endowment of Stetson University would

Southwestern faculty support McBeth, book

FORT WORTH, Texas — Calling the decision not to publish a book by Leon McBeth an "arbitrary act of censorship," the faculty at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here voted unanimously to affirm the book's author and encouraged publication of the manuscript.

The seminary professors, meeting for their annual retreat Aug. 24, greeted McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern, with sustained applause as a show of support for McBeth and his book.

McBeth's book, written for the centennial of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, became an issue when trustees voted to counsel the administration not to proceed with the publishing of the book. Johnny Godwin, vice-president of office of general publishing, announced that the book would not be published.

McBeth, who has taught at Southwestern Seminary for 30 years, wrote the book at the request of the Sunday School Board. But board

provide the 2000 student school an annual income of \$360,000, which Lee said would be used primarily for scholarships for Baptist students.

Lee said the proposal not only would provide much-needed endowment for the school but free up Florida Baptist money for urgent mission needs.

Those urgent mission needs have caused Florida Baptists to shift their priorities in recent years, now focusing on evangelism, new churches, church development, and selected social issues, Lee said.

"Liberal arts education and/or university education is a priority for Florida Baptists, but it no longer ranks among the highest level of Florida Baptist Convention priorities," Lee added. Sullivan agreed.

While the Florida Baptist Convention sent 18.5 percent of its budget to Stetson in 1960, that percentage has dropped steadily ever since to the current 4 percent. The \$920,987 earmarked for Stetson in the current budget represents only 2.5 percent of the

university's total income of \$37.5 million.

Stetson would begin the reduction in the current budget year by returning \$50,000 already allocated to the school for 1990. Reductions during the first five years of the plan would free up \$400,000 for other state convention causes, Lee said.

The proposed changes would not alter Stetson's commitment as a Christian institution, Lee said: "The issue for Stetson is that we are Baptist and Christian whether you give us any money or not. . . . If you take all the money away, there's not one thing I would change."

Sullivan listed several reasons why he supports the proposal: it keeps the long-standing relationship intact; it releases badly needed funds for other projects; it maintains Florida Baptist input into selection of Stetson trustees; it is not disruptive to Stetson's long-range budgeting; and it maintains Florida Baptist influence on the religious life of Stetson.

trustees agreed Aug. 15 to scrap the manuscript, which was in the late editing stages. Trustees' spokesman later said McBeth was unbalanced in chronicling conservative confrontations at the board over the past decade.

The resolution of affirmation for McBeth and the book reads in part, "We confess that we fail to understand this arbitrary act of censorship, which we utterly deplore. Therefore, we call upon the trustees of the Sunday School Board to reconsider their action and encourage the board to proceed with the publication of Dr. McBeth's manuscript as soon as possible."

The resolution states that Baptists should "be able to judge for themselves the merits of this work."

McBeth's colleagues on the seminary faculty referred to him as "a competent church historian. We hold Dr. McBeth in the highest esteem, both as a scholar and colleague. His ability as a perceptive Baptist historian and his superb writing style are well known," the resolution states.

It further states that McBeth's "commitment to the fundamentals of the faith as Southern Baptists have formulated them in the Baptist Faith and Message is unquestionable."

McBeth, who said he has received requests from three different publishers to publish the book, said he

Knoxville churches host city-wide prayer meet

A city-wide prayer meeting is set for tonight (Sept. 5) at the Knoxville Coliseum, Knoxville, 8:30 p.m.

The prayer emphasis came out of a Friday night prayer time at Hollywood Hills Church recently, according to Pastor W. P. Roberts. The Friday night group has been meeting at the church for about two years.

"We want to pray together for our world situation — our cities, our state, and our nation as well," said Roberts. He said Governor Ned McWherter and Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe had been invited and that both will send representatives.

He said efforts are underway to involve "the entire body of believers." Several Knoxville churches are helping organize the prayer emphasis.

is uncertain of the manuscript's future. "I hope the (Sunday School Board) trustees would reconsider (the decision)."

McBeth said he does not know the status of the book, but he expressed confidence it will some day be available to Southern Baptists. "I hope and believe that this manuscript will some day come to light," he said. "This is a story which can encourage and help our people. It is a thrilling story that deserves to be told."

Admitting the book is "not perfect," McBeth added, "Nothing I have written is beyond critique, correction, and improvement. I have never claimed this manuscript is perfect. I do not believe, however, that it is slanted or unbalanced."

The book is "precisely the kind of book I was asked to write," McBeth said. "It is an interpretative history."

The 59-year-old professor said he does not anticipate any legal action over the rights to the manuscript. "I could never see myself in an adversarial role against the Sunday School Board," he said. — Scott Collins

TBC registration cards now available

In 1989 a change in the distribution of TBC registration cards was announced. The cost of production and mailing requires this change.

Registration cards can be received for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention from associational directors of missions. Local associational offices will know the number of cards allotted to their churches according to resident membership reported in the 1989 TBC Journal.

The Committee on Credentials appreciates each church's cooperation in this effort. As cards will not be mailed to pastors this year, it is necessary that cards be attained from your associational office.

Any church not affiliated with an association may request cards from Pat Porter, Registration Secretary, TBC, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728 or by calling (615) 373-2255, ext. 4025.



BSU CENTER DEDICATION — The Aug. 26 dedication of the Baptist Student Center for Roane State Community College in Harriman was led by, from left, Jim Hulson, chairman, Big Emory Association Christian Education Committee, and pastor, First Church, Rockwood; George Standridge, building coordinator and member, Shiloh Church, Kingston; Lesia Nave, BSU director; Rodney Wilson, TBC Student Ministries Department; and Ronald Murray, Christian Education Committee member and pastor, First Church, Kingston. A \$28,000 fundraising effort and volunteer labor by Big Emory Association Baptists made the 2400-square-foot building possible. — Photo by Connie Davis

Our Readers Write

Thanks to Tennessees

I wish to extend a deep sense of gratitude to Tennessee Baptists for their contribution towards our recent pastors and wives retreat. Because of the generosity of Tennessee Baptists, we were able to enjoy a tremendous week of inspiration and fellowship.

We were blessed to have Dr. and Mrs. Lowrie, Julian Suggs, and Dr. and Mrs. Murray Mathis with us. With leadership like these, it is no wonder that the Tennessee Baptist Convention is unequalled among conventions.

Please continue to pray for the Lord's work in Michigan. God is doing great things and we want to stay in His will so that even greater things will be done in the future.

John A. Harrison, pastor
Bethany Church
1000 Lincoln Ave.
Lansing, Mich. 48910

Pleased with SBC

On Aug. 19 Second Church, Sevierville, unanimously adopted a new budget for the coming church year. It includes an increase in contribution to the Cooperative Program from five to ten percent of the undesignated offerings. The church is generally encouraged by recent events in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention. New leadership at Baptist Press should, hopefully, provide us with more fair and comprehensive coverage of convention happenings.

The church also applauds the positive changes taking place at the convention sponsored schools and seminaries. It is hoped that more positive changes will take place at our state sponsored colleges. Teachers and professors paid from Cooperative Program gifts should believe and teach God's Word as containing "truth without any mixture of error." Second Church supports the present leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention and its members are disturbed when the administrator of one of its seminaries calls the methods used by immediate past and present leaders "satanic and evil." There is a definite question whether an administrator expressing such a view should be continued on the convention payroll.

However, with a few exceptions, Sec-

ond Church members are optimistic about the future of its convention and prospects for missions and evangelism around the world.

Chris Francis, pastor
Second Church
201 Pigeon St.
Sevierville 37864

Missions to do

As a college student with a mind and heart for missions at one of our Baptist institutions, growing tensions in our convention disturb me greatly. I see our attention drifting from "Bold Mission Thrust" to personal attacks on the character of others.

Here are three observations from someone who is not too young to remember that when we had our eyes so keenly focused on Christ, we did not have the time nor the desire to quarrel among ourselves:

(1) To Morris Chapman and other elected leaders of the Southern Baptist convention: Include us, please! More than 42 percent of the messengers at the 1990 annual meeting in New Orleans voted for Daniel Vestal. This tells that many people in our convention desire a change in the direction our convention is now taking.

(2) To those who are being excluded from their convention: Stand strong on your values and never stoop to do things with which Christ would not be pleased.

(3) To college and seminary students, such as myself, who desire reconciliation in our convention: Get ready! Pull up your blue jeans! Push up your shirt sleeves! God has a job of missions for us to do!

Kent E. Altom
550 Crestwood Dr.
Cookeville 38501

About 'hostages'

As we are daily reminded of hostages in our world today, Southern Baptist Christians would do well to remember other hostages of a different conflict. Though controversy is nothing new to the church of our Lord Jesus Christ or to the Southern Baptist Convention, the recent 12 years have exacted a heavy toll on the forgotten heroes of our current denominational "holy war." I speak about con-

FMB leaders say, 'Try, try again'

Dear Southern Baptists:

The cooperative way is still the best way.

Southern Baptists came together around missions. From the beginning, we struggled to find a way to honor autonomy of churches while planning and working together. The combination of the Cooperative Program and special mission offerings (foreign, home, state, and association) has become the most effective way any group has yet found to jointly support missions and other commonly agreed upon causes. It is a system built on trust and a commitment to financially support together a witness and ministry beyond what each church could do singly.

Some of us from the Foreign Mission Board staff and trustees attended the meeting of Baptists held in Atlanta August 23-25. We went because mission support was being discussed. It seemed prudent to observe and try to assess what impact this might have on our foreign mission effort. It was gratifying that there was expressed a strong desire to continue supporting

our foreign mission effort. It was distressing that the vast majority seemed to feel that distrust and alienation made it impossible to continue that support through the channels of the Cooperative Program as it now exists.

Many Southern Baptists are feeling grief, but it would be a great tragedy for Southern Baptists to revert to an independent church approach for supporting missions and other causes of common concern. It would be highly regrettable for an alternate funding system to be implemented.

For the sake of this lost world, we would call on the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention and the leadership of this group to try one more time to find a way to restore trust and join in support of our agreed upon causes through a single Cooperative Program.

R. Keith Parks, president
Morris H. Mills, 1st VP
Board of Trustees
Foreign Mission Board
3806 Monument Ave.
Richmond, Va. 23230

vention agency leaders and workers. Through personal acquaintances with many such individuals, I have appreciated their expressed commitment to serve all Southern Baptists.

Our "conservative" fellowship has a "right" and a "left," but our diversity is within conservative parameters. Still, pressures exerted "from above" by those whose fortunes have been secured through overtly political forces of the past 12 years collide with appeals of a disenfranchised, yet sizeable, minority "from below."

One could wish they were free to act on concerns that emerge from the right and left of our conservative diversity. Such is no longer the case.

The dilemma our convention agency leaders and workers deal with daily concerns the problem of promoting cooperation in missions where the spirit of cooperation in our larger constituency has been wounded. They mediate the pressure of our conservative diversity with a grace that few will ever know. They deserve better than the stress under which they serve.

Thomas Dumser II, pastor
Edgefield Church
700 Russell St.
Nashville 37206

of the local church, and separation of church and state. There was a renewal of hope.

I do not know where this meeting will lead us, but for the first time in years, I left a large gathering of Baptists feeling good, renewed, and excited about the future.

Bill Savell
1019 West Broadway
Maryville 37801

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.

Good retreat

We want to express our gratitude to the Tennessee Baptist Convention and to D. L. Lowrie, Murray Mathis, and Julian Suggs. Thank you for making possible the pastors and wives retreat at Bambi Lake, Michigan, Aug. 20-23. By providing funds and superb leadership you enabled us, and over 100 other pastors and wives, to experience a truly restful and inspiring time. May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you for your gracious support of His work in our state.

Charles and Ann Watson
Beaconsfield Church
East Detroit, Mich. 48021

Bulls Gap church calls Roy Mullins as pastor

Roy Mullins has been called as pastor of Sunrise Church, Bulls Gap. He was most recently pastor of a mission church in Virginia, where he served has as pastor of several other churches.

The Virginia native was ordained in 1973 at Plainview Church, Jonesville, Va. He and his wife, Burnett, have three children.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

This is the most important week of the year for state missions in Tennessee. Your church will be praying for the needs of our state and will be giving their Golden State Missions Offering.

Just how important is this offering? I am writing this article at 11:00 Wednesday morning. Already today I have talked by phone with a terminated pastor who could be helped by a result of the offering. He and his family can be sustained with emergency funds because of what you do.

I have also spent time with representatives of a new mission church this morning. They can be helped in the securing of the land of their first building and with a loan from our loan funds. The Golden State Missions Offering has made this possible.



LOWRIE

Last week I spoke to a state-wide pastors and wives retreat in Michigan that was partially provided by money from the Golden State Missions Offering.

Just a few days ago I received a glowing report from our annual Special Friends Camp. This camp provides a great camp experience for a wonderful group of mentally handicapped adults. You paid for this through the Golden State Missions Offering. The same could be said for the recent Ethnic Camp where persons from several different nations found the Lord Jesus as Savior.

Today I will go to Camp Carson to speak to the annual Pastors' Retreat. Without the resources provided through this offering, there would be no Camp Carson or Camp Linden.

Do you see why I am so excited about this offering? I see evidences of what it does every day. We are involved in a great work together. Let's meet our 1990 goal and go ever beyond it.

Causeys answer God's call, head toward mission field

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
HUMBOLDT — New Southern Baptist missionaries Guy and Tammy Causey never gave up their desire to answer God's call.

As a sophomore at Columbia State Community College and president of the Baptist Student Union, Causey attended a Christian Career Conference in 1980 sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

It was during that conference that Causey made a "commitment to serve Christ in whatever career it might be."

In 1982 Causey went on a volunteer mission trip to Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) during Tennessee Baptists' partnership with that country that reconfirmed God's calling to mission service.

Eight years later, that calling became a reality when Causey and his wife were appointed as career missionaries during a special commissioning service at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

Ironically, Causey will be returning to Burkina Faso to the same village (San Wabo) and the same house he lived in as a volunteer under missionary agriculturist Larry Cox.

In fact, he is filling the position left vacant since 1986 when Cox and his wife returned to the United States.

Causey recalled that when he first went to Burkina Faso it was for a 30-day mission trip. Those 30 days ended up being two years as Causey decided to remain in the country as a Mission Service Corps volunteer. He was sponsored by Brentwood Church, Brentwood, where he was a member at the time.

Upon returning to Brentwood, Causey wanted to become a career missionary but Foreign Mission Board officials advised him to wait and get a job in agriculture.

Causey obtained a position teaching agriculture in the Humboldt city school system in 1984. He joined First Church, Humboldt, where he met his future wife, the former Tammy Graves, a Memphis native who had lived in Humboldt since 1976.

She recalled that "Guy was still keyed up" about missions even then. Tammy also had a keen interest in missions from her involvement in Ac-teens. She had served as a summer missionary in 1984 in Lawrence County Association.

Also that summer, Tammy attended student week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center where the emphasis for the week was missions.

"After seeing the lost and hearing stories about how the love of God is needed across the seas, I made a commitment to sharing Christ with them," she said.

Tammy laughs now that "Guy wouldn't even have wanted to date me if I had not been interested in missions."

The two dated and were married in November 1987. They immediately wanted to apply to serve as career missionaries but were told to wait at least one year.

In 1988 they had a candidate conference with FMB officials, but were told to wait one more year. Finally, after filling out what seemed like reams of paperwork, the Causeys were told in November 1989 they were approved and that Guy needed to attend seminary.

The Causeys "sold everything they didn't think would fit" in their seminary house and moved to Louisville last January so Guy could begin classes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He needed 20 credit hours before he could be appointed.

It was tough making the transition from teacher to student, Causey admitted, noting it had been 12 years since he was in school. Plus, he laughed, as an agricultural major he didn't have that many books to read or term papers to write.

But he persevered and obtained the 20 credit hours after attending one semester and two J-terms.

On July 9, the Causeys returned to Humboldt and began making preparations for a much longer journey — to Burkina Faso by way of Rockville, Va., and France.



PACKED UP — Missionaries Guy and Tammy Causey and son, Garrett, stand beside their packed belongings currently stored at First Church, Humboldt. The crates will be sent for storage in Jackson for a year, then shipped to Burkina Faso to coincide with arrival of the Causeys after their complete language study in France.

The Causeys have begun a seven-week orientation in Rockville and will leave Dec. 1 to go to France for one year of intensive language study before going to the mission field.

Once they reach Burkina Faso Causey will work in various projects such as water resources, gardening, cultivation techniques, livestock breeding, and health care. He also will work in direct evangelism at least 50 percent of the time.

"I'm glad we're going to be part of a ministry that will seek to meet physical needs alongside spiritual needs," he said.

Tammy will have primary responsibilities for her home and family but also will have opportunities to use her skills in working with church groups, women's groups, literacy classes, and other forms of ministry and outreach.

"God has laid a special need on my heart to help in the area of literacy," Tammy said. She plans to work hard to learn the language so she can show the ladies in the village "that Christ loves them."

The Causeys are at peace with their decision to leave their family and friends and venture thousands of miles

from Tennessee to a place where they will be 155 miles from "town" and six hours away from American doctors.

"We are excited about completing the appointment process and the next leg of our journey in reaching the people to whom God has called us to carry the Gospel," Causey said.

Graham acts as . . .

(Continued from page 1)
 the British women and children prompted Iraqi guards at the hotel to begin surveillance of him as he came and went, Darden said. Even so, Graham told the group, "I'll keep coming until they won't let me in the door."

"Laurie (Graham's wife) was just a model person in how a Christian should behave in times of stressful circumstances," Darden said. "She was always very upbeat, seeing the best of things, smiling, reaching over and giving people hugs, just being a very positive person."

Graham encouraged Americans at the embassy to keep Ambassador W. Nathaniel Howell in their prayers, Darden said, noting Graham said Howell has got to do some things that are difficult . . .

'Moderate' Southern Baptists elect steering committee to plan convocation

ATLANTA (BP) — "Moderate" Southern Baptists attending a national consultation elected 60 members to an interim steering committee assigned to plan a national convocation next spring when a permanent steering committee would be elected.

Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church, suburban Atlanta, was elected chairman of the interim steering committee.

The steering committee of the organization, which has no official name other than "The Fellowship," will be comprised of up to 70 members when elected next spring. The interim committee will have authority to fill vacancies and enlist ten additional members, using criteria developed by a nominating committee. Some nominees have not yet agreed to serve.

Seven "at-large" members were selected to serve on the interim committee because of their involvement in planning the consultation in Atlanta Aug. 23-25. They are:

Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, now a visiting professor at Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Jimmy Allen of Fort Worth, chairman of Baptists Committed and former president of the

SBC Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth; Stan Hasteley, executive director of the Southern Baptist Alliance, Washington, D.C.; Carolyn Cole Bucy, of Waco, Texas, president of Women in Ministry; Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church, Fort Worth; Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Church, Wake Forest, N.C.; and Vestal.

Fifty-three members were elected to represent 23 states. They are: Arkansas: John McClanahan and Billie Sharp; Alabama: Dotson Nelson and Steve Tondera; California: Cherry Chang and E. W. McCall; District of Columbia: Joe Hairston, Jeanette Holt, and Diane Williams; Florida: James Graves and Dan Yeary;

Georgia: Nancy Ammerman, Wink Hicks, and Walter Shurden; Hawaii: Rudy Zachery; Illinois: Bill Trautman; Kentucky: Ken Chafin, Reba Cobb, and Gabe Payne; Louisiana: Relma Hargus and Jon Stubblefield; Maryland/Delaware: Frank Heintz and John Roberts;

Michigan: Dot Sample; Mississippi: Mary Jane Nethery, Tom Sims, and Joe Tuten; Missouri: John Hughes and Joy Steincross; New Mexico: Charles Price; New York: Jamie Munro and Virginia

Neely; North Carolina: Peggy Haymes, John Hewett, and Anne Neil; Oklahoma: Stephen Earle and Bill Owen; Pennsylvania/South Jersey: Dwight Moody; South Carolina: John Cothran, David Hull, and Barbara McClain; Tennessee: Calvin Metcalf, pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; Anne Nolan, member, Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain; and Bill Sherman, pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville.

Texas: Patsy Ayres, Jim Lacy, George May, Margarita Trevino, and Charles Wade; and Virginia: Ray Allen, Paula Clayton Dempsey, Ray Spence, and Jean Woodward.

Directors for fund distribution 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.

Other directors are: Darold Morgan, former president of the SBC Annuity Board; Lavonn Brown, pastor of First Church, Norman, Okla.; John Baugh, president of Sysco Corp, in Houston and

member of Second Church; Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of Woman's Missionary Union; Grady Cothen, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Harold Cole, former executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; Randall Lolley, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and current pastor of First Church, Greensboro, N.C.; John McCall, attorney from Louisville, Ky.; Drew Gunnells, pastor of Spring Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.; Raymond Boswell, an insurance executive and member of First Church, Shreveport, La.; Bill Poe, attorney from Charlotte, N.C.; Gene Triggs, president of Mississippi Chemical Corp., Yazoo City, Miss.; Frances Prince, associate commissioner of education for the state of Tennessee, Knoxville; Esther McCall, layperson from Birchwood Church, Kansas City, Mo.; and Brooke Wicker, a banking executive, Hendricks Avenue Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

This board of directors, which will include four others, does not intend to be permanent, but will serve to get the organization established. According to Georgia law, initial directors must serve at least one year, he said.

TenneScene

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

Churches ...

Members of First Church, Rogersville, are celebrating the church's centennial anniversary this year. Part of the year-long celebration includes an historical pageant Sept. 23; homecoming Oct. 7; a tour of eight Rogersville churches during December; and a mission drama/cantata Dec. 9. Guest speaker Oct. 7 will be D. L. Lowrie, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The 64th anniversary-homecoming service at Northside Church, Chattanooga, will be held Sept. 9. Bill Beard will speak and the New Life Singers of Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, will perform. Beard, a former member of Northside, is pastor of Minors Lane Church, Louisville, Ky. A fellowship luncheon will follow the morning services.

Homecoming and 25th anniversary will be celebrated Sept. 16 at First Church, Fairview. Alton Wilson, pastor of First Church, Dallas, Ga., will deliver the morning message. He was the first full-time pastor of the Fairview church. Music will be led by Julian Suggs, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Music Department. The service will be followed by dinner on the grounds and recognition of former and new members.

The congregation of First Church, Ridgetop, will celebrate the 31st anniversary of the church Sept. 9 with a worship service led by guest speaker Frank Evans, dinner, and special music.

Homecoming will be celebrated Sept. 16 at First Church, Linden. The theme will be "Give Me that Old Time Religion: an Old Timer's Day Celebration."

The 130th anniversary of Toone Church, Toone, will be celebrated Sept. 9 with homecoming events. A special morning worship service will be followed by a covered-dish luncheon and performance by several music groups.

Members of Glenwood Church, Powell, will recognize the church's 100th anniversary Sept. 16 during a special morning worship service including addresses by D. L. Lowrie, and former pastor Charles Sharits. The service will be followed by a covered-dish luncheon. The New Harp Singers of Wears Valley will perform during the evening service. The church has published a centennial book which includes church and community history,

photographs, biographical sketches, and a membership and cemetery record.

Leadership ...

Second Church, Union City, called J. D. Shipp as associate pastor. He came to Second Church from Grace Church, Independence, Ky.

Charles Diaz, a student at Union University, Jackson, recently began his first pastorate at Hopewell Church, Lavinia.

Luke Buckner has accepted the pastorate of Barfield Church, Murfreesboro. He will begin his service Sept. 9.

New Prospect Church, McKenzie, recently called Guy Wilkerson as pastor.

Temple Church, Old Hickory, called J. William Harbin as interim pastor. He recently retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, where he served as director of the Church Ministers Information Department.

Members of Fairview Church, Tazewell, recently honored Mike Humfleet for completing ten years as pastor.

Keith Pence recently joined the staff of Cooper's Chapel Church, McKenzie, as pastor.

Missions ...

Mark and Helen Caldwell, missionaries to Thailand, are on the field and can be addressed at P.O. Box 832, Bangkok 10501, Thailand. Caldwell is a native of Chattanooga, and his wife considers Chattanooga her hometown.

Missionary associates to Trinidad Robert and Faye Carroll have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service. They can be written to at P.O. Box 488, Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies. They consider Lebanon their hometown.

Jerry and Jo Meeks, missionaries to Equatorial Guinea, are on the field and can be addressed at Apartado 651, Bata, Equatorial Guinea, via Madrid. She considers Leoma her hometown.

YOUTH REVIVAL IN SPRINGFIELD

Bethlehem Church, Springfield, will host a youth revival Sept. 9-11 led by evangelist Jeff LaBorg, pastor, Cross Roads Church, Springfield, and musician Kenny Stone, pastor, Oakland Church, Springfield. The revival starts at 7 p.m. nightly.

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The congregation of First Church, Union City, recently sent a check for \$10,000 to Southside Church, Janesville, Wis., for the purchase of carpet and new windows. In addition, nine men from First Church went to Wisconsin in early August to install the carpet.

Revivals ...

Gibson County Association reported the following churches held revivals recently: Antioch Church, Humboldt; Clear Creek, New Bethlehem, and New Hope churches, all in Dyer; Bethel Church, Yorkville; Bethpage, Walnut Grove, and First churches, all in Kenton; Calvary, China Grove, and First churches, all in Rutherford; Chapel Hill, Latham's Chapel, Oakwood, and Poplar Springs churches, all in Milan; Eldad, Hickory Grove, Laneview, Poplar Grove, Salem, Springhill, and

DOM Livengood retires

Charles Livengood, director of missions for Alpha and Judson Baptist associations, will retire effective Oct. 30, but will continue to serve Judson as interim DOM. After serving Alpha for three years, he also assumed responsibility for Judson serving both 14 years.

The native of West Point has been pastor of New Salem Church, Iuka, Miss.; Zion and State Line churches, Wayne County; Mt. Horeb Church, Lawrence County; First Church, Linden; Holland Church, Holland, Mich.; and Fairfield Church, Centerville.

While serving the Linden church from 1963-67, Livengood baptized the first black member of a Tennessee church. He also organized the Michigan church he served as pastor. He has held numerous associational offices.

Livengood will be honored at the Oct. 11 annual meeting of Alpha Association at First Church, Hohenwald.

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White Hall churches, all in Trenton; First Church, Gibson; Lavinia Church, Lavinia; and Mount Pleasant Church, Bradford.

Fall revival will be held Sept. 9-13 at Grace Church, Springfield. David Butler of Springdale Church, Louisville, Ky., will be guest evangelist.

Harsh Chapel Church, Nashville, will hold homecoming services and begin revival Sept. 9. Robert Holt will lead music, and Sidney Waits will lead the services, which will conclude Sept. 12.

Jim Branscum will lead revival services Sept. 9-14 at First Church, Middleton.

Revival will be held Sept. 16-20 at East Athens Church, Athens. Ansell Baker will lead the services.

Ray Newcomb will lead revival Sept. 16-20 at North Knoxville Church, Knoxville.

Antioch Church, Brownsville, will hold revival Sept. 16-19 with evangelist E. B. Bowen. Marvin Russell will lead music.

H. K. Sorrell, Eddie Mallonee, Bob Connerley, and Herbert Higdon will lead revival services Sept. 16-19 at Zion Church, Brownsville. Olen Law will direct music.

CLASSIFIED

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Saul's revenge on the priests at Nob

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

One lie begets another lie. Lies force us to cover our tracks so no one will find out the truth about us or our actions. No matter how good our intentions, a lie is a sin, and when you sin, you must pay its wages. Small lies can lead to great tragedies.

Saul's pursuit (21:1-10)

David was running again! It seems the young warrior who boldly stood up to Goliath was running from every giant he faced. This time he fled to Nob where the tabernacle was established. David always had a great love for the house of God. The Psalms reflect that theme often. Yet this time when he visited the tabernacle and the priest Ahimelech, he lied and claimed to be on secret business for the king (v. 2). Beware, preacher, of allowing just anyone to infiltrate your church, even if they claim to be on business for



HAUN

the King. This lie cost Ahimelech and his fellow priests their lives.

The priest gave David and his men the holy bread to eat. This bread, known as the "Bread of the Presence," was to be given only to the priests (Leviticus 24:5-9). Yet Ahimelech was placing human need above religious ceremony — an act to which Jesus would later refer (Matthew 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5). David was also given the sword of Goliath for protection. In chapter 17, David rejected the weapons of Saul for the weapons of the Lord. Now, fleeing for his life, he picked up the sword of his enemy.

When we lie and deceive, we not only compromise the Word of God (as David did eating the bread), but we also use carnal weapons to fight a spiritual battle (as with the sword of Goliath). If you are offended, don't fight with anger or revenge. Use prayer and the Word of God.

David's pretense (21:11-15)

David continued his string of lies. It began with lying to Saul through Jonathan (ch. 20). Then he lied to Ahimelech, the priest (21:2). Then he fled into the hands of the enemy and repeated his actions. King Achish of Gath (Philistia) received David, perhaps thinking he was a defector. But the king's officers were uneasy with David's presence. David, fearing what the king might do, pretended to be insane. It was the custom of the day not to harm mentally unstable people, and David was escorted out of town. He fled to the cave of Adullam.

If we get in a hurry, trust our own plans, trust men, and practice deceit, we move quickly from being men and women of faith to men and women of fear.

Family protection (22:1-4)

David assembled an unusual group of 400 men, which grew to 600, at the cave of Adullam (23:13). Psalm 57 and 142 record his experiences in the cave. Here is a beautiful illustration of those who flee to Christ for salvation. These men eventually inherited the kingdom. All those who flee for refuge to Christ will enter the Kingdom for eternity.

David also was able to gain assurance his family would be protect-

ed in Moab. You will recall in our study of Ruth, David's family came from Moab (through Ruth).

BIBLE BOOK
September 9 Lesson
Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 21:1 to 22:23

Priest's persecution (22:5-23)

Saul's murder of the innocent priests at Nob shows how far a wicked man will go in his sin. Doeg, the Edomite, Saul's chief herdsman, (21:7) reported to Saul David's encounter with Ahimelech. Saul's murderous lunacy brought about the death of Ahimelech, his family, and 85 other priests and their families. All were slaughtered at Saul's command and Doeg's hand. You remember Saul was unwilling to slay the Amalekites (ch. 15), but he had no problem slaying these innocent priests.

Saul was unable to prevent Abiathar from fleeing to David with the ephod, the instrument for determining the will of God. It was clear that Saul had no use for the ephod. He was determined to do his own will, not God's.

Saul destroyed Israel's priesthood, but later Abiathar became the new High Priest and served during David's entire reign.

Nathan and David

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

During my college days I had a friend with whom I shared an unusual relationship. We were committed to helping one another, even pointing out mistakes in each other's grammar. He was a unique friend who helped me as much as any professor. One who has that kind of friend is blessed. This text indicates that David had two such friends — Nathan and God.

The prophet corrected (7:4-7)

David felt guilty because he lived in a beautiful palace while the ark of God remained in a tent. He wanted to build a house for God and his friend, Nathan, encouraged him (v. 3). However, God told Nathan David

should not build a house for the Lord (v. 5). God had asked no one to build a house for Him because His people were not yet settled in the land. The time for such an undertaking was not right. This was the message Nathan had to take to David.

The time to begin a worthy undertaking is not when the thought enters one's mind, but when God says it is time. Life offers many worthy tasks, but the child of God should only set out to do those which God directs. Without the leadership of God, a Godly task becomes an unworthy task.

The king graciously denied (7:8-16)

The two friends of David joined to deny David his ambition to build a house for the Lord. The message, though a denial, was a gracious one. First, God reminded His servant He

had chosen him to be the king of Israel (v. 8); He had been with him to deliver him from his enemies (v. 9a); and He had given him great fame (v. 9b). David got where he was because he followed God's timing and directions.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
September 9, 1990
Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 7

Then God, though denying his desire to build a temple, promised David his household would endure and become a means of blessing to the world (vv. 10-16). His people would have a home and his family would be a dynasty with a kingdom lasting forever. His son would fulfill the dream of building a house for God, but would not be spared chastisement for sins. But that chastisement would not include taking the throne from David's descendants. His throne was made sure forever (vv. 13, 16).

The word "forever" seems to dominate this passage. Such stress surely points beyond David, Solomon, and their successors. The facts about David and Solomon provide the background in which the prophet beheld the glory of the coming Redeemer. David's Lord fulfilled the promises made to David. His name is called "Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." "He shall rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end." We have the King of whom the prophet spoke and Who can never be succeeded by another!

Conclusion

How wonderful when man does not run ahead of God Who knows all of the story. When He forbids one path, it is only because He has another way that is far better. When God is followed, he always leads to the best and the greatest! He is truly a friend Who graciously corrects man's path! Let Him be your Friend!

Worship

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

The preacher asked, "When does worship take place?" The man responded, "That's easy. It always takes place down at the church between 11 and 12 on Sunday mornings." Is this true? Maybe. Maybe not. Just being in church on Sunday mornings between 11 and 12 does not insure worship.

"Worship" comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "worth-ship," and refers to one who is of supreme worth. To worship is to ascribe praise, honor, glory, and adoration to God. It is a personal encounter with God, and is consummated when we meet God, hear Him, and respond properly. It can take place anytime and anywhere.

Christians need worship, private and



WREN

public, to be the witnesses God desires. Let us look at the object of worship, the nature of worship, and the spirit of worship.

Object of worship (Deuteronomy 6:13-15)

Because we are created in God's image, we will worship someone or something. We are created with a need in our hearts only God can satisfy. To fill that need, people worship jobs, power, goals, money, and many other objects.

The Bible invites humanity to worship the true and living God. Moses repeatedly called the people to worship the God who is the great "I AM." He warned people about the object of their worship. Whatever receives our first allegiance is our god. People must realize nothing can fill that vacuum except God.

LIFE AND WORK
September 9, 1990
Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 6:13-15; Psalm 95; John 4:23-24

We must worship Him to experience forgiveness and cleansing from sin,

receive direction for living, and be victorious over emotions that rob us of joy and peace. We must worship Him if we want strength to carry out our commission, live responsibly, and love one another.

Nature of worship (Psalm 95:1-7)

Why do we worship? Some are motivated to worship because of duty and habit; others because it's the thing to do or to experience release and escape. Political reasons, social status, business opportunities, or family obligation motivates some to attend worship.

The Psalmist encouraged his readers to worship God because of who He is. He is the Rock of our salvation, a great God and King, in control of the heights and depths of the earth, Owner and Creator of both the sea and dry land, (vv. 3-7).

He is worthy of our awe, adoration, respect, and reverence. Let us worship Him by recognizing His presence, bowing before Him, adoring Him, and allowing His precious will to be accomplished in our lives.

Worship is conducted in many languages and forms. Prayer, Scrip-

ture reading, sermons, giving, and observances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are elements which make up Christian worship. Regardless of language, form, and elements, the nature of worship is based on who God is and who we are.

Spirit of worship (John 4:23-24)

Jesus used a conversation with the Samaritan woman to describe genuine worship.

Places of worship were always important to Jesus. However, He pointed out that worship is a response of the heart rather than going to a particular place and performing rituals. Jesus declared God a Spirit and those who "worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth" (v. 24). He is always accessible to those who are ready to worship.

The late archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple wrote: "Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose — and all this is gathered up in adoration . . ."

World Baptists celebrate; pledge prayer, evangelism

By Michael Chute

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — Winds of newly won freedom around the world swept through Seoul, South Korea, Aug. 14-18 as Baptists attending the 16th Baptist World Congress celebrated their unity, stressing prayer and continued efforts in world evangelism.

Congress participants also elected Danish Baptist leader Knud Wumpelmann to a five-year term as president of the Baptist World Alliance, succeeding Noel Vose of Australia. Wumpelmann, 68, recently retired as secretary-treasurer of the European Baptist Federation.

A total of 10,649 Baptists from 85 nations "had their hearts warmed" by the "happy spirit" of their Korean Baptist hosts, noted Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary.

More than 50,000 Korean Baptists shouted the challenge, "Go to the world!" during the congress welcoming ceremony, punctuating the call by shining individual penlights to illuminate the darkened Olympic Stadium, site of the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"People all over the world are waiting for someone to tell them the name of the one (God) they have been searching for," R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told the crowd. "In a way never before since the days of Jesus, God is opening doors."

The opened door was seen perhaps most dramatically in the participation of 177 pastors and laity from Eastern European nations. Baptists from Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany attended the congress, marking the first time in decades Baptists



A GLOBAL MESSAGE — R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, urges world Baptists to renew efforts for global evangelization. Parks, left, appears on a TV image magnification screen overlooking Olympic Stadium, where 50,000 people gathered to launch the 16th Baptist World Congress in Seoul, South Korea. Daniel Lee, a Korean pastor from Silver Springs, Md., interpreted Parks' sermon.

from some of these countries were free to attend an international Christian gathering.

"We in Estonia are in darkness," said Ingmar Kurg, editor of an Estonian church newspaper, following the opening ceremony. "I was crying when the lamps came on (in the stadium). Perhaps this light coming from Asia will be a light for us too."

No more than six Soviet Baptist leaders from the Soviet Union had ever before attended a BWA meeting. In Seoul, about 150 Soviet delegates were visibly moved when Korean Baptists cheered and applauded as they entered the stadium. The delegation reportedly was the largest Russian group ever to attend a religious meeting outside the Soviet Union.

Following Korean custom, many of the Asian nation's 1600 Baptist church-

es gave gifts to foreign guests attending the ceremony. Russian pastor Gennadi Mukin was overcome with emotion as he opened the gift handed to him by a Korean high school girl.

As he lifted the simple golden cross out of the wrapping, Mukin said, "I will put this in the best place in my house. She presented (the gift) with such a smile. It was more than I ever expected."

Two baptism celebrations held during the congress and the observance of the Lord's Supper to close the meeting were called firsts in BWA history. About 2000 new Korean Christians were baptized at the Olympic Rowing Site Aug. 13, and another 8000 Christians were baptized Aug. 18.

The opening session's parade of banners, representing the BWA's 145 member conventions and unions, offered a glimpse of Baptists around the world. Each banner was carried by a Korean Baptist and a representative of the respective convention dressed in national costume.

The five-day congress provided worship, Bible study, prayer sessions, and concerts by musical groups from around the world. The congress also featured meetings of the women's, men's, and youth departments of the BWA. World Baptists heard reports of BWA work ranging from evangelism and education to Baptist world relief aid and efforts to protect human rights.

The congress theme, "Together in Christ," was apparent during the congress' business session as six resolutions passed in less than three minutes with no visible dissent.

Among the resolutions, the Baptist body endorsed the Seoul Covenant, a seven-part agreement committing Baptists around the globe to make evangelism a priority. The covenant challenges them to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person around the world by the end of this century.

In other business, Baptists denounced religious persecution and intolerance — particularly the reappearance of anti-Semitic practices and slogans — and decried violence against any person or group. The congress also called on Baptists to foster movements for peace, justice, and preservation of the natural creation.

Baptists also expressed "Christian compassion for the families of South Korea and North Korea who have been separated for 44 years" because of

ideological and political differences.

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz told participants, "The strongest commitment Baptists can show to reunification is to pray earnestly. The prayer of Christians brought down the (Berlin) Wall because God said, 'Now is the time.'"

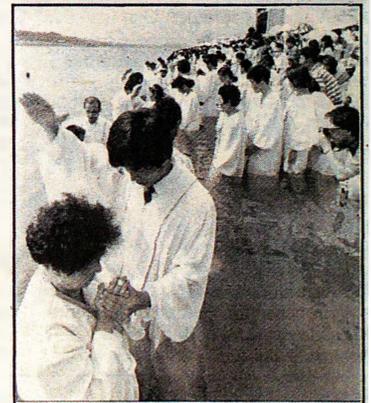
Lotz reported that North Korean Christians were invited to attend the congress, but no response was received. Throughout the five-day meeting, congress leaders and speakers prayed repeatedly for God to open doors into North Korea, China, and parts of the Soviet Union where the Gospel message is hindered.

Throughout the congress, speakers repeatedly stressed that Baptists can more effectively reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ and Christian ministry if they work together.

The BWA General Council, meeting during the congress, unanimously approved Buenos Aires, Argentina, as the site of the next Baptist World Congress meeting, July 11-15, 1995.

The council also approved more than \$1.7 million in funding goals for Baptist World Aid projects for 1990. Hunger relief projects received \$300,000, while the council appropriated \$300,000 for distribution of Bibles in the Soviet Union.

Another \$100,000 was allocated for earthquake recovery in the Philippines and to the Baptist seminary in the Soviet Union. Needs related to civil strife in Nicaragua and El Salvador were awarded \$50,000 each.



A TIME TO IMMERSE — More than 10,000 people were baptized in the Han River in a kilometer-long stretch of the Olympic Rowing Site during the Baptist World Congress, in Seoul, South Korea. Most of those baptized came from the Seoul area, but 80 international pastors and 1000 pastors from throughout South Korea participated.

Tennessee's blind 'discover spiritual gifts'

Participants of the 8th annual Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind passed a resolution asking the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board to study ministry opportunities and increased support of the newly-organized Southern Baptist Conference of the Blind.

The meeting drew 29 Tennesseans to Camp Linden Aug. 3-5 where campers

made new friends, hiked, worshipped, showcased their talents, and attended conferences on the theme of the meeting — "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts." Officers also were elected.

Next year's meeting will be Aug. 9-11 at Camp Carson and will feature C. H. Melton, a professor at Clark Bible College in Newton, Miss., as speaker and a one-night campout.



TBFB OFFICERS — Elected as Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind 1990-92 officers were, from left, Charlyene Couey, member of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, secretary/treasurer; James Brittle, Second Church, Clinton, vice-president; and Sharon Bragg, member of Hickory Hollow Chapel, Nashville, president. — Photo by Jonathan Couey

Land at pro-life meeting

Richard Land, executive director, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, is the keynote speaker of a state-wide pro-life conference sponsored by Tennessee Volunteers for Life.

Land will address "The Morality of Indifference." The conference is entitled "Coming Together for Life."

The Sept. 15 meeting will be held at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro at Keathley University Center Auditorium. It will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, people may contact Suzanne Sevier, Tennessee Volunteers for Life, (615) 370-0027, or Don Schneller, MTSU, (615) 898-2517.