

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Executive Board votes same budget, approves funding for BJCPA

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board adopted an amended recommendation at its Sept. 7 meeting which keeps the 1990-91 TBC budget at its present level of about \$27.8 million, but designates a portion of the Southern Baptist Convention's allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The budget must be approved by messengers to the TBC's annual

meeting Nov. 13-15 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

The budget proposal came after TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie reported giving from the churches through Aug. 31 was \$21,619,975, a 3.17 percent increase over the same period last year.

Lowrie predicted the increase for the year "will be somewhere between four to five percent which will be considerably short of our budget and makes the budget that is being recommended to you today a wise step."

He added that holding the budget at last year's amount will "give us a year to keep things moving forward and to get our income to match our budget."

Budget and program committee chairman Jerry Oakley observed giving has fallen short of goals since 1985, culminating last year by receipts missing the goal by \$1,123,682.

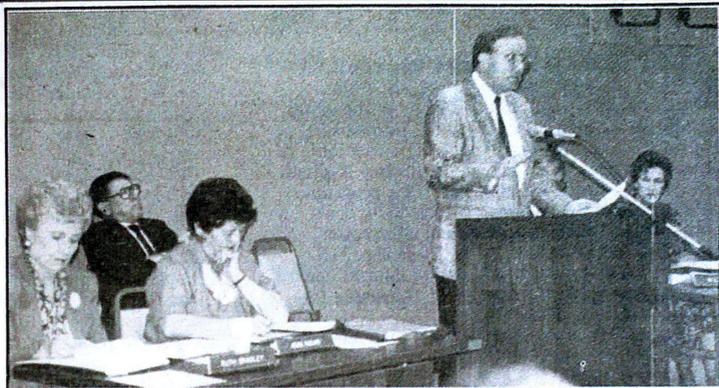
"It seems useless to recommend a budget to the convention that we absolutely know we are not going to be able to reach," said Oakley, pastor of Springfield Church, Springfield.

The budget provides 62.5 percent of receipts to TBC causes while the SBC's portion receives 37.5 percent.

Moncrief Jordan, pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, offered an amendment to the budget by recommending that .29 percent of the SBC portion of the budget be designated to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The amount would be \$27,850.

The amount is roughly what would have been given to the BJC by the state convention had messengers at the SBC meeting in New Orleans not approved a budget which cut the BJC's funding from \$391,796 to \$50,000.

Jordan explained to the board that the Executive Committee had voted earlier for a similar proposal by a 7-3 margin with four members absent. That proposal would have cut the SBC's 37.5 percent portion of the TBC



BUDGET TALK — Jerry Oakley, chairman of the budget and program committee, explains the budget. In background, from left, are Ruth Bradley, Howard Olive, Anne Nolan, and Martha Grove. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

budget to 37.4, sending the .10 percent to the BJC. Those members also would have voted for the proposal, Jordan said.

Jordan also pointed out the BJC proposal failed approval by the budget and program committee by a 6-6 tie that would have been broken in favor of the BJC had one of the members not been out because of a death in his church.

The Jefferson City pastor said the state convention needs to "send a message that we will not put up with the kind of misinformation that was presented to the (SBC) Executive Committee and the denial of the principles involved to respond responsibly."

He added that if funding is not done at the state convention level more funding for the BJC will come from the churches. That would hurt the TBC, Jordan predicted.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, spoke against the amendment.

He observed there was "a program reassignment (from the BJC to the Christian Life Commission), like it or not, that was approved by a democratic process at the SBC."

Sutton said he believes in local

church autonomy and that if churches want to help fund the BJC that is their prerogative. "I think we would be much better off if each church made its own decision and this was not something foisted upon the TBC because I can assure you that it will become an issue at the convention in Nashville and it may be voted down there."

Gary Anderson, pastor of First Church, Dunlap, called for the question. The budget amendment passed by a 41-34 vote.

More discussion took place before the board voted on the amended budget. Doug Baker, pastor of Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar, said he could not "in clear conscience" vote for the

(Executive Board, page 5)

WMU board has special session

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — The executive board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will meet in a called session Friday, Sept. 21, and Saturday, Sept. 22, in Richmond, Va.

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director, said the meeting is being called so board members can "consider our directions for the future."

"We feel it is important for us to consider WMU's response to the variety of needs emerging in our denomination related to missions," O'Brien said.

The meeting is being held in Richmond so that state WMU executive directors can participate. They will be in Richmond, along with state Brotherhood directors, state convention executive directors, and state Baptist newspaper editors, for a briefing by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff to update them on foreign missions work.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WMU executive board is Jan. 5-11, 1991, at the WMU national headquarters building in Birmingham.

MissionsFest slated for Oct. 12 in Memphis

MissionsFest Tennessee, a foreign missions experience, is scheduled for Oct. 12-13 at Eudora Church, Memphis.

MissionsFest will feature 42 career missionaries from all eight areas of Foreign Mission Board ministries and 29 FMB personnel, including Keith Parks, FMB president.

"This promises to be one of the outstanding missions events available to Baptists in this area in several years," said Clarence Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Mission director.

Associational officers have oppor-

tunity to attend a prayer/dialogue breakfast with Parks on Saturday (Oct. 13) at Eudora, and Stewart urges them to confirm reservations. He can be contacted at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Tennessee Baptists planning to attend MissionsFest should make hotel reservations direct. Following is a list of Memphis area motels and hotels:

Omni Memphis Hotel, 939 Ridge Lake Blvd., I-240 S. and Poplar; Budgetel Inns, I-40 and Sycamore View; Hampton Inn, I-40 E., 1585 Sycamore Rd.; Hampton Inn, 5320

Poplar; Holiday Inn, I-40 E., 6101 Shelby Circle (Sycamore View Exit); Homewood Suites, 5839 Poplar; Holiday Inn, I-240 and Poplar;

Howard Johnson Lodge East, I-40 and Sycamore View; LaQuinta Inn, 6068 Macon (I-40 and Sycamore View); Marriott, 2625 Thousand Oaks, I-240 S. at Perkins Exit; Motel 6, I-40, 1321 Sycamore View; Park Inn International, 5877 Poplar; Ramada Hotel, I-240 S. at Mt. Moriah;

Red Roof Inn, I-40 and Sycamore View; Wilson Inn, I-240 S. at Perkins Exit; Wilson Hotel, I-240 at Perkins Exit; Admiral Benbow Inn East, 4720 Summer Ave.; and Concord Inn, 5225 Summer Ave.

Eudora Church, Calvin Harvell, pastor, is located at 4684 Poplar Ave. MissionsFest is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board.

TBC's CP budget over 1989

Tennessee Baptist churches gave \$2,271,544.99 toward the TBC Cooperative Program budget goal in August, but that amount was \$79,258.16 less than the August 1989 total.

Despite the loss, giving for the year is still running slightly ahead of last year, according to figures released by the TBC accounting office and D. L. Lowrie, executive director/treasurer.

Total CP gifts for the TBC fiscal year thus far amount to \$21,028,854.95, an increase of more than \$728,000 — or 3.59 percent.

Budget giving for ten months now stands at 5.83 under budget needs. Through the ten months, the shortfall is \$1.3 million.

Lowrie said there is reason for some optimism in meeting the budget. "September should be good since some August receipts will come in," he said, "and we hope October will bring us closer to achieving the budget for TBC ministries."

Lowrie commended Tennessee Baptist Convention churches that are supporting the work of the convention despite some economical difficulties.

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Editorials

Up, up, away — story of probable postage increase

The Baptist and Reflector functions under the oversight of its eighteen-member Board of Directors.

The editor and staff are editorially free in performing their duties in reporting, editing, and producing the newsjournal. Board members also act as the Executive Committee of the TBC's Executive Board.

The directors give "direction and responsible care" and act as a policy-making body. This gives needed support to the authority of the editor.

One of the high priorities of the Baptist and Reflector is set forth in the paper's convention-approved program — "to unite Tennessee Baptists in advancing the cause of Christ." The program statement says this is done by "providing news, inspirational material, features, and information concerning all the ministries of the Tennessee and Southern Baptist conventions and to inform, inspire, promote, and enlist the interest of Tennessee Baptists in these ministries."

The success in carrying out this mandate comes not only through skills and dedication of the staff, but through support and acceptance of churches, pastors, and all Tennessee Baptists.

Successfully editing and producing a newspaper is similar to teaching. A "teacher" has not taught until a pupil has learned.

The Board of Directors meets at least three times annually — in December, May, and September — when the Executive Board meets. At last week's meeting the directors approved a guideline change for letters to the editor, assigned a study subcommittee to review advertising policies, approved a substantial adjustment to subscription rates, and affirmed the work of the editor and staff.

Most readers will be affected by the rate increase. We have announced in recent issues of the Baptist and Reflector the imminent need of increasing subscription rates. The letters guideline is explained on page four.

The United States Postal Service almost certainly will hike second class postage rates by 30 to 40 percent. Our dilemma is that we do not know exactly how much the increase will be, and our 1990-91 budget is fixed at the current level. Increases in budgeting are impossible.

However, the USPS is scheduled to put new postage rates into effect in January. We urge all churches who receive or want to receive the paper through any plan (as well as any individuals) to build into their 1990-91 budgets enough funds to be able to supply the Baptist and Reflector to all church families.

Churches should now consider plans for making the paper an integral part of budgeting. Church

budgets may be seeing the same kinds of difficulties that conventions are experiencing — money is tight.

Putting the paper into the church budget means that there could be many more members with hearts and minds influenced by missions, ministries, and education. We will cooperate better to accentuate God's work in Tennessee and elsewhere through God's plan of cooperation. We will understand who we are, learn more of our Baptist heritage, become more determined to press on "toward the mark" and the high call of Christ.

The budgeting process is underway for many churches. Others are in early planning stages. We encourage churches to help us through this crisis of higher postage costs. As our postage increases some 30 percent early in January, our subscription rates must be increased. When the rates go up, including the basic postage stamp — from 25 to 30 cents, we will put the rate increase into effect.

We will need cooperation from many churches — and still we believe that the Baptist and Reflector is a bargain, a well-kept secret. We cannot tell our readers the exact amount of increase, but we will need about one dollar more for each subscription.

When the postage rates are finalized, and we are informed, we will inform our readers. Don't be discouraged. We intend to give you even more of a bargain for your money. — WFA

Judgment or revival are options for SBC

DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptists either are headed for a final judgment from God or for the greatest revival they ever have experienced, according to national prayer leaders who spoke at the "Cedars of Lebanon," retreat Aug. 31-Sept. 3.

To escape judgment and experience genuine spiritual awakening, God's people must become broken, repentant, and overwhelmed by the awesome holiness of God, prayer leaders told more than 350 people who attended the retreat at Mt. Lebanon Encampment near Dallas, sponsored by Texas Baptist Men organization.

God is "stirring the nest" of Southern Baptists and of the United States, said Avery Willis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods experienced last year and the current crisis in the Middle East all are God's way of "trying to get our attention" and redirecting His people to Himself, he said.

"God is trying to shake us up so we will hear Him," Willis said. "God is stirring our nest and letting us down on the briars."

Before God can use Southern Baptists for His glory, they first must be broken, according to Don Miller of Bible-Based Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas. However, he added that God breaks His people to create something else out of the shattered pieces, not so that they can remain broken.

"God wants to make something out of us. We dare not sit and moan and groan in our brokenness," said Miller. "The potential is too great."

As the bride of Christ, the church must be pure, faithful, and holy, according to T. W. Hunt of the Sunday School Board.

"There is a mystical purity that is already there," he said. "Practically, we have a long way to go."

In recent months, Hunt said he has been encouraged by meetings of Southern Baptists characterized by deep confession of sin and by total lack of awareness of time as God moved. "I've seen people overwhelmed by

God's dread holiness," he said. "God has taken the initiative in a profound way."

The pattern is not new, according to Richard Owen Roberts of International Awakening Ministries. Every Old Testament revival was preceded by a tragic moral and spiritual decline, by a righteous judgment from God, by the raising up of immensely burdened leaders, and by some extraordinary act of God, he said.

Currently, the Southern Baptist Convention is under the remedial judgment of God, said Roberts, a Congregationalist minister serving the nondenominational Providence Chapel in Wheaton, Ill.

Remedial, corrective judgment is characterized by the "withdrawal of God's manifest presence," he said, and is a merciful act toward a disobedient people who still have the opportunity to repent. A final judgment, on the other hand, is when God strikes His people dead, and they have no opportunity left for repentance, he explained. "God restrains His wrath by turning His back because He cannot gaze upon sin. We should be thankful God is withdrawn. Otherwise, we would not be here," Roberts said.

"God would have to cease to be holy to associate with an unholy people in a manifest fashion. God does not cause His face to shine on people in love with their sin."

God's people must truly repent based on their felt needs and on genuine understanding of God's holy nature, Roberts said.

"True Biblical repentance provoked by godly sorrow is not a single act but a continuous activity," he said.

"Repentance is not something once done, forever accomplished."

Roberts, who authored the definitive booklet on "solemn assemblies," warned Southern Baptists not to make a solemn assembly a "fad" or a "program." Based on an Old Testament practice, the solemn assembly is a time in which believers are called together for prayer, fasting, confession of sin, and repentance. Henry

Blackaby of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board said Southern Baptists' national prayer leaders consciously have resisted all efforts to turn the solemn assembly into "just another program."

"There is a deep moving of God in our leadership, but most Southern Baptists have never heard of solemn assembly. We haven't gone far enough into solemn assembly to have corrupted it yet," he said.

Blackaby underscored Roberts' assertion that Southern Baptists are under God's remedial judgment, and the need for repentance is urgent.

"We've taken seriously what God has said to us — to hurry to the people called Southern Baptists and say, 'God has given us one more chance,'" he said. "What a tragedy it would be if our leaders did not recognize the judgment of God."

Blackaby said God's people must come to God's Word and allow God's Spirit to speak to them.

"That doesn't lead to an encounter with God. That is an encounter with God," he said, adding that believers must approach that encounter with a

prior commitment to obey.

God wants to do a "new thing" among Southern Baptists if they will seek him in prayer, according to Willis.

"If you want to be in on what God is doing, don't watch the news. Go to your prayer closet," he said.

The "new thing" will be initiated by God, he will interrupt his people and give them a vision to involve them in it, and he will instruct them as they go, Willis explained.

"When God sends a vision, it's probably unexpected, because it's not something you initiated. When God sends a vision, it's probably unappealing, because it's not something you would have chosen," he said. "When God sends His new thing, it may interrupt old traditions."

Persons receptive to the "new thing" from God should expect opposition from those who are not open to change, Willis said.

"The establishment always has a problem with God's new movement. They are ready for anything that will enhance their establishment, but not anything that will tear down their establishment," he said.

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Illinois disaster relief truck destroyed in explosion

CREST HILL, Ill. (BP) — The Illinois Baptist Men organization's disaster relief truck was destroyed Thursday, Aug. 30, in a propane explosion as volunteers prepared to serve lunch to victims of a killer tornado and to workers who were there helping with the clean-up.

The explosion and resulting "fire-ball" injured four people, one seriously, at about 9:30 a.m. Thursday in this community southwest of Chicago. The fire turned the semi-tractor/trailer rig and its contents into blackened rubble.

A propane tank on the trailer was being refilled from a propane supply truck when the explosion occurred.

Joliet, Ill., Fire Chief George Plese said the blast was caused by improper fueling of the storage tank without shutting off appliances before hand.

Rob Carr, state Brotherhood Services director, said the storage tank was overfilled, and exhausted propane was apparently ignited by a stove that stood six to eight feet away.

Scott Sharp, with the propane company, received second and third degree burns over 35 percent of his body. He was in serious condition at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., Tuesday, Sept. 4. He had been critical until Sept. 2.

The three other injured people were Illinois Baptist volunteers. Les Reynolds of Goose Lake was released Aug. 31 from St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet. He suffered first degree burns on his arms and the back of neck, according to his wife, Grace. They are members of First Church of Wilmington, Ill.

Bob Haines, a member of Curtis Avenue Church, Joliet, received first degree burns and injured his leg. Louise Benson of Wilmington had a cut on the back of her head and an injured knee. Both were released from St. Joseph Medical Center Aug. 30.

The explosion occurred within sight of an apartment complex that had been struck two days earlier by a tor-

nado that was part of a storm that killed 27 people. The Illinois Baptist volunteers were there to provide hot meals for those in the area.

Sharp was on the ground beside a propane tank mounted to the underside of the disaster relief trailer when the explosion occurred, said Gary Blumenstock, a member of First Church, New Baden, Ill.

Sharp came out from under the trailer with his hair on fire, and he ran, witnesses said. Haines, who himself was burned, stopped Sharp from running.

"Bob did a very heroic thing," said Andy Gillespie, pastor of Frankfort Church. "Bob ran over and started hitting (Sharp) on the head until the fire was out."

Blumenstock provided the next heroics. When the propane line from the supply truck was finally shut off, Blumenstock drove the truck a safe distance from the flames.

"The worst thing that could have

happened was the flame get to the supply truck," said Charles Gugerty, a fireman with the Lockport (Ill.) Township Fire Department, who happened to be a short distance away filling a fire truck with gasoline when the propane exploded.

Joliet Fire Chief Plese described the supply truck as a bomb hooked to a fire.

Apartment houses within a half-mile radius were evacuated and vehicle traffic stopped after the explosion in fear the supply truck would explode.

About 14 Illinois Baptists were working at the feeding station when the propane exploded. They were preparing to serve about 600 people during lunchtime, workers said.

After the explosion and fire became known, Baptist relief units from Mississippi, Texas, Missouri, and Tennessee were prepared to come and serve meals, Carr said. However, the Red Cross decided they would not be needed. — Ferrell Foster

Mrs. Graham, sons on list to exit Kuwait — still remain

By Erich Bridges and Art Toalston
AMMAN, Jordan (BP) — The names of Southern Baptist worker Laurie Graham and her two sons were on the passenger list of a flight carrying Americans out of Kuwait Sept. 8. But they were not on the jet when it arrived in Amman, Jordan, at midnight.

The next evacuation flights now are scheduled for Sept. 12 and 15, a U.S. States Department spokesman said.

Explanations of why they were not on the Sept. 8 flight were sketchy. In Washington, a State Department spokesman said there were a number of "glitches" on the lists of American women and children flown out of Iraq-controlled Kuwait Sept. 7 and 8.

Hoyal Ellis accepts Niota pastorate

Marshall Hill Church, Niota, recently called Hoyal Ellis as pastor.

Ellis was most recently pastor of Eastview Church, Cleveland.

He has also served as pastor of Beacon Church, Bradley; Cookson Creek Church, Ocoee; Greasy Creek Church, Reliance; Beech Springs Church, Oldfort; and Hiwassee Union Church, Reliance.

The Tennessee native was ordained in 1975 at Antioch Church, Benton. He and his wife, Wanda, have one son.

Vern Powers sets December retirement

Vern B. Powers, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Protection Plans Department since 1971, will retire effective Dec. 31.

A native of Evansville, Ind., Powers moved to Murfreesboro when he was 14 years old. His father, B. B. Powers, is a retired Tennessee Baptist pastor.

Powers is a graduate of Cumberland University, Lebanon, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He was ordained to the ministry in 1940 at First Church, Mt. Juliet, where his father served as pastor.



POWERS

In Amman, U.S. officials also offered bare-bones comments about the listing of the Grahams on the Sept. 8 evacuation flight from Kuwait. "I imagine they will be getting on other charter flights," a U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

Delays in the flights, confused information about passengers, and reported threats to stop the evacuations apparently are part of a "cat-and-mouse game" Iraq is playing with westerners trying to leave Iraq and Kuwait, a U.S. official said.

Passenger lists for both flights contained the names of numerous Americans who were not aboard the jets when they arrived in Jordan, according to U.S. officials in Amman. Some 200 Americans were listed on the Sept. 7 flight, for example, but only 171 actually were counted after the jet arrived in Amman.

As late as mid-afternoon Sept. 9, State Department personnel in Washington were confirming that Mrs. Graham and her sons had been on the Sept. 8 flight from Kuwait to Jordan and later had boarded a flight with 310 Americans bound for Charleston, S.C. Then the confirmations ceased.

Mrs. Graham and her husband, Maurice, and their two sons took refuge in the U.S. Embassy compound in Kuwait several days after Iraqi

Powers, 69, has served as pastor in both Indiana and Tennessee. Tennessee pastorates include Green Hill Church, Mt. Juliet; Riddleton Church, Riddleton; Cedar Grove, Lebanon; First Church, Greenbrier; First Church, LaFollette; and Glendale Church, Nashville.

Denominational service in Tennessee includes serving as an Executive Board member and a trustee of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and Baptist Hospital in Nashville. He is a former president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

At the Southern Baptist Convention level, Powers served as a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and on the SBC Executive Committee.

Powers and his wife, Bettye, have five children and nine grandchildren.

troops stormed the country Aug. 2.

Mrs. Graham and her sons apparently remain among an estimated 500 or more American women and children waiting to leave Kuwait via Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's Aug. 28 decree that foreign women and children may leave Iraq and Kuwait. To date, more than 500 American women and children and a few men have been permitted to leave Kuwait.

Nine diplomatic personnel and five civilians are staying inside the U.S. Embassy compound, a State Department spokesman said Sept. 10. For several weeks after the invasion, the State Department had refused to

disclose the number of Americans sheltered at the embassy, citing security reasons. By one estimate, it had been as high as 160, counting dependents of diplomatic personnel.

The Iraqis cut off water and electricity to the embassy after the U.S. refused to close it by Aug. 24. "I suspect there are some difficulties" at the embassy, a State Department spokesman said Sept. 10. "But we feel we can maintain the embassy on its current status."

According to news accounts, people at the embassy are drinking water from the swimming pool boiled over fires built from chopped-up furniture.

Mississippi editor retires; Henderson named

JACKSON, Miss. — Donald T. McGregor, editor of the Baptist Record, journal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, since 1976, will retire Dec. 31.

McGregor, 66, joined the paper's staff in 1974 as associate editor. He previously was editor of the California Southern Baptist for two years and associate editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas for 12 years.

A native of McGregor, Texas, McGregor is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

McGregor has made many contributions to denominational life. When he left the editorship of the California paper, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention presented him with a distinguished service award.

McGregor has served as chairman of the SBC public relations advisory committee. While a member of that committee, McGregor had a part in designing the current SBC logo which pictures a world, a cross, and an open Bible.

The Mississippi editor has been secretary and president of the Southern Baptist Press Association and chairman of the Baptist Press liaison committee.

McGregor and his wife, Carlene, have three married children. Following retirement, McGregor plans to do some creative writing in various fields. Succeeding McGregor as editor will

be 62-year-old Guy Henderson, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention since 1981.

Henderson and his wife, Lois, are former career missionaries to Korea and the Philippines. Henderson is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Henderson was elected unanimously by the convention's executive committee on recommendation from Bill Causey, MBC executive director-treasurer.

A native of Jackson, Miss., and a former Mississippi Baptist pastor, Henderson will begin working with McGregor in October.

Causey told the executive committee that Henderson would become co-editor Nov. 1, but that McGregor would remain with the convention and then take a vacation through December.

The Hendersons have four children.

First Church, Clifton, calls Douglas Phillips

Douglas Phillips recently joined the staff of First Church, Clifton, as pastor.

He was formerly pastor of a church in Mississippi.

Phillips was ordained in 1988 at Temple Church, Myrtle, Miss., and is a student at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.

He and his wife, Martha, have one daughter.

Our Readers Write

Competence, compassion

Competence and compassion are an essential combination in ministering to people. This was our blessing received from East Tennessee Baptist Hospital during my daughter Judy Mynatt Pickle's 17-month battle with cancer. Judy, who was a patient there eleven times, passed away June 22. Thirty-six years ago she was also born in this Christian medical facility. We cannot thank the staff enough — all caregivers on the hospital team — from Administrator Bob Chandler, Assistant Administrator Jim Goodloe, Chaplain Dan Hix, to the able nursing group on the oncology floor.

Judy was a dedicated Christian, serving in several churches as minister of Music and Youth. A trained Christian musician, she composed and performed and blessed many people with the Christian message, while at the same time being a wonderful wife and mother of three boys. Her beloved First Church of Knoxville was an integral part of life.

The presence of the living Christ was very evident at Judy's home going. Her testimony was real. Judy not only taught us how to live, but also to die as a Christian, and that His grace is absolutely sufficient in any circumstance.

As a Southern Baptist family, we have been greatly blessed to not only give ourselves through the churches and life of the Tennessee Baptist Convention over the years, but also to be blessed in return by one of its grand institutions, the East Tennessee Baptist Hospital.

Bill R. Mynatt Sr.
8608 Kingston Pike
Knoxville 37923

Supports C-N decision

Dr. Cordell Maddox and trustees of Carson-Newman College are to be complimented for the decision to grant an honorary degree to Dolly Parton. Dolly has done much good for Sevier County in general and, specifically, in the area of education. She has established the Dollywood Foundation to help with education in Sevier County. She has performed concerts which have provided additional revenue for various programs in the school system. She spoke to about 1400 seventh and eighth graders, and gave them opportunity to enter a pact that would reward them \$500 when they

graduated in 1992 and/or 1993.

She gives three music scholarships and three other scholarships each year. In addition, any Sevier County student going to Hiwassee College receives a scholarship. She is funding two part-time first grade teachers in a pilot program. In another pilot program, she is providing a teacher and assistant at the Alternative School which helps problem students. She also provides revenue to help implement recommendations of the Drop Out Task Force of Sevier County.

Dolly serves as national Chairperson for the Dr. Robert F. Thomas Foundation which has raised money to improve facilities and quality of care of Sevier Medical Center. Dollywood provides hundreds of jobs and has been influential in bringing other businesses to this area.

Dolly has been good for and to Sevier County and this area of East Tennessee. She deserves this recognition and I am glad that Carson-Newman College decided to honor her in this fashion.

Joe R. Wren, pastor
First Church
317 Parkway
Sevierville 37862

On interpretation

The inerrantist who would interpret the Bible only literally, denies my God permission to use figurative language to teach me.

Melody J. Johnson
P. O. Box 11566
Knoxville 37919

Thanks college

Writers of some letters are reacting to the stereotype image most people have toward people in the entertainment industry, not to the individual merits of the person, Dolly Parton.

Those of us who live near Sevierville have been aware for many years of the very generous financial support Dolly Parton has given to the public school system in Sevierville, her home town; and the generous support she has given many young people in that community by way of scholarship support.

I have never heard any allegations of unseemly behavior by Dolly Parton. She is a woman from humble beginnings who by virtue of her own efforts and creative talents has become a big success and has shared her success with her home com-

munity, a worthy role model indeed.

Carson-Newman College is to be congratulated on this action.

Phil Comer
Rt. 3, Box 98
Dandridge 37725

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.

CP funding

I am a "conservative." I am also a student of the Bible and have been a Bible teacher for 46 years. I am a tither and I give to missions. I am active in Woman's Missionary Union. All this talk and action by SBC "moderates" to defund the Cooperative Program makes me furious. For years my husband and I have given to the Cooperative Program to fund seminaries that were teaching things we didn't believe. Now that we've had a course correction in the convention, the "moderates" are yelping about the Cooperative Program funding something they can't accept — inerrancy of the Word.

One of the main problems in our convention is that so many of the seminary professors, pastors, and other leaders think they are smarter than the masses. Well, the Bible teaches that we don't have to be highly educated to understand the Word of God. "The common people heard Him gladly." And Jesus Himself prayed, "I thank Thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them to babes." Matthew 11:25.

Local churches also have a fight on their hands when it comes to the Cooperative Program giving. We have two missionary families who are closely connected to our church. They and all missionaries depend on the Foreign Mission Board. The Home Mission Board funds many, many ministries, including literacy missions. I don't want us to go

back to the days of Luther Rice to raise money for missions. But we might need to clean house, starting at home, and make sure all our money is spent to spread the Gospel.

Lucy Upchurch
1430 Clifty Road
Paris 38242

Information search

The SBC WMU has requested that I write a book to give churches directions to start support groups for different populations. It would be helpful for readers to send information about groups operating in their churches. If they know of other churches conducting such groups, that information would also be helpful.

I would like to know: who initiated the idea, what different populations are served by groups, what type of preparation was made before starting a group (including training for leaders), what pitfalls have been encountered, an evaluation of the satisfaction of the project from the standpoint of the church and of the group members. How has this venture related to evangelism? Would you recommend that other churches start support groups? If not, why?

Sara Hines Martin
2950 S. Cobb Dr.
Apt. 19-3
Smyrna, Ga. 30080

Love over all

Francis Schaeffer in *The Mark of the Christian* has written that which I related to the growing division in the Southern Baptist Convention:

"I have observed one thing among true Christians in their differences in many countries: What divides and severs true Christian groups and Christians — what leaves a bitterness that can last for 20, 30, or 40 years ... is not the issue of doctrine or belief which caused the differences in the first place. Invariably it is lack of love — and the bitter things that are said by true Christians in the midst of differences. These stick in the mind like glue ... It is these things — these unloving attitudes and words — that cause the stench that the world can smell in the Church of Jesus Christ among those who are really true Christians."

No matter on which side we stand in the unfortunate issues that threaten to divide us, this should follow our directive:

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up ... an offering and sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma" (Ephesians 5:1-2).

Rick Parrott
1777 LeDean Drive
Morristown 37814

Resumes requested for department head

Recommendations for the director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Protection Plans Department are now being accepted.

Recommendations, with resumes, should be in the office of the executive director of the TBC by Oct. 10 for consideration by the search subcommittee which meets Oct. 11.

Subcommittee members are Leonard Markham, chairman; Wendell Boertje; Herschel Chevalier; Clint Oakley; and Joe Trybone.

Send resumes to Executive Director, TBC, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Medicine and missions have always gone together. Our Lord healed and saved regularly as He performed His ministry. They still go together.

Jere Phillips, our new Missions Department director, was reminded of this a few days ago. As he visited with an official of the new Saturn plant at Spring Hill, the official asked him, "what relationship does your group have to the Baptist hospital in Nashville?" As he acknowledged that the hospital was our hospital, Phillips did not know what to expect, but a smile came to the official's face.

When he first moved to Tennessee a few months ago, a member of his family was hospitalized at Baptist Hospital with a serious health problem. The care that the family received was

of such superior quality, that they went away feeling good about Baptists. The care had been given with a Christian touch.

This hospital experience made the official very receptive to the ministry proposals that the missions director shared. He readily opened the door for our churches to have a significant ministry to new families moving to Tennessee to work for the Saturn plant.

This is the way it should be. The churches and the institutions of the convention are partners under the Lord. Indeed, the institutions are an extension of the churches. They are expressing our concern for the whole person.

Do you pray for the work of our hospitals? You should! They fill a vital place in our work. They are faced with a multitude of challenges every day. When they do their work well, they make it easier for all of us to bear witness to the claims of Christ.



LOWRIE



SITE OF OFFERING BEGINNING — Nashville Association Woman's Missionary Union held a service Sept. 9 at the site of the beginning of the Golden State Mission Offering, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, formerly Third Church, Nashville, of which W. C. and Mildred Golden were members and he was pastor. Representatives at the service were, from left, Diane Stewart, Nashville Association WMU president; Katharine Bryan, Tennessee WMU executive director; J. C. Wray, pastor; and Carol Pharris, Tennessee WMU president.

— Photo by Connie Davis

In Atlanta

Chapman, Vestal discuss meeting

ATLANTA (BP)— SBC President Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, called the Atlanta meeting of "moderates" "unfortunate" and said it indicated "moderates" "have now made it clear they have no desire to cooperate with mainstream Southern Baptists."

Chapman said the alternative funding plan could require some initial budget adjustments by convention entities. "But in the longterm, I believe Southern Baptists will respond overwhelmingly in giving through the Cooperative Program to support our missionary efforts. I think the Cooperative Program is woven in the fabric of Southern Baptists and action taken by moderates in Atlanta will not shred that fabric. Southern Baptists are a resilient people, and we will — as a convention — come through this time."

Chapman suggested the meeting "set the wheels in motion" for "moderates" to withdraw from the convention. "First, over the years they've moved from "conservative" theology. Now they're moving away from cooperative methodology. And these are the two great traditions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"(The prospects of a new denomination) appears inevitable as long as they maintain the intensity and severity of spirit expressed by this (Atlanta) action," Chapman added. "(But) Whatever they may do, I am comforted that the larger family of Southern Baptists will stay bonded together by conviction and cooperation."

Chapman said he did not know how productive dialogue of convention and Atlanta leaders would be but noted he has voiced his willingness "to meet with any person at any place who wants to share their heart-felt convictions."

However, he reiterated earlier statements that the impetus for such dialogue lies with "moderates," who he said have remained resistant to "conservative" theology and leadership.

Chapman stressed keeping the recent meeting in perspective. "Southern Baptists must remember we have 37,000 churches, and by far most of those churches were not in attendance

in Atlanta," he said. "And there's no way to immediately gauge the results of this meeting due to the fact that those attending will have to go back to their churches, and the individual churches will have to make those decisions.

"And I just believe the larger body of Southern Baptists is going to find it very difficult to be uncooperative," Chapman said.

Daniel Vestal, chairman of the Atlanta group's steering committee, noted he has been "dialoguing for 12 years" in an effort to promote reconciliation. "But there can't be reconciliation without a willingness to share in decision making," he said.

Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, disagreed that the impetus for dialogue lies with "moderates." "We have no power. We are disenfranchised. We have nothing. We have no leverage. We have no way to compel anybody to do anything. So what we have done is choose as free Baptists to voluntarily associate ourselves together in good will for the sake of missions and evangelism.

"I don't wish ill to those in control (of the convention)," Vestal added. "But they don't want us. They want our money, but they don't want our participation. So we have no recourse but to seek ways to participate in the service of Christ.

"They've been saying for 12 years that people like us don't have a place. We're still not leaving, but we are going to try to get on with the work of the kingdom."

Vestal emphasized the Cooperative Program means of funding Southern Baptist causes depends on shared decision making. "Until those in control of the convention are willing to allow that to happen, I don't think they can expect people to contribute to that mechanism.

"The Cooperative Program is more than a funding mechanism. It is a way of cooperating in mutual trust and respect in fulfilling the Great Commission. If that mutual trust is destroyed, then the mechanism won't work. Those who are in control of the convention are in a position to demonstrate that (trust) or not to demonstrate that. And that will determine whether people participate in the mechanism."

Executive Board votes same budget, funding for . . .

(Continued from page 1)

budget as a whole because he felt "we're playing politics with the TBC budget."

Baker observed that in years past the TBC Executive Board has "stayed out of the so-called controversy within our convention."

He also noted that the TBC is having trouble meeting its budget. "Many churches will see this as a political move and I feel some will stop giving to the TBC budget. I think we're going to do more harm than good if we pass this budget as amended," Baker said.

The budget passed on voice vote by an estimated 60-40 percent.

The budget and program committee also presented recommendations concerning changes in the TBC's business and financial plan regarding distribution of Cooperative Program funds and designated funds.

Oakley explained the proposed changes were made to clarify existing policies.

The proposed change in designated funds would have allowed a church to designate either the TBC or SBC portion of its funds. Whichever was not designated would be counted as CP contributions. Under the current policy, any designation places the entire amount under "designated gifts."

Bobby Turner of Knoxville, a member of the subcommittee which made the proposed changes, explained the method was designed to give every church in the TBC a chance to cooperate.

Lowrie agreed, noting that with the method now in use \$1 designated makes the entire amount designated. This is an attempt to soften that and give churches credit for being cooperating, he said.

Because of apparent confusion

regarding the changes, Oakley recommended that the changes be sent back to the committee. It was approved.

In other actions, the Executive Board:

- Adopted revisions in the program statements of the departments of telecommunications and church-ministers' information.
- Approved guideline suggestions for the proposed TBC's site fund for new churches.
- Approved expense reimbursement policies for the board.
- Revised the last paragraph of the Executive Board bylaws, Article III — officers, to allow the TBC's executive director to designate someone to assume authority in his absence from the Baptist Center.

- Heard a progress report on the abortion study committee from Anne Nolan of Signal Mountain, chairman.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be Nov. 12 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, prior to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Darrell Whaley called to Milton church

Bradley's Creek Church, Milton, recently called Darrell Whaley as pastor.

Whaley was pastor of Burt Church, Woodbury, before going to Milton. He was also pastor of Mount Pleasant Church, Rockvale, Mount Pleasant Church, Mount Pleasant, and a church in Alabama.

The Chapel Hill native was ordained in 1965 at Eagleville Church, Eagleville. He and his wife, Judy, have four children.

One Word More *By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor*

We may think of stewardship as old-fashioned.

But it is well for us to remember that many of Jesus' great concepts are also considered old-fashioned. He has given us the means to accomplish marvels through intercessory efforts, not just by prayer, but by the daily life.

Following the teachings of Christ, the New Testament paints no more noble picture of the faithful Christian than to call him a steward. Jesus came teaching stewardship.

First of all, Christ summoned us to Christian stewardship — a special tuning of the Christian life. You could say that He asked (and will continue asking) for the accounting of a life. "How is it that I heard this of you? Give an account of your stewardship," Luke 16:2.

Then in John 21:15, Jesus brings us face to face with a most perplexing question: "Do you love me?" This is close to the heart of His teaching. He is asking for the allegiance of men — this is evangelism. Then when He said, "Feed my sheep," He gives us the obligation of stewardship.

Other words of our Lord Christ give us clear meaning of His intentions in

the matter of stewardship, our responsibility to manage our lives with proper (Christlike) consideration of others. Consider His questions, and an evaluation:

"Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

"How many loaves do you have?"

"Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household?"

"What does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

"When the son of man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

"To whom much is given, much will be required."

God likely yet has great truths to be delivered to man. Through our listening, obeying, and doing, we act out daily these truths. Those of us who call him Lord, and still have quaking and thorny souls, must become faithful.

We will discover in each accounting that the Lord is faithful.



ALLEN

Partnership project affects 619 people

During just two weeks 25 mission volunteers helped at least 619 people change their lives. The volunteers, who participated in an evangelism project of the Tennessee/Philippines Partnership Aug. 2-15, reported 483 professions of faith and 136 other spiritual commitments.

"People are just hungry to hear the Word of God. I think God is certainly in our partnership relationship," said Murray Mathis, Tennessee Baptist Convention president and pastor, Third Church, Murfreesboro.

"If people will go they'll never be the same and they'll never think of missions the same again," said Bill Wilson, director, Convention Ministries Division, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The group was the second largest of the partnership, which has involved 135 volunteers who have reported 1793 professions of faith and 536 other spiritual decisions since the partnership began in April 1989.

Nine teams of two or three people worked in churches.

Mathis, his wife, Loretta, and son, 16-year-old Archie, formed one of nine evangelism teams. Wilson teamed up with Ambers Wilson, Central Church, Johnson City, and Ben McNabb, Grace Church, Johnson City. The Mathises worked in a metropolitan area while Wilson's team worked in rural areas.

Both teams worked at two churches and reported good attendance during evening services.

Mathis was impressed by the response at Fidelity Church in Marbel, which had existed about three months. Its building had a thatch roof with no



UPON ARRIVAL — Murray Mathis, left, is welcomed to the Philippines by Leo Salazar, president, Mindanao/Visayas Convention. Photos by Bill Wilson

walls. Split coconut trees had been made into seats.

Although 41 had been the church's largest attendance, 125 attended one crusade service though they had to sit outside the church on ground wet from a rainstorm.

Wilson reported 200 people attended services at a church which had 70 members.

While visiting in the marketplace and homes, Wilson said, they were greeted graciously and with interest — not only because they were Americans but also because of their message.

The Filipinos were "very helpful in visitation and evangelism," said Wilson. They often interpreted for the Americans because native dialects dominate some areas of the Philippines though English is the official language.

"I was most impressed with the national pastors. They are the most Godly, dedicated people I've ever worked

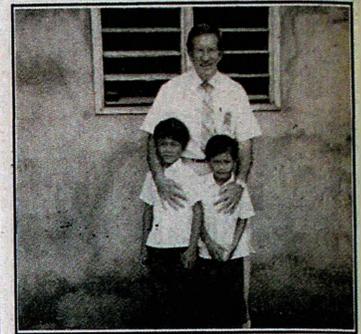
with," said Wilson. "They gave us the best they had — the best accommodations, the best food."

The young people at one church stayed at the church during the team's visit to help with meals and the work even though they had to sleep on wooden benches, said Wilson.

Because Mathis worked with Marbel Church, one of the oldest churches in the country, and because Marbel is the province's governmental headquarters, he met with community leaders including acting governor of the province, administrative leader of the province, bureau of treasury employees, and 175 local businessmen at a dinner hosted by Marbel Church.

Murray and Archie Mathis spoke to 3000 high school students at a public school and to 1000 students at a Christian high school and college. They were invited to the public school by the principal, a Baptist.

Both Wilson and Mathis commented



NEW FRIENDS — Bill Wilson became friends with the sons of Pastor Renonte Delmo of Bethel Church, South Cabota.

on the economic struggle of most Filipinos. The average family makes the equivalent of \$160 a month, Mathis noted.

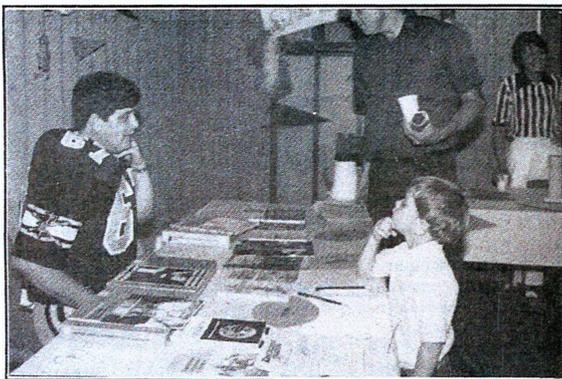
Most Filipinos are Roman Catholic by heritage rather than commitment, said Wilson. "The door is wide open for Baptists," he added. The urgency of the needs is compounded by the presence of missionaries from cults like Mormonism, stated Wilson.

Southern Baptist missionaries are held in high regard by Filipinos, noted Wilson, especially because of their relief efforts after the recent earthquake.

The Mathises visited missionaries Sam and Connie Stallings of Bolivar. The Stallings, who live in Marbel with daughters Bethany and Tiffany, minister to a tribe near Marbel.

"It was absolutely a fabulous trip. It was hard, very tiring, but we saw God's hand working," said Mathis. — Connie Davis

First Church, Athens, kicks off new year



← FOOTBALL AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING — Randy Baker, left, talks to four-year-old Chad Nicholas about football while Robert Parker views Discipleship Training materials at the display which featured teamwork.

By Connie Davis, assistant editor
ATHENS — Members of First Church, Athens, take fun — Fall Roundup — seriously. Fall Roundup is the church's annual kick-off for church programs. It was held Aug. 26.

For two hours the church's activities area is a mixture of about 400 people, balloons, snacks, face-painting, live music, and information about church programs via video, pamphlets, posters, and spokespersons.

The Discipleship Training display area includes a big screen TV broadcasting the University of Tennessee/University of Colorado football game. The theme of the Discipleship Training program for the upcoming year is teamwork.

A bean-bag game and helium-filled balloons draw children to a Girls in Action display.

Singles, youth, and Woman's Mis-

sionary Union members wear T-shirts sporting their program's theme.

The Sunday School's "fishing for men" display has a campsite and fishing equipment.

The youth, who are watching a video and wearing neon-orange emblazoned T-shirts, often overflow into the church recreation display.

The International Committee display is decorated with crafts made using origami, the Japanese art of paper-folding. The committee leads a ministry to Japanese who work in the area and who attend Tennessee Wesleyan College.

← SINGLES' MINISTRY — Elizabeth Crayne visits with Carlos Peterson, pastor, First Church, Athens, at the singles' display.



ORIGAMI AND HELPING — Gwen Pierce, left, shows Lindsay Perkinson, middle, and Laura Hutson origami, the art of Japanese paper-folding, and tells them about local Japanese people at the International Committee booth. — Photos by Connie Davis

Prayer ministry workers pass out prayer reminders.

People sign up for children's music programs and missions education programs — Missions Friends, GAs, Acteens, Royal Ambassadors, and High School Baptist Young Men — which have taken a summer vacation.

Meanwhile, the chuck wagon is serving fried chicken and all the fixings in the church's fellowship hall. The fun continues in the evening worship service. Associate ministers report on programs for the upcoming year and a children's summer music program is presented.

Pastor Carlos Peterson explains the evening is important because it reaches visitors and even members who are not aware of opportunities provided by the church.

Pastors' retreat provides opportunity for spiritual, physical relaxation

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
NEWPORT — Approximately 150 Tennessee Baptist pastors gathered Aug. 27-30 at Camp Carson in Newport for a week of relaxation, fellowship, Bible study, and preaching.

The 34th annual pastors' retreat was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department.

Department director Jerry King said the purpose of the retreat "is to give pastors and staff an opportunity to come away for a week of spiritual and physical relaxation before the new church year begins."

King noted this year's retreat was "one of the best we've had in several years," basing his observation on feed-

back from retreat participants.

"There was a good, exciting, enthusiastic spirit at the camp this year," King added.

Bible study

One of the aspects of the retreat is an opportunity for the pastors to hear the topic of the annual January Bible study emphasis taught.

Billy Baskin, pastor of New Way Fellowship Church, Miami, Fla., led the Bible study in the book of Acts.

Baskin observed that "a spirit-filled church is a thorn in the flesh of every community."

He emphasized the need for preaching the Gospel. "If we just preach Jesus, we'll win the world for

God," Baskin observed.

Other messages

Retreat participants also heard "good preaching" from a number of other program participants.

Larry Gilmore, pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, served as camp pastor.

Gilmore delivered six sermons during the four-day retreat. He reminded pastors they "are just as much ambassadors for Christ on their days off as they are when behind the pulpit or visiting the sick in the hospital."

TBC President Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro, delivered two messages during the retreat. Mathis cautioned against building churches on programs or organizations. "The church of the living Lord is built on Jesus," Mathis emphasized.

Messages also were given by Glenn Weekley, pastor, First Church, Hendersonville; Tom Lee, church growth consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board; and D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director.

There also was a surprise speaker as King initiated a new idea for the retreat. The names of those who were registered as of Monday night were put together and a name was drawn. The person selected had the opportunity to accept a spot on the program to preach.

"This gave one of the participants an opportunity to preach," King said, noting the concept created some interest and was well liked by those in attendance. King said he planned to make that a regular feature of the retreat.

The "lucky" pastor selected to preach was Jackie Carver, pastor of West Haven Church, Knoxville. Carver challenged the pastors by asking them "Where does your faith stop?"

He reminded retreat participants

that faith does not stop at death. "Our faith goes out into eternity," Carver noted.

Meets need

Ron Dyer, pastor of Pomona Church, Crossville, attended his first pastors' retreat. "It's been great," Dyer said, adding the experience provided "a good time of rest, relaxation, and fellowship." Dyer also praised the preaching he heard. "Everybody has been hammering it on the head," he said.

Virgil Turbyfill, a "semi-retired" pastor from Niota, attended his first retreat in 1956 and has missed "only five or six" since.

"The retreats are one of the greatest things a preacher can do," Turbyfill affirmed.

Clayton Dunsmore, pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church, Niota, agreed. The retreats provide a time of spiritual refreshment and an opportunity to see friends you don't see anywhere else, he said.

Although the bulk of the registrants came from East Tennessee, the other two regions of the state also were represented.

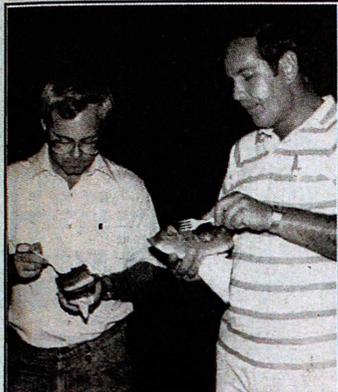
Joe Littlefield, pastor of White Station Church, Memphis, never has let the distance deter him. Littlefield noted he has probably missed only three or four retreats in about 20 years.

"I come to relax, study, and read," Littlefield noted.

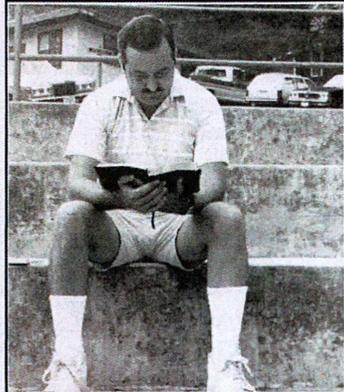
In addition to meeting spiritual needs, ample opportunity is given for recreation. Pastors participated in a variety of sporting events ranging from golf to basketball to horseshoes.

First-time participant Jerry Vittatoe, pastor of Clear Springs Church, Corryton, summed up his feelings about the retreat.

"I would have paid twice as much and driven three times as far to come," he said.



WATERMELON FEAST — Nolachucky Association pastors Allen Payne, left, Union Grove Church, and Donnie Bible, Bible's Chapel, enjoy watermelon.



QUIET TIME — Pastor Mike Breeden, pastor of Clear Creek Church, Dayton, took advantage of the peaceful setting at Camp Carson to read his Bible in the early morning hours.

One Woman's View

By June McEwen

One of the charms of cross-country driving, especially if you leave the interstate highways, is noting the names of Baptist churches along the way. The choice of a name often reflects history, attitudes, geography, the environment, or many other factors. Why churches are called one thing and not another is a matter for speculation. Often there is an interesting story behind the selection of a name.

The nearly 3000 cooperating Baptist churches in Tennessee have names with richness, diversity, and colorfulness which reflects the views of the people who gather for worship, study, and service across the state.

Geography is often involved in naming, as in Baptist Hill and the numerous churches with East, West, North, and South coupled with union, valley, side, ridge, lake, grove, wood. There are 23 Central Baptist churches, and several Middle, Park, and Parkway.

Biblical locations reflect Baptist interest in the Bible. There are numerous Biblical mounts: Aararat, Calvary (47), Carmel, Horeb, Moriah, Carmel, Gilead, Harmony, Hermon, Nebo, Olive, Olivet, Pisgah, Sinai, Tizrah, Zion. Mountains are important parts of many names as seen in Mountain City, Creek, Springs, Terrace, View, Verd, Pleasant, and Vernon.

Other Bible spots include Antioch, Bethany, Bethlehem, Bethel, Corinth, Galilee, Gethsemane, Macedonia, Emmaus, Palestine, Persia, Philadelphia, Philippi, Pisgah, Rome, Salem, Shiloh, Smyrna, Sparta, Solomon's Temple, and Zion.

Trees provide a sizeable number of churches with names. These include Beech, Cedar Hill, Chestnut, Elm, Hickory, Maple, Oak, Pine, Poplar, Spruce, Sycamore, Tulip, Walnut, White Oak, Woodbine, and Woodville. These trees have added tags of grove, springs, park, valley, cove, crest, hill, and valley.

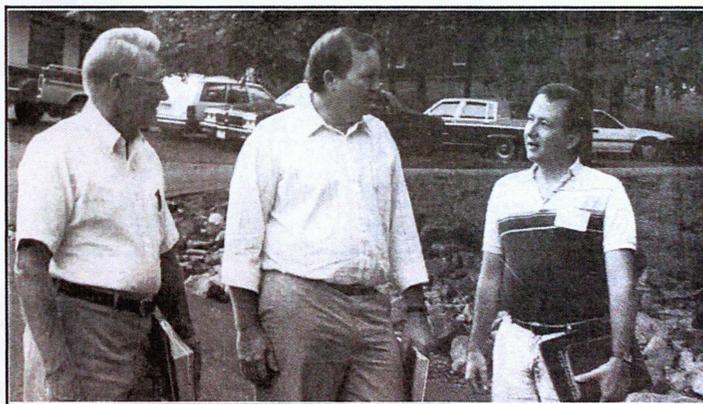
Attitudes have a place also: Friendly (there are 26) Hopewell, Liberty, Open Bible, and Old New Hope. There are 92 churches with the word, "New" as part of their names: Bethel, Freedom, Harmony, Hope, Liberty, Providence, Victory, and Zion.

There are several names which are hard to classify but nevertheless indicate interesting histories: Granite Lifeboat, Hanging Limb, Harsh Chapel, Royal Blue, and Slick Rock.

But what of such a review of church names? Naming is a kind of power; remember God told Adam to give names to all the living beings created. A cursory review of all these names is a powerful statement about Baptist pluralism, about where churches have been established to meet a variety of needs, and what our roots are in this state. Perhaps we can conclude with Sunrise, Sunset, Sunbright, and New Era.



McEWEN



JUST PLAIN FELLOWSHIP — One of the benefits of the pastors' retreat is ample opportunity to visit with fellow pastors. From left, William Suddarth, Elktan Church, Elkon; Don Mathis, Salem Church, Liberty; and Richard Lee, Rover Church, Eagleville.

\$5.4 million in gifts sets record at C-N

JEFFERSON CITY — For the second year, Carson-Newman College surpassed record levels with \$5.4 million in total giving.

Carson-Newman's Eagle Club experienced an all-time high with an 100 percent increase over last year. The annual fund also had a record increase of 25 percent over last year.

Largest support comes from the Tennessee Baptist Convention. For the fiscal year, the convention contributed nearly \$2.2 million to Carson-Newman.

This year, churches contributed \$273,023 in scholarships and funds.

Gifts from corporations and foundations were \$824,756, and alumni giving rose to \$796,000. Additionally, estates, wills, trusts, and other planned gifts to the college generated \$729,486. Auxiliary enterprises, which account for 21 percent of revenues, received a boost this year from the addition of Centrifuge, a summer camp that attracted some 4000 Baptist youth to campus.

Members celebrate 150th anniversary at Rover Church

Current and former members of Rover Church, Eagleville, recently commemorated the church's 150th anniversary by scheduling a three-night revival preceding the traditional homecoming activities on Aug. 19.

Revival services were led by Rover native Wallace Rowland, pastor of Liberty Church, Tullahoma, and former pastors Bobby Haney, pastor of Nitrate City Church in Alabama and Darryl Turner of Fayetteville. The Sunday morning service was led by

David Wall, another former pastor, who currently serves at Center Grove Church, Tullahoma.

During the morning service, Harold Smith, director of missions for New Duck River Association, presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, commemorating the anniversary.

The church's reputation for providing a wide array of traditional southern foods was upheld as members and friends gathered to enjoy a noon

meal in the fellowship hall.

The afternoon was devoted to a gospel singing featuring The Accords from Murfreesboro, The Voices of Truth from Shelbyville, and Rejoice, a quartet comprised of members of the church.

A collection of memories and sentiments written by current members and people formerly associated with the church was displayed in the fellowship hall.

The church located in the northern edge of Bedford County was established in 1840 under the name of Union Ridge Church. The name was officially changed to Rover Church in 1949.

Pastor Richard Lee shared of the church's diligence in serving Christ in varied ways even through difficult circumstances which included the destruction of the building by a tornado in March 1913.

A copy of the church history was given to members and visitors. The closing sentences of the history best summarizes the sentiment.

"As we join together to celebrate 150

years as a church we think about the people who have been the congregation through the years. The rich heritage they have given us, the lessons they have taught us, the love they have shown to all people. It is from this heritage of our past that the challenge comes for us to continue the work of Christ in this community. Because of the work, love, and example of the people of Rover Church throughout the years we can look into our past as an inspiration for our future." — Jean Clark



ANNIVERSARY RECOGNIZED — New Duck River Association Director of Missions Harold Smith recently presented a plaque to Pastor Richard Lee and the deacons of Rover Church commemorating the church's 150th anniversary. From left, Billy Hargrove, Smith, Lee, Carl Clark, John Locke, Edd Holton, Charles Kincaid, and Bryant Landis.

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Churches ...

Capleville Church, Memphis, is moving to 4475 Old Germantown Road, and will be called Brookside Church.

The congregation of Wilsonville Church, Newport, will observe homecoming Sept. 23. The Trueway Quartet will sing.

Homecoming services will be held Sept. 9 at First Church, Tracy City. Lois Jane Huddleston will sing during the 11 a.m. service, which will be followed by luncheon.

Members of Grace Church, Nashville, will celebrate the church's 80th anniversary and homecoming during September. On Sept. 16, Hiram LeMay will be guest speaker in the evening service, which will be followed by an ice cream supper. Jim Lindsay will speak following a special dinner Sept. 19, and Wade Darby will speak during morning worship Sept. 23 with dinner on the grounds to follow.

A homecoming service will be held Sept. 16 at Lockeland Church, Nashville.

Members of Second Church, Union City, celebrated the church's 39th anniversary Aug. 19 with homecoming and dedication of a new fellowship hall, youth department, and office facility.

Homecoming will be held Sept. 23 at Walnut Log Church, Union City.

Lakewood Church, Donelson, will hold homecoming services Sept. 16. A luncheon will be served after the 10:45 a.m. service.

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The congregation of First Church, Parsons, will celebrate the church's 100th anniversary Sept. 23.

A churchwide banquet will be held Sept. 22 at Parkway Church, Knoxville, to celebrate the church's 12th anniversary and Pastor Walter Davis' 6th anniversary.

Members of Lynn Garden Church, Kingsport, will celebrate the church's 50th anniversary and homecoming Sept. 23. A covered-dish dinner will follow morning worship. The church has had only two full-time pastors. J. L. Trent served 1940-1970 and Carl L. Strickler began serving in 1971 and is still pastor.

A new gymnasium and educational space at Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, will be dedicated Sept. 23.

Members of Salem Church, Trenton, recently dedicated a new gymnasium, fellowship hall, and class space annex.

Homecoming will be held Sept. 16 at Kenwood Church, Clarksville. Missionary in Korea James Hampton and his wife will speak and Nicole Sykes and Jeff and Tammy Nelson will provide special music.

Members of Luray Church, Luray, will have homecoming Sept. 16 with a special dinner and music.

The congregation of Summertown Church, Summertown, will celebrate

homecoming Sept. 16 with a special worship service, a picnic, and a hamburger supper.

Leadership ...

Ansell Baker was called as interim pastor to First Church, Niota, after the retirement of Anderson McCulley.

Stephen Weaver resigned as pastor of Westwood Church, Nashville, recently to accept the pastorate of a church in North Carolina.

Calvary Church, Knoxville, called Knoxville native Joe Drummer as associate pastor/college minister. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and was a youth minister at a Texas church. Before going to Texas in 1984, Drummer worked with youth at Calvary Church.

Revivals ...

Revival will be held Sept. 17-21 at Twin Oaks Church, Cedar Grove. Alton Prather, Atwood, will lead the services.

L. C. Gray, Owensboro, Ky., led revival Aug. 5-11 at Pleasant Valley Church, Cottontown. There were seven additions to the church by baptism and one by letter.

A youth revival will be held Sept. 18-20 at Oak Grove Church, Benton, led by Randy Irons, pastor of First Church, Tellico.

Junior Hill will lead revival Sept. 16-19 at Park Avenue Church, Nashville. Scott Pastore, minister of music, will lead music.

An anniversary revival will be held Sept. 19-23 at Beverly Hills Church, Memphis, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the church. Speakers will be Buck Morton, Judson Lambert, Gary McEwen, Bill Foote, and Bob Agee.

Revival will be held Sept. 16-22 at West Main Church, Alexandria, led by Thurman Seber. Brad Leach will lead music.

Shiloh Association reported the following churches will hold revivals in September. Churches, dates, and leaders are listed: Good Hope Church, Adamsville, Sept. 16-19, John Coleman, pastor of First Church, Ridgely; Second Church, Savannah, Sept. 23-26, James Smith, pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs; and Turkey Creek Church, Savannah, Sept. 21-23, Union University team.

The following churches in Hardeman County Association have scheduled revivals: First Church, Bolivar, Sept. 28-30; Essary Springs Church, Poca-hontas, Sept. 17-21, Kara Blackard of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, Miss.; Hatchie Church, Hornsby, Sept. 16-21, Barry Littlefield; New Bethel Church, Middleton, Sept. 16-21, George DeRousse; Parran's Chapel Church, Bolivar, Sept. 16-21, Bill Irvin of Lucy Church, Middleton; and Walnut Grove Church, Bolivar, Sept. 9-12, Ron Davis.

Revival will be held Sept. 17-18 at First Chinese Church, Memphis, led by Johnny Wang, San Francisco, Calif.

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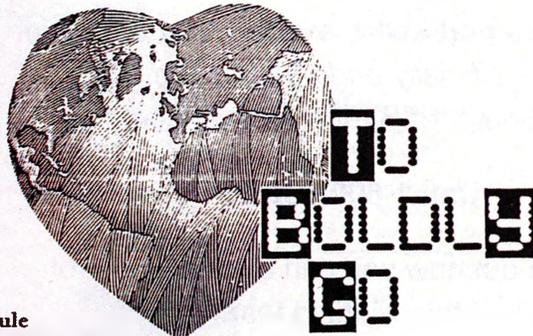


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11:45 a.m. Conference IV
12:40 p.m. Conference V
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Portland pastor leads church through two anniversary celebrations

PORTLAND — First Church, Portland Pastor Richard Patton had a distinct advantage when it came time to plan the church's 100th anniversary celebration — he was there when the church observed its 75th anniversary 25 years ago.

"We learned some things that needed to be done and how to organize," acknowledged Patton, who has been pastor of the church since 1963.

One of the major things to do for an anniversary celebration is to plan early, Patton said, noting preparation began a year ago for the church's 100th anniversary celebration which was held Aug. 26.

During the morning celebration, former pastor Eugene Fleming of

Knoxville delivered the message. J. C. Lewis, director of missions, Bledsoe Association, presented the church a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Historical Society commemorating the occasion.

In the afternoon session, Lynn May, executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, presented a framed certificate to Patton. He reminded members of First Church that "Southern Baptists are heirs of a magnificent heritage" and that the anniversary celebration gave them "a unique opportunity to examine their roots as a body of Christ."

Patton and former pastors Fleming and Charles Jolley of Tacoma, Wash., also participated in the afternoon service.

An unusual aspect of the program

was the presentation of a time capsule which was to be buried in front of the church with an appropriate marker bearing instructions that the capsule was not to be opened until the church reaches its 200th anniversary.

Patton said the idea for the time capsule was conceived by Cliff Williamson, Sunday School director at the church.

In addition to records, a pictorial directory, a copy of the church's history, and other miscellaneous items supplied by church members, the time capsule also contains a letter from Patton to future members.

In the letter Patton wrote, "I don't know what the future holds or if there will be a church here 100 years from now, but I write this letter with the belief that the church will be here and

is continuing to minister to the community, and the conviction that what God has begun through us will continue until He comes."

Patton said that while the records are important, he felt a letter "would give a personal touch."

Patton noted that when he came to the church he had no idea he would be there for the 100th anniversary. "I didn't even know if I would be there for the 75th," he laughed.

He said a pastor friend, who had moved around to several churches in a period of about four years, once asked him how he managed to stay so long a one church.

"I told him it was 'just circumstance.' There's no way to plan on it. It just happens," Patton said. — Lonnie Wilkey



TIME CAPSULE — A unique aspect of First Church, Portland's 100th anniversary celebration was the burial of a time capsule to be opened when the church reaches its bicentennial year. From left, J. C. Lewis, director of missions, Bledsoe Association; Pastor Richard Patton; and Cliff Williamson, Sunday School director.

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David spares Saul's life

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

Have you ever done a favor for someone only to have him or her betray you? David found out who he could and could not trust. But he never became hardened, unforgiving, or untrusting. To the very end he sought to spare Saul's life, even though Saul was bent on killing him.



HAUN

God-given protection (23:1-29)
Satan always sought to destroy the seed line through which the Christ would be born. In these passages we see Saul used as the instrument of the devil. But as long as David sought God's wisdom and God's will he was provided God's protection.

God moved on David to attack the Phillistines at Keilah. The Phillistines were Israel's bitter enemies and God gave David the victory. Saul's jealousy was so intense, rather than being grateful for the victory, he turned and

pursued the victor. How wicked the human heart can become untouched by God's grace.

David, sensing he would be betrayed by the men of Keilah, fled for the wilderness. Jonathan met him and pledged his loyalty and encouragement to David.

When David went to Ziph, he was again betrayed. Psalm 54 records his prayer of deliverance. As David fled, there was only a mountain between him and Saul. It would seem that David was about to be defeated. But just as the fleeing Israelites were separated by the cloud from the Egyptians so did God intervene, turning Saul back home to deal with invading Phillistines.

God-given grace (24:1-22)
Only the grace of God can cause us to have forgiveness and mercy for our enemies. As Saul returned from fighting the Phillistines to his maniacal search for David, he assembled 3000 special troops to assist him.

Saul entered into a cave, not knowing of the presence of David and his

men. David's men saw it as the hand of the Lord arranging for David to kill his enemy. But David's tender heart welled up with grace and forgiveness. What appears to be God ordering the circumstances should always be put to the test of His Word.

Rather than kill Saul, David confronted him in humility and forgiveness. Proverbs 15:1 says, "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." David's response completely diffused this highly tense situation. Saul was deeply touched and asked for David's promise of protection when he became king.

God-given wisdom (25:1-44)
Chapter 24 reveals God used an enemy army to divert Saul and spare David. But more often we must be spared from ourselves. If we are on the wrong course God can use a person filled with wisdom to protect us. David reacted in a wrong way and God used Abigail to spare him from making a critical mistake.

After Samuel's death, David and his men went to Paran where a rich sheep rancher, Nabal, refused to feed his men, even though David's band had protected Nabal's shepherds. When David received word, anger overtook

him. David headed for Nabal's ranch with men and swords. Before he could make this fatal mistake, Nabal's wife, Abigail intercepted David, bearing gifts and apologies for her stubborn husband. David heeded Abigail's wise advice and was kept from sinning against God.

BIBLE BOOK
September 16 Lesson
Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 23:1 to 26:25

What David was not supposed to do, God did for him. After a drunken party, Nabal had a stroke and ten days later he died (Romans 12:19). David married Abigail while Saul forced David's wife Michal to marry another man.

God-given forgiveness (26:1-25)
How many times should we forgive those who offend us? Jesus said "Seventy times seven," which meant without limits (Matthew 18:22).

Again, David could have killed Saul; instead David spared and forgave him. Only God could give David the power to forgive his enemy. Only God can enable us to continually forgive without a root of bitterness developing.

Nathan rebukes David

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

How does one stir the conscience of the strong or of a friend? Nathan, the prophet, demonstrated the answer as he acted as personal counselor to King David, his friend. He was aware David had deliberately committed adultery and murder. Did he avoid the issue?

Did he directly confront the King? Did he soft-soap the issue? Did he use God-inspired ideas and words? Nathan chose the latter and a sinner was convicted of his sin. In this marvelous passage there is an object lesson on how to stir the conscience of a sinner.



PIPPIN

God initiated the rebuke (12:1a)
God was aware of David's sin and

He sent His prophet to stir David's conscience to effect a reconciliation. The first step in recovering a sinner must come from above. Such a step taken by an equal can only cause the sinner to compare himself with the equal and conclude that he is not so bad. So God must and does begin the act of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19).

God's messenger delivers the message (12:1b-4)

Following God's leadership Nathan came to David and told him the most remarkable story about two men. One was poor owning only one ewe lamb. The other was wealthy owning large herds of sheep. To feed a guest the rich man took the poor man's only lamb. This story had an immediate appeal for the shepherd king. He identified with the poor man who must submit to the wishes of the rich and

powerful.
Notice that this parable leads one to see a single person. A single poor man suffered wrong at the hands of a single powerful man. The message that brings conviction individualizes sinners.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
September 16 Lesson
Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 11:1 to 12:25

The king responds (12:5-6)
David reacted to the message with anger and pronounced judgment upon "the man" who had abused "the poor man." The abuser deserved death and must make four-fold restitution (Exodus 22:1). God's message was getting through!

The prophet applied the parable (12:7-10)
Nathan made the parable personal: "Thou art the man!" It was the King who had abused his power to satisfy his lust, as the prophet made plain. David could then look upon his actions with Bathsheba and Uriah as adultery

and murder, both sins against God. He could see that God would be justified in taking his life. He could hear God saying, "You are the one! You are the sinner! You will pay for your sins!" That is what happens when God's message becomes personal.

Confession and pardon (12:13)
The King confessed that he had sinned and that his sin was against God. He blamed no one for his sin but himself. He admitted that his sin had insulted the Holy One Who had only blessed him. Sin is against God (Psalm 51:4) and must be confessed to Him. David's heart-felt confession resulted in immediate assurance of pardon. The Lord "put away" his sin completely and permanently.

Conclusion: The messenger went at God's directing and spoke plainly and personally to his strong friend. The result was a reconciliation of a sinner to God. If God's messengers would speak just as boldly and plainly, more sinners would be convicted of their sin. Do as God directs!

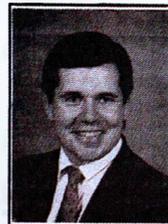
Participate in Christian fellowship

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

The Greek word "koinonia," translated "fellowship," occurs 20 different times and is one of the significant words in the New Testament. There is no English word that can really express the meaning of koinonia. The root meaning of koinonia is "communion," or "participation." Sometimes it may be translated "partnership."

Christian fellowship is a special relationship among believers who enjoy the manifold blessings of God. It is a community of believers.

When we are saved, we become members of God's family. To mature as believers, we need the blessings that come from actively participating in koinonia. In fact, we are encouraged to be a part of sweet, caring, sharing,



WREN

fellowship.
Fellowship through sharing (Acts 2:42-47)
Here we see a partnership strong enough where those involved break bread, study, share, pray, and worship together (vv. 42-47). There is a delightful sense of community.

LIFE AND WORK
September 16 Lesson
Basic Passage: Acts 2:42-47; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Ephesians 4:1-6; Hebrews 13:1-3

Strife, hatred, untamed tongues, selfishness, jealousy, and egos weaken the community. We must have a united identification before the world to make the impact God desires.

A oneness must exist among the people of God. Believers must follow Christ by determining to give themselves away for the benefit of others. He warns against the faulty notion that the way to happiness is to promote

self. Christians must realize they are a part of a community and must be concerned about what is best for everyone.

When this attitude is prominent in our churches, we will see a great joy in our relationships to both God and other believers. We will also see real evangelism taking place naturally: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (v. 47).

Fellowship through comforting (1 Corinthians 1:4-6)
The word translated "affliction" means "to be pressed in." It could mean to be "stressed or distressed." God allows afflictions, tribulations, and trouble to come to all of us (v. 4). The same Greek word is used for all of these difficult circumstances.

God comforts us. Comfort means one who is called along side of to help. It is more than just sympathy; it is assistance, consolation, and encouragement.

When we face a stressful situation, God comforts us to enable us to

become comforters (v. 6). We all come in contact with people who need encouraging, a kind word, or direction. Let us realize that God comforts us and wants to use us to be comforters to others. True fellowship is promoted and enhanced when comforting takes place among the participants.

Fellowship through loving (Ephesians 4:1-3, Hebrews 13:1)
Christians should strive to maintain "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (v. 3). There is only one Spirit and miraculously, that Spirit abides in the heart of every Christian. There are not two Spirits that pull Christians apart. Christians must realize that in our churches, conventions, and denominations we must promote peace.

We must "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (v. 1). "Vocation" refers to one's calling or life's work. We have been called to live in harmony with God's purpose and intention. In John 17, Jesus prayed that His followers would be one even as He and the Father are one.

For this to be accomplished, we must be submissive to God's will, practice patience, and accept one another.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Christian soldiers face unfamiliar religion

ATLANTA — While adjusting to desert heat and sand, Southern Baptists in the Middle East are likely to face an equally unfamiliar religion. Encounters with Muslims may cause Christians to limit their evangelistic message and adjust their schedules said Maurice Smith, a specialist on world religions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

For example, Smith says most Muslim-dominated countries prohibit non-Muslims from expressing their religious views publicly. He said even if evangelization were legal, "street preaching would be counter-productive because of their unwritten law." However, Smith said chaplains should be free to conduct religious services on military compounds. He said Muslims might want to attend such services to observe Christians at worship.

While working with Muslims, it will be necessary to adjust schedules, Smith said. Muslims typically pray five times a day — at dawn, morning, afternoon, before sundown, and after sundown. Each prayer time may take about 15 minutes. Other differences are obvious between Islamic and Christian worship styles. Smith said Muslims do not sing during their worship services, they remove their shoes, and men and women do not worship together. "Their worship has more rituals, but it is usually very genuine and sincere," Smith said.

2500 accept Christ during campaign in Venezuela

MARACAIBO, Venezuela — They received more than twice what they prayed for. Baptist leaders in Maracaibo, Venezuela, had prayed that 1000 people would become Christians during a partnership evangelism project with Southern Baptist volunteers. When the campaign ended Aug. 26, more than 2500 people had accepted Christ as Savior.

But that wasn't the only answered prayer. Two of those 2500 people had been praying for someone to help them with spiritual questions. One was a young woman who was washing clothes outdoors when Southern Baptist volunteer Gary Longenecker visited her neighborhood. Speaking through an interpreter, Longenecker told her about Christ. The woman said she had been reading the Bible for several years but did not understand it.

"This morning I prayed that God would send someone to help me understand," the woman told Longenecker, pastor of First Church, House Springs, Mo. "God sent you to help me understand. Thank you for coming," she said.

Volunteer Kendall Hamilton, minister of children/family at Quail Springs Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., had a similar experience. He and a Venezuelan Baptist shared their faith with an elderly man in his home. "I've been waiting five days for someone to come tell me about Jesus," the man said. "I prayed because I knew I needed something. You are my answer to prayer."

Longenecker and Hamilton were among 81 volunteers from Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma who helped lead evangelistic services Aug. 12-19 in 30 Baptist churches and missions in the Maracaibo area. Almost half the volunteers were students and faculty from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

Leningrad church invites additional student groups

RIDGECREST, N.C. — The success of a student mission project this summer in the Soviet Union has led to an invitation for two additional student teams in December. Four Southern Baptist student mission teams, including one from Tennessee, this summer worked in the historic project to restore a church building in the city of Leningrad.

The project was the first time Southern Baptists had been allowed to conduct mission projects in the Soviet Union, according to Brad Gray, consultant for world student missions in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's student ministry department. "The victory of the project is that they have invited us back," he said.

Twelve-member construction teams are being requested for Dec. 8-22, 1990, and Dec. 28, 1990-Jan. 11, 1991. Because of the need to process passports and visas and provide names for approval by the Soviet government, the teams must be identified by Aug. 31, Gray said.

Gray said preference will be given to states which did not participate in the summer project. The four teams this summer represent Tennessee, Mississippi, Texas, and a joint team from Kentucky and Alabama. Like the summer teams, the groups will be doing construction work to restore a building which the government has given to the Temple of the Gospel Church.

Non-profit foundation established to aid SBTS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — An independent non-profit foundation has been established to receive funds to support Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Alumni and Friends of Theological Education Inc. was incorporated in Kentucky Aug. 21 by H. Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Church in Louisville.

According to the foundation's articles of incorporation, its purpose is to advance and promote "all branches of learning, knowledge, research, and investigation whatsoever in the field of religious education"; establish endowments, scholarships, and other funds "for the use and benefit of" Southern Seminary and its students; and "to encourage, foster, promote, and implement the continuous education and activity of friends and alumni" of the seminary.

The foundation provides a way for alumni and friends to support Southern Seminary, even though they do not agree with the majority of the school's trustees, Shoemaker said. The foundation's articles of incorporation stipulate that gifts will be considered endowment unless otherwise noted and that the principal of the endowment will not be spent.

The foundation is to be directed by a self-perpetuating board of directors, composed of Southern Seminary alumni and friends. A four-member incor-

porating board will select the first ongoing board and develop bylaws in the first year, Shoemaker reported. In addition to Shoemaker, the other members of the incorporating board are John H. Hewett, pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C.; Herbert C. Gabhart, chancellor and former president of Belmont College, Nashville; and Jeffrey G. Roberts, an investment counselor and member Crescent Hill Church, Louisville, Ky.

Board asks judge to set aside jury's \$1.56 million verdict

RICHMOND — Motions to dismiss a \$1.56 million verdict against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board were argued in Richmond Circuit Court Aug. 20. Foreign Mission Board attorney Lewis T. Booker of Richmond asked that a seven-person jury's July 13 verdict be set aside in a suit brought by a former missionary to Africa, Diana Sue Wade, on behalf of her four children.

During the trial, Mrs. Wade contended her children suffered trauma because board officials learned that her husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., was sexually abusing their oldest daughter but did not disclose it to her, the mother, so she could halt the molestation. Mrs. Wade contended her husband continued to abuse the daughter as well as a second adopted daughter and began abusing a third daughter.

Booker argued during the trial that board officials who handled the family's case acted reasonably under the circumstances by telling Wade to inform his wife of the abuse and obtain professional counseling, which he did not do. Officials then ordered Wade to return to the United States with his family for counseling. He later was arrested and imprisoned for child abuse. The Wades are now divorced.

During the Aug. 20 hearing the board's motions to dismiss the verdict were heard by Judge T. J. Markow, who presided during the five-day trial in July. Markow could issue a ruling in a week, a month, or six months, Booker said after the Aug. 20 hearing. If Markow denies the motions, the Foreign Mission Board will have 30 days to file a notice of appeal with the Virginia Supreme Court and three months to file its formal petition.

CLC's Land praises ABA for neutral stand on abortion

NASHVILLE — Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land has praised the American Bar Association's decision to rescind its previously adopted pro-abortion stand and to return to its previous position of neutrality on abortion. "This decision will do a great deal to restore the American Bar Association's damaged credibility with many members of our constituency," Land said in a letter Aug. 16 to ABA President L. Stanley Chauvin Jr. of Chicago.

In February Land criticized the ABA for endorsing abortion rights and urged the organization to change its policy. At that time he also wrote to U.S. Attorney General Richard L. Thornburgh and asked him to end the Department of Justice's practice of submitting the names of potential federal court nominees to the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary if and until the ABA rescinds its pro-abortion stand. He told Thornburgh the ABA's pro-abortion stand made it "no more than that of any other organization which has a particular philosophical or moral perspective."

The ABA rescinded its pro-abortion policy during a meeting Aug. 6 in Chicago.

An article in the Aug. 7 edition of *USA Today*, quoted ABA member John Robling, who fought for the neutrality position, as saying, "The ABA is trying to set its own middle course. Everyone is looking for new ground on the abortion issue. Before the ABA could help find that ground, it had to get out of being an advocate for one side."

Barnett presents model to student directors

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Southern Baptist campus ministers must develop the ministry plans that work best on their individual campuses and not be limited to one particular model, Max Barnett, director of campus ministry at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, said Aug. 15. Barnett explained his approach to student ministry in a 40-minute presentation as he introduced *A Guide for Making Disciples on College Campuses: A Team Approach to Student Ministry* during the student conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Barnett wrote the 48-page book which was released this month by the student ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Trustees of the board directed in August 1989 that the book be published as an alternative to the student ministry model presented in the Baptist Student Ministry Guidebook published by the department.

Barnett earlier in the week introduced the book to state and campus directors attending the student conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Charles Johnson, director of the student ministry department, said Barnett worked closely with the department staff to produce the book and meet tight deadlines to have it available for the 1990 student conferences.

Johnson said training on the team approach to student ministry will be coordinated by Bob Hartman, a consultant in the department, and led by five campus ministers including Barnett.

'Read through the Bible' session held at NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS — Fifty-five members of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary faculty, staff, and student body recently participated in a three-day, four-night vigil to read the Bible through nonstop in the seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel.

Starting at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, August 22, attendees, beginning with New Orleans Seminary President Landrum P. Leavell II, took turns standing behind the chapel pulpit to read through a New American Standard Bible. The Bible, containing the signature of each participant, was left on the pulpit at the end of the event, 7:17 a.m. Sunday, August 26.

Seminary family members who took part in the session experienced a range of emotions as they listened to the Bible being read straight through, said Becky Brown, staff member from Natchitoches, La. "There were many times when the reader and everyone listening broke into tears," she said, "especially during the recitation of Christ's death."