

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Laurie Graham, sons, arrive in Nashville from Kuwait

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist worker Laurie Graham and her two sons arrived Sept. 14 in Nashville, but her husband, Maurice, remains in the U.S. Embassy where the family has taken shelter since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Maurice Graham is a native of Shelbyville.

The Grahams left Kuwait Sept. 12, flew to London and then on to the Raleigh-Durham (N.C.) airport the following day. They were to have arrived in Nashville later that evening, but weather problems delayed their flight several times before they finally arrived around noon on Sept. 14.

Mrs. Graham and her sons, Peter, 13, and Aaron, ten, were greeted enthusiastically by friends, many of whom came from First Church, Donelson. The Grahams had stayed in the church's missionary home while on furlough last year.

Before Mrs. Graham left London, she placed her first call to Becky Love, a close friend who lives in Nashville. "I was so excited I missed part of the conversation," said Love, who was at the airport to greet the Grahams.

Their chat lasted only a few moments, Love recalled, noting that when Laurie mentioned her husband, "You could tell her voice dropped. I'm

sure it was very hard to leave him in Kuwait, but she had no choice."

While elated at Laurie and the children's arrival, Love noted that "at the same time my heart breaks because Maurice is still there."

After arriving in Nashville, Mrs. Graham answered questions from the media for about 20 minutes. She was accompanied by Mary Speidel, press representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Mrs. Graham appeared in good spirits as she calmly answered questions from the press despite the stress she has lived under the last several weeks.

She told the media they "were petrified" when the invasion took place and it became apparent troops were taking over the church where they worked and lived in an upstairs apartment.

They faced a dilemma of staying in the church or trying to drive past troops in their car which already had the windows shot out to take refuge at the house of a U.S. consul.

Taking only two sets of clothes for each family member, the Grahams raced to their car, brushed the glass out of the seats and drove through the Iraqi troops, she recalled.



**WELCOME HOME** — Southern Baptist worker Laurie Graham, center, is welcomed at the Nashville airport Sept. 14 by friends from First Church, Donelson.

"It was as if angels surrounded our car," she said, noting "it was like the troops did not even see us."

Mrs. Graham affirmed that "God has watched over us the whole time. He has been our source of strength."

Mrs. Graham described conditions in the U.S. Embassy as "miserable during the day" with temperatures approaching 120 degrees and no air conditioning. A swimming pool was a

(See Laurie, page 5)

## CLC board approves budget, Washington staff

NASHVILLE — Trustess of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission approved a new budget for 1991, allocating almost 35 percent of the agency's 1.4 million budget for its expanded Washington, D.C., office, with the remainder going to the Nashville office.

The allocation of \$489,284 for the CLC's Washington office includes the \$365,328 annual increase given the agency in June by the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. The

amount also includes what the agency has spent in the past for its Washington office and a transfer of funds from the Nashville operations.

The commission opened in Washington on a part-time basis in 1987 and added its first full-time staffer in 1989.

At their semi-annual meeting in Nashville Sept. 10-13, commissioners also elected two new program staff members for the D.C. office and authorized the employment of a receptionist/secretary.

Commissioners unanimously elected Michael Whitehead as general counsel and director of Christian citizenship and religious liberty, and Tom Strode as director of news and information in Washington. Strode also will be recommended to the SBC Executive Committee to serve as Baptist Press representative in Washington, Land said. The Baptist Press office in Washington traditionally has been housed and staffed at the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Southern Baptist Convention in June expanded the CLC's program statement and budget to include religious liberty issues.

(CLC board, page 3)

## Independent agency formed for news

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

NASHVILLE — An independent Baptist news agency was formed here as directors of Associated Baptist Press met Sept. 11-12 to formulate a mission statement and other plans for an imminent start-up.

First announced at a July 17 news conference following the dismissal by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee of two Baptist Press newsmen, the new agency expects to begin reporting news from major Baptist events this fall.

Chaired by Floyd Craig, Floyd A. Craig Associates of Nashville, and Bob Terry, editor of the Missouri Word and Way, the group met also to elect officers and to establish a plan of operations.

Charles L. Overby was elected chairman. President of Gannett Publishing Foundation, Fairfax, Va., Overby is a former editor of the Nashville Banner. He attended Nashville's First Church.

Other officers include James Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Church, Dallas, vice chairman; Judy Strother, attorney from Mountain Home, Ark., secretary; and Julian Pentecost, Religious Herald editor, Virginia, treasurer.

"Our purpose is to provide a profes-  
(Independent, page 5)

## Oct. 1 first day for Atlanta housing requests

NASHVILLE (BP) — Hotel reservations for the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should be mailed Oct. 1, Convention Manager Ernest E. Mosley announced.

The meeting will be held June 4-6 in Atlanta.

Housing request forms are available from the offices of Baptist state convention executive directors and the September issue of The Baptist Program magazine, Mosley said.

The forms provide complete instructions for filing. They also list hotels in the 8000 room Southern Baptist block, their rates, distances from the convention center, and the amount of deposit each requires.

Requests postmarked Oct. 1 will receive priority. The Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau will assist in finding rooms for others after requests postmarked Oct. 1 have been filled.

The Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau will fill the requests Oct. 15, after all forms postmarked Oct. 1 had time to arrive in Atlanta.

Registrants may not submit more than one request per person. The housing bureau's computer will cancel all copies of multiple requests by the same individual.

Multiple registrants may submit as many as, but not more than, ten individual requests in the same envelope.

MOVING? Cut out and mail this address label to the Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 720, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 along with your new address.

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**Editorials****Rally around the mission plan of Christ**

In answer to the question of what to do with the strong witness of Peter and John, Gamaliel, Pharisee and teacher of the Law, admonished the leaders of the Council to "take care what you propose to do with these men."

He said that the work of the two apostles would fail if it were "of men," and that if it were of God, "you will not be able to overthrow them."

The New Testament book of Acts tells the exciting account of what happened then and later.

A lesson for Southern Baptists can be gleaned from this incident in the life of the early church. Some of our plans seem great — but some may leave God out. Everything we do is not perfect, nor, perhaps, even our best.

Bold Mission Thrust, the great missions challenge, was approved by the Southern Baptist

Convention in 1976. It was a noble plan — a ministry of evangelism that boldly sought to share the Gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000. It is still a noble plan.

It seems that our God was too small. We believed that we needed to help Him — Southern Baptists alone. Oh, it may have been in the back of the mind that we would call on other Christians to help if we lagged a little.

But win the world — even tell the world — by ourselves? God's power and "bigness" includes all Christians. It may be that Southern Baptists' pride and arrogance sowed the seeds of defeat. Look at where we are.

We know that God is not the God of defeat. And if we are not winning the battle of Bold Mission Thrust, it is not God who is not winning. We seem to have looked at ourselves in a distorted mirror.

**Right or wrong — Tennessee Baptists write letters**

Policies and guidelines for the Baptist and Reflector are reviewed periodically by the staff and the Board of Directors.

At the September 6 meeting of the board, policies relating to advertising, subscription costs, and letters to the editor were discussed.

In last week's editorial, readers were reminded of the postage increase that the United States Postal Service has predicted for next January. In second class, the category for mailing religious newspapers and some other publications, the increase will be extremely high — as much as thirty percent.

As we are informed, we will pass the news along to our subscribers. However, we encourage churches, while in the budget-making process, to consider the rate increase as reality.

The board also supports the staff in its guidelines relating to letters to the editor. Readers who become writers may at times feel that letter

writing, for publication, is a right — rather than a privilege.

Perhaps letter writing is right and privilege. A writer may become so concerned about the letter's topic that best judgment sometimes is overlooked, and words or impressions may be more severe than intended, or necessary.

We urge each potential letter writer (and reader) to read thoroughly the guidelines for writing letters for publication. The writer should not ask for exceptions. The writer should remember that letters can oppose some action — but writing can be done in a Christian manner.

Sharing feelings, ideas, opinions, through letters to the editor can benefit the readers. We can all find ways to write so that our best intentions are displayed. Letters not conforming to the guidelines will not be used.

We believe all readers, and writers, will be bet-

ter served by letters that meet the guidelines. Guidelines are not intended to prevent any reader from expressing feelings. But guidelines are necessary so that the purpose of "Our Readers Write" is not self-serving. In other words, letters should provide insight and even inspiration for the subscribers.

A study several months ago revealed that the letters page is one of the first read by most subscribers. But the same group said they liked it least because of negative impressions. Perhaps that says something about those who read — and those who write.

We intend to keep the forum open because the paper has a role as an advocate of the people. The forum can be part of that advocacy. But we must not disregard the responsibility we all have to be Christlike. — WFA

Pride and arrogance can cause great difficulty in fellowship and cooperation. Those two hallmarks of Southern Baptist life have "gone wanting" in recent years. And Bold Mission Thrust is a sad casualty.

The ministry of Peter and Paul, done in the name of Christ and His glory, was not overthrown. The church grew. A handful of witnesses spread the Gospel to all the known world.

God does not crown works of arrogance and pride with success. The best of plans will fail when subverted by worldly pride.

Rally around the mission plan of Christ, Baptists! The Great Commission has no place for haughtiness. Let us recapture the dream, in Jesus' name, not ours. — WFA

**Solemn prayer assembly calls Florida Baptists together**

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Kneeling, praying, and weeping, 604 Florida Baptists sought the forgiveness of God for their sins, as well as the sins of their nation and denomination, during a solemn assembly Aug. 30 in Orlando.

The gathering, called by state convention president J. C. Mitchell, was based on the Old Testament practice of prolonged and solemn prayer for personal and corporate sin.

The Florida Baptist Convention became the ninth state convention to hold a solemn assembly since last September, when six prayer leaders from SBC agencies issued a call for Southern Baptists to organize such meetings.

The eight-hour event at First Church, Orlando, mixed sermons and music with private and public prayers from participants, many of them pastors. Small-group sessions were held for pastors, laymen, women, and denominational employees.

They prayed for many things — themselves, their sins, non-Christian relatives and friends, spiritual awaken-

ing in America, disrupted churches, and their own troubled denomination.

"Forgive us for dividing ourselves into two camps," prayed Mitchell, pastor of First Church, Winter Park. "Before you can heal our land you must heal our churches and denomination."

Mitchell prayed for forgiveness for the "prejudice, gossip, and slander" that have characterized Southern Baptists and for his own actions which have "deepened the division." And later: "Lord Jesus, bring us as a Southern Baptist family back together."

In a call to confession and repentance, participants walked reverently to the front, where they tacked handwritten confessions to a nail-covered, wooden cross. Later they placed their signatures on a "solemn commitment" card, which detailed which disobedient behaviors they would "put to death" and which Christlike behaviors they would "put on."

John Sullivan, executive director of

**Beverly Hills celebrates anniversary**

Beverly Hills Church, Memphis, celebrates its 40th anniversary with a Sept. 19-23 revival. Speakers include some who have been licensed by the church. John Bedford is pastor.

Speakers for the nightly services include Buck Morton, evangelist; Judson Lambert, pastor of First Church, Tip-topville; Gary McEwen, pastor of Nolensville Road Church, Nashville; Bill Foote, retired pastor of Beverly Hills; and Bob Agee, president of Ouachita Baptist University, and the

first person baptized by Beverly Hills Church.

Lambert and McEwen were licensed by the church.

A highlight in a special Sunday afternoon service on Sept. 23 at 1:30, features presentation of an award to the church for its work with mentally retarded persons.

The Christian Council on Persons with Disabilities, headed by Joni Erickson Tata, will present its award to the church.

the Florida Baptist Convention, led the call to commitment, admonishing Florida Baptists to be reconciled and to accept each other's differences.

Christians are called to share each others' burdens, Sullivan said. "But the tragedy of Southern Baptists is not only do we not bear each other's burdens, but we become burdens to one another."

Sullivan said Christians have little trouble with their relationship to God but "our struggle is with each other. In the stresses and strains of life, we forget that we are brothers."

Sullivan said Christians must seek tenaciously to love members of the family of Christ despite their differences: "It's easy to say. It's tough to do." Describing the cruelty of the

crucifixion, he pleaded, "If God would do that to accept you, why can't you accept one another?"

Two of the six SBC prayer leaders who called Southern Baptists to solemn assemblies last September addressed the Orlando gathering.

Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the SBC Home Mission Board, said Southern Baptists nationwide are feeling the effects of solemn assemblies. "I have wept more in the last eight months than I have in my entire ministry," he said.

Avery Willis, manager of the leadership development section of the SBC Sunday School Board, said Christians must "make the connection between our sin and the condition of our land."

**Baptist and Reflector**

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Connie Davis, Assistant Editor  
Connie Umstead, News Assistant/Church Pages Coordinator

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper  
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# Saudi's Muslim faith jolted by Iraqi threat, American troops

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP)— Many Saudis probably are wondering, "Where is Allah?"

Samuel Shahid, executive director of Good News for the Crescent World in Fair Haven, N.J., believes the crisis in the Middle East has placed troubling questions about the Islamic faith in the minds of many Saudis, and other Muslims around the world.

Saudi Arabia, which counts more than 99 percent of its 15 million people as followers of Islam, is the religion's birthplace.

Especially for Saudi Muslims, monumental questions arise from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the threat of Iraqi troops lining Saudi Arabia's borders with Kuwait, and America's military buildup on Saudi soil, says Shahid, a Middle East native who has lived in the United States the past 13 years.

Shahid earned a doctorate in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Chicago and, earlier, a master's degree in the same field from the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. He founded Good News for the Crescent World in 1987 as a ministry for educating Christians about Islam. And he is a member of Monmouth Church, Tinton Falls, N.J.

Explaining the impact of the crisis in the Middle East on Saudi Muslims, Shahid first notes that Saudi Arabia sees itself as "the protector of Islam." And many Muslims around the world accord this status to the Saudis, he says.

Islam came into being in the 7th century A.D. in lands located within to-

day's Saudi Arabia. The Saudi city of Mecca was the hometown of Islam's revered apostle, Muhammad. Mecca and the Saudi city of Medina, site of Muhammad's tomb, are Islam's two holiest cities. The faith's holiest shrine is the Kaaba in Mecca. It is a cube-like structure, 40 feet wide, 35 feet long, and 50 feet high, within Mecca's massive Holy Mosque.

Some 1.5 million Muslims venture to Saudi Arabia each year from across the world, fulfilling the duty expected of financially able Muslims to join in a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

Islam is the state religion of Saudi Arabia, and its legal system is based solely on Islamic holy writings and subsequent tradition. Saudi Arabia's green and white flag prominently displays the key Islamic profession of faith: "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the apostle of Allah."

Shahid notes the troubling questions confronting Saudis in the Iraqi threat and the American military buildup within their country: Why did Allah fail to protect them as his trusted followers? Why has a fellow Islamic country, Iraq, become such a threat? Why did they have to resort to asking for help from non-Muslims, namely the United States and its military, made up of Christians, atheists, or "infidels" (a term Muslims use for those who reject Islam), and women?

In short, where is Allah? "From a religious point of view, these are questions that will create a turmoil in the minds of many Muslims," Shahid says. The Saudis

had taken their key role in Islam for granted — until the current crisis, he says. "Now it's going to make them think and ask questions."

Saudi Arabia's senior religious leader, Sheikh Al-Baaz, already has made an extraordinary public declaration that those who have come to "defend Islam" will be "rewarded by Allah for their good deed," Shahid notes.

Before this crisis, the only non-Muslims permitted into Saudi Arabia were persons involved in business or diplomatic affairs, not tourists.

America's use of women soldiers is particularly at odds with Saudi culture and religious practice, Shahid says. Saudi women traditionally have not gone out in public unless they wore a veil over their face and were accompanied by a male relative.

In early September, however, the continuing crisis prompted King Fahd (Saudi Arabia) to call for wider participation by women in the labor force. In time, women may move into jobs involving regular interaction with men.

Efforts by Christians in the Middle East to share their faith and meet human needs probably will not suffer over the long haul from the buildup of American forces in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East, Shahid says.

"If Americans are just coming to help, to defend, and they leave as soon as everything is over, then I don't see that there will be any negative reaction," he qualifies, noting that most Arab countries have taken a stance against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"But if it were proven that the Americans were out to colonize Saudi Arabia, then there would be a different reaction" among Arabs, he says.

As Muslims begin pondering the religious implications of the Middle East crisis, Christians should intensify their witness to Muslims, Shahid says. Christians in the United States, for example, can minister to thousands of college students who come to the United States from Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries — and to numerous other Muslims who now account for 15 percent of all immigrants here, Shahid says.

"Muslims do not have a personal relationship with God," he says. "Islam is a matter of 'do' and 'do' and 'do' so that you may be able to go to heaven. But if you ask them, 'Are you sure that all your sins are forgiven?' they will never tell you, 'Yes.' They say that forgiveness of sin and assurance of salvation depends on God's will and His mercy. There is always doubt."

Various verses in Islam's holy book, the Koran, even say that God can send a righteous man to hell and a wicked man to heaven if he wishes, Shahid says.

Christians, meanwhile, can offer Muslims a faith of "full assurance of salvation ... the love of Christ toward us, the peace of mind that God gives even in times of turmoil ... His promise that He will always be with us," Shahid says.

"Our faith has nothing to do with holy sites; it has to do with a personal relationship with Christ Himself."

## CLC board approves budget, Washington staff . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Director Richard D. Land said commissioners interpreted the votes in June as a strong desire on the part of the convention for the CLC to upgrade its D.C. offices.

Land said the new budget is divided into Washington and Nashville sections in order to help Southern Baptists keep track of where the agency's funds are being spent.

Commissioners approved a ten percent cost of living salary adjustment for the agency's D.C. program staff. Trustees also gave Nashville staff members salary increases averaging

2.45 percent. Land was given a four percent salary increase.

Whitehead will join the staff Oct. 1, succeeding Larry Braidfoot who resigned in May to accept a position as academic vice president at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Whitehead told trustees Christians must become active against those who would banish God from public schools. He said he supports the concept of equal access but not a constitutional amendment calling for prayer in public schools. "Students don't give up the right to free speech when they cross the door into a public building,"

he said.

Whitehead, 40, will specialize in religious liberty and Christian citizenship issues.

Strode, 38, will join the staff Nov. 1. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri's school of journalism in Columbia. He earned his master of divinity degree in 1985 from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

Strode accepted Christ at the age of 23. He was licensed to preach by First Church, Little Rock, Ark., and ordained to the ministry by Bellevue Church, Cordova.

impact on charitable giving than on other deductions. This is so because charitable deductions are, in a very real way, the only deductions that the taxpayer has control over. There is little or no control over the amount of mortgage tax deductions, state and local taxes, or medical expenses.

An across-the-board cap will motivate taxpayers to lower their charitable contributions — over which they do have some control. This would have the effect of reducing funds available for nonprofit services, a sector already decimated during the past decade.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which serves nearly 30 million Baptists in eight different conventions and communions in the United States, supports the full deductibility of charitable contributions. — Oliver S. Thomas, BJCPA staff member

During seminary Strode worked part-time at Bellevue. Upon graduation he became full-time staff journalist. He also was in charge of the church's neighborhood fellowships and served as staff liaison on moral issues.

Strode said, "I believe I can be just and fair in my reporting but not compromise my convictions. My desire is to report truthfully and accurately to Southern Baptists what is happening in Washington, D.C."

In other actions, commissioners:

- Approved ten speakers for the agency's 1991 annual seminar March 25-27 in Fort Worth, Texas.

- Voted to hold the agency's 1992 seminar in Washington, D.C.

- Named Charles "Chuck" Colson of Prison Fellowship Ministries as recipient of the agency's Distinguished Service Award. Colson, 59, a former White House aide to Richard Nixon, pleaded guilty to Watergate-related charges in 1974. Before going to prison he accepted Christ and after his release began his prison ministry. A Southern Baptist, Colson is a member of Columbia Church, Falls Church, Va.

## Clarksville church calls Tom Gibson

Tom Gibson recently began his first pastorate at Kirkwood Church, Clarksville.

He was ordained by the church in May.

The Cleveland native served as youth minister at North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, seven years ago.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Lee College, Cleveland.

## Proposal in Congress could end charitable deductions

A proposal under consideration by members of Congress and the Bush Administration would amend the tax code to eliminate or cap the deductibility of charitable contributions. This proposal is being discussed at the so-called "Budget Summit" as a partial solution to the problem of the large budget deficit. Although reducing the federal deficit is certainly a worthy priority, taxing charitable contributions, including gifts to churches and religious organizations, would be foolish and unfair.

During the 1980's, federal human service program funding was reduced by some \$120 billion, with the expectation that these services would be picked up by voluntary organizations and state and local governments. The Administration's "Thousand Points of Light" capitalizes on this theme of voluntarism.

It is a curious twist of logic to expect religious and charitable organizations

to shoulder more of the load in providing social services, while at the same time reducing the tax incentives for charitable giving. Our noble tradition of providing governmental incentive for private good works should be perpetuated, not inhibited.

It is particularly inequitable to tax charitable contributions. Charitable contributions are unique. These are not dollars consumed or saved. They do not in any way benefit the giver; they diminish what one could spend on other things. They are funds voluntarily given away to help other people. One simply should not have to pay taxes on money given away for charitable purposes.

Even a cap on all deductions would be ill-advised. Charitable giving is particularly sensitive to changes in tax policy. If a cap is enacted on all itemized deductions, as is being discussed, it will have a much greater

# Our Readers Write

## Matter of record

Our Cooperative Program is the financial cornerstone of our worldwide missions program. It takes millions of dollars each year to win the lost to Christ.

It seems proper that churches of ministers who serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention would contribute large percentages of their offerings toward the support of the Cooperative Program.

From 1959-77, the range of giving from the president's churches was from 11.6 to 20.1 percent, an average of 12.37 percent. From 1979 through 1988, there have been five different presidents. Percentages from their giving to the CP range from a high of 7.22 down to 1.19 percent.

These figures are a matter of record in state annual journals. During the same ten years, many Southern Baptist churches consistently contributed high percentages to the Cooperative Program.

I am thankful that the church I attend is led by a spiritual minister who has asked us to adopt a prayerful "wait and see" attitude as we continue to contribute 20 percent of our offerings to the Cooperative Program. And I hope every Southern Baptist will know all the facts before choosing a side.

Roy Warmath  
8054 Highway 59W  
Burlinson 38015

## Fruit examining

Seems to me that Jesus said "You can tell a tree by the fruit it bears." With all the rhetoric surrounding the newly formed "moderate fellowship" we are receiving mixed reports about what it really is. Some are saying it is a new denomination, others that it is an "alternative funding" mechanism, and finally the "moderate fellowship" steering committee is calling it a "bucket." In order to tell what it really is one must look at

its fruit. It was founded: out of rebellion to and contempt for duly elected convention leadership; to provide a way to circumvent the SBC; to provide financial support for "moderate" special interest groups not funded by SBC; to provide a base of leadership to promote "moderate" views; to pick and choose what it will, or will not support, depending on whether they agree with it; to force cooperation and inclusion while stepping outside the duly governed process of the convention; to provide eventual funding for their own seminary and mission board (if it becomes necessary). When I look at the

## But guidelines are necessary

### Letters from readers welcomed

**GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS, with changes as approved by the Baptist and Reflector Board of Directors:**

**Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on pertinent subjects are welcomed. Letters should be concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length. Unsigned letters will not be read or used. Writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Only one letter from the**

same writer will be considered for publication per quarter. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published. Writers should send original copy. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Address and phone number must be included. Letters not conforming to these guidelines will be returned. — Editor

participation in the "political controversy" in the SBC. Writers of articles in the Baptist and Reflector and the Jackson Sun describe the recent meeting of some 3000 Baptists in Atlanta, Ga., as not being the groundwork of a new denomination. Well, to quote a time honored principle, "If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, swims like a duck, and flies like a duck, you can be pretty sure it's a duck." In my opinion, this meeting was a duck in the making.

There were also inferences that this was a mass meeting with a groundswell of support from across the denomination. How can 3000 people out of almost 15 million be considered a groundswell? If, as I suspect, there were delegations of

fruit I don't see Southern Baptist interests at heart. I don't see a "fellowship" within the SBC. I see a group of people who have their own personal interests at heart and who have abandoned the SBC. The "moderate fellowship" is more than a "bucket," it is a new Baptist group, not Southern Baptist at heart.

Earl R. Baker  
First Church  
P. O. Box 136  
Ridgetop 37152

## Questions 'mainstream'

As pastor of First Church, Bradford, I have tried to steer clear of overt par-

members from a few disgruntled churches the percentage would be even less. One pastor said this was the first real worship service he had attended in more than a decade. Where was he during Pastors' Conferences when godly men like Charles Stanley, Adrian Rogers, Bailey Smith, Manley Beasley, Ron Dunn, et al. were expounding the Scriptures and encouraging their fellow ministers to remain faithful to God and His Word? I was there, and more important, the Lord was there, and we had a great time.

Where do alternative funding plans and the ordination of women fit in tradi-

tional Southern Baptist life? These are not mainstream Southern Baptist principles and values. They are the doctrines of ducks.

Thank you for providing this forum for voicing of divergent views.

Garry S. Miller, pastor  
First Church  
Church at College  
Bradford 38316

**The story about the Atlanta meeting did not attempt to interpret significance or meaning. There was no intent to judge whether there was a "groundswell" of support for another denomination. Figures and places were mentioned as news. — Editor**

## Higher ground

Good news for Southern Baptists! We have found a way to continue to work together to support missions we all love instead of splintering into a thousand directions as we were about to do.

Laughter, freedom, unity in diversity, joy, inclusiveness, trust, love, and the unmistakable presence of the Holy Spirit were hallmarks of the recent meeting in Atlanta as 3000 of us met to seek God's guidance.

Beginning Oct. 1, churches and/or individuals can give their offerings through the Cooperative Missions Program if they want more direct control of their money.

The good news is that we can work together still, all of us, even if we don't agree on everything, as we support our missionaries and ministries. The mood of the meeting was to follow God's guidance one step at a time, in surrender and servanthood.

As we sang familiar hymns such as "Higher Ground," my spirit soared with new understanding of words such as these, "My prayer, my aim is higher ground."

I believe God is leading us all to that "higher ground" of peace and love.

Diane Jordan  
2874 Lake Forest Circle  
Talbot 37877

# TBC stewardship department launches new CP promotion

It's easy for Archer Thorpe, Tennessee Baptists' new director of the Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department, to enjoy his work.

After all, he has been a firm believer and staunch supporter of the Cooperative Program throughout his ministry, first as a pastor and later as associate director in the stewardship promotion department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

"The Cooperative Program is not an

## Tennessee Baptist campers renovate Camp Cordova

Tennessee Campers on Mission are involved in a project at Camp Cordova, Memphis. According to Bill Smith, president of the group and director of missions for Western Association, the campers are renovating Cordova cabins.

The project began Sept. 17 and continues through Sept. 29. Tennessee campers will hold a fellowship rally at Cordova Sept. 21-23.

Campers from across Tennessee are involved, says Smith, in painting, installing heating units, doing other electrical work, and general renovation.

John McBride, director of missions for Shelby Association, is missions coordinator for Tennessee Campers. The group is sponsored by the Missions Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Special Ministries Department, Home Mission Board.

Any camper is welcome to join the project, says Smith.

invention of man's making but is surely a gift from God because no other denomination has ever had such a channel of support for its mission and ministries," Thorpe affirmed.

The Alabama native, who succeeded Orvind Dangeau as director of the TBC department in July, already has gained a deep appreciation for Tennessee and its people. He is looking forward to meeting more Tennessee Baptists as he treks across the state.

His primary task now, however, is to embark on a program of educating Tennessee Baptists about "One for All," a new five-year CP promotion plan designed by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in Nashville. "One for All" is designed to:

- Undergird Southern Baptists' one mission — taking the good news of Christ to all the world;
- Strengthen Southern Baptists' one basic mission support plan — the Cooperative Program;
- Increase financial support for all mission ministries through the Cooperative Program;
- Encourage all churches to consider increasing their percentage giving through the Cooperative Program every year;
- Lead all churches to educate all church members about the Cooperative Program; and
- Enable all Southern Baptists to share, by personal witness and in financial gifts through the Cooperative Program, the one and only Gospel for

all the world.

Thorpe noted "One for All" goes hand in hand with ImpactTennessee, the TBC's long-range plan. One of the goals of ImpactTennessee is for churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving by 1.25 percent over the five-year period, Thorpe said.

Thorpe observed that "One for All" not only encourages giving through the CP, but also giving to associational missions.

And, while churches are encouraged to launch "One for All" in October, designated as Cooperative Program month on the SBC calendar, it can be introduced anytime the church budget is being promoted, Thorpe said.

Thorpe believes the new promotion plan will re-emphasize that the Cooperative Program is foundational to Southern Baptist mission work.

All parts of the Cooperative Program fit together, he affirmed, adding that "no one part can remain strong if other parts of the ministry are weak-

## Delano church calls Moreland as pastor

Old Salem Church, Delano, recently called Lynn Moreland as pastor.

During the 40 years since he was ordained at Phillip Church, Cleveland, Moreland has served several churches in Tennessee. He most recently served Hiwassee Church, Calhoun.

The Cleveland native and his wife, Grace, have two sons.

ened."

He acknowledged he has heard talk from some Southern Baptists who discuss designation of funds or even leaving the SBC.

For those who talk of leaving, Thorpe would say "Southern Baptist polity provides opportunities to love the convention and also to change it if needed.

"If people will stay with the Cooperative Program and pray that our Lord will help us to work out our differences and to continue our focus on evangelism and discipleship, we will move forward in our attempts to win the world for Christ.

"There is then the possibility for creative and constructive change," Thorpe affirmed. — Lonnie Wilkey

## Cookeville mission calls Damon Corley as pastor

Colonial View Chapel, Cookeville, recently called Damon Corley as pastor.

Corley was pastor of First Church, Celina, for more than three years before going to Cookeville. He retired from Celina to seek a mission ministry.

In addition to the Celina church, Corley also served as pastor of Mill Creek Church, Nashville; Gath Church, McMinnville; Allons Church, Allons; and churches and missions in Kentucky and Oklahoma.

# Laurie Graham, sons, arrive in Nashville . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
 lifesaver, she said.

"We would sleep at night in wet clothes just to stay cool," she said.

The Hutchinson, Kan., native noted that they had only tuna fish and rice to eat. "It gets old, but we were eating," she said.

"Embassy personnel coped with the stress of confinement by trying to keep busy with physical things, she said. She taught school subjects to her boys, and they were able to swim in the embassy pool. "Morale was good for people with good attitudes," she said.

Nightly candle-lit prayer services led by Maurice provided a big boost for everyone, she said, as did the singing of Christian hymns.

Mrs. Graham noted the Iraqi invasion especially frightened her two sons because they had followed news from Liberia, West Africa, where the Grahams formerly served. "They read about 600 people massacred in the church we attended," she said.

But she noted her sons have "handled their ordeal well because they have known up front everything going on." And, she continued, her sons "remain optimistic" about the world.

"They have learned to appreciate what's important — safety and

freedom and not taking things for granted such as water and electricity," she said.

Mrs. Graham said the boys' major problem has been the press and she urged the media to be considerate and to respect their privacy.

In regard to the media, she suggested TV reports carelessly gave too many details about strategy or movements or depended on uninformed sources. Mrs. Graham noted they were able to watch news reports from cable networks until Aug. 26 when electricity was shut off in the embassy.

"We would laugh at what we saw because there was so much speculation," she said.

Mrs. Graham said she "is fearful" for Maurice but she described her husband "as an optimist" and noted they found strength being together as a family.

"It's difficult to be separated," she said, but added that under normal conditions they have functioned well when separated.

Mrs. Graham also expressed concern for the natives of Kuwait and for the members who attended their church. "We care about them and hope the nations of the world will do something to get the refugees out," she said.

Roy Fisher, pastor of First Church, Donelson, was among the Donelson contingent who greeted the family when they arrived and presented Mrs. Graham with a bouquet of flowers and a monetary gift.

"We've had special prayer for the Grahams and they have been on our prayer list," Fisher affirmed.

He noted the Grahams make "a great impact on our church with their

commitment to Christ and their loyalty."

Mrs. Graham said her immediate plans are to visit friends and her husband's family in Shelbyville.

A later report said Mrs. Graham has found a house and car and that the boys are enrolled in school.

— Contributors to this story were Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor and FMB writers Mike Creswell and Art Toalston.

## FMB helps hungry Peruvians

LIMA, Peru (BP)— The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is sending about \$500,000 to help hungry Peruvians hit hard by hyperinflation from government austerity measures.

On Aug. 9 officials of Peru's new administration announced an emergency plan to bolster the country's floundering economy. Overnight, Peru became the most expensive country in South America; the price of food jumped more than 300 percent, according to news reports.

From Aug. 9 to Aug. 10, gasoline prices jumped from about 20 cents per gallon to \$2.25 per gallon; kerosene, a primary cooking fuel, from 15 cents to \$2 a gallon. The cost of bread rose 500

percent, to \$2 a loaf.

The sudden price hikes triggered transportation slowdowns, power outages, rioting, and looting, according to news reports.

"I think a lot of our people are still in shock," said Hayward Armstrong, of Atmore, Ala., chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Peru.

Southern Baptist relief funds will support direct food distribution, soup kitchens, seed distribution, and medical help for hunger-related illnesses. About 35 Baptist relief projects will aid people in ten areas of Peru.

## Independent agency formed for news . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
 sional news service guided by high journalistic and ethical standards," Overby said. "The news agency will not serve as a press agent for any person or any group. It is designed to tell Baptists and others the facts about events of interest to Baptists in an accurate and fair manner without bias or political agenda."

Overby said he and other lay people are supporting ABP because they "believe in a free press, including a free religious press.

"Baptist heritage is rooted in freedom of expression," he said. "This bedrock principle will be a guiding force for future operations."

The nine directors that were present adopted a mission statement that emphasized ABP's independence and professionalism.

"Associated Baptist Press directors believe in the Biblical principle of the personal priesthood of each believer," the statement says. "We understand a free religious press as a practical expression of that doctrine enabling each Baptist to make appropriate and necessary decisions about the Lord's work throughout the world."

Directors include the four officers and the following: Catherine Allen, Sesquicentennial Commission, Samford University, Birmingham; Anna Olive Bannister, member of First Church, Augusta, Ga.; Ardele Clemons, wife of Hardy Clemons, pastor, First Church, Greenville, S. C.; Carl Kell, communications professor, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green; Don McGregor, editor, Baptist Record, Jackson, Miss.; Raymond McDaniel, retired editor, Shreveport Times, La.;

R. G. Puckett, editor, Biblical Recorder, Raleigh, N. C.; Alvin C. Shackelford, former vice president of communications, SBC Executive Committee, Franklin, Tenn.;

Donald L. Sharp, pastor, Faith Tabernacle Church, Chicago; Hal Wingo, news editor, People Magazine, New York; and Dan Yeary, pastor, University Church, Coral Gables, Fla. All board members are Southern Baptists.

The group expressed no intent to duplicate or compete with Baptist Press. "Something's wrong," Overby said, "if all we come up with is a duplication of Baptist Press."

Terry said there is a need "for a press agency that cannot be subverted by any group, and would not be subject to any shifts of SBC leadership."

A charter has been established.

Bylaws and other plans will be refined without two weeks, and the group is trying to employ interim and/or long-term staff personnel.

Though it was not an agenda item, there was some concern as to whether three Baptist Press employees would be announced at the September 17-19 meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

After the dismissal of Shackelford and Martin, no journalists are working in the Nashville BP headquarters. Marv Knox, a third member of the BP staff, resigned in May to accept the editorship of Kentucky's Western Recorder.

— The editor attended the ABP meeting by invitation, and reported on those sessions where he was present. Other information was provided by ABP officers. — Editor

## CLC joins Right to Life in filing court brief

NASHVILLE (BP)— The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined the National Right to Life Committee in filing with the U.S. Supreme Court a friend-of-the-court brief which calls for overturning of the historic Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

### Medical team

### Tennesseans report on missions

A 76-member team including Tennesseans, many of whom served during the 1986-88 Tennessee/Venezuela Partnership, reports 6031 patients treated and 949 people making professions of faith during missions work in Venezuela July 13-23.

Dewey Dunn, a Nashville physician who has led four other groups to Venezuela, and president, Tennessee Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship, reported the team included 30 construction workers and 46 health care workers.

The brief was filed Sept. 7 in the case of Rust v. Sullivan. That case involves the constitutionality of regulations barring abortion counseling or referrals by federally funded family planning clinics. At issue are regulations issued by the Reagan administration in 1988 and continued by the Bush

administration, that apply to clinics which receive funds under Title X of the Public Health Services Act of 1970. The Reagan and Bush administrations have argued that it never was the intent of Congress to allow abortion counseling in the Title X family-planning clinics. However, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, among others, argues that it is unconstitutional and unethical not to provide women and minors with information concerning every family-planning option available, including abortion.

The matter before the Court is the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit which upheld the regulations. The Court will decide whether the secretary of Health and Human Services has the statutory authority to issue the regulations barring abortion counseling and referrals and if he does, are the regulations in question constitutional.

The Commission-sponsored brief argues that the case provides an opportunity for the Court to revisit and overturn Roe v. Wade, the case that in 1973 made abortion legal in the United States since the constitutionality of the regulations hinge to some degree on the constitutionality of Roe. "Roe v. Wade should be overruled, for there is no fundamental right to abortion under the tests established by this Court for determining fundamental rights," the brief says.

In their brief the CLC and NRLC say the Court already has de facto overturned Roe v. Wade but now must do so in more precise language. "The lower courts do not know what standard to apply in reviewing legislation touching on abortion," the brief says.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said the filing of the brief "is part of the CLC's continuing effort to restore constitutional protections, including the right to life, to unborn children. That cannot be done until the Roe decision is rescinded."

The Commission-sponsored brief argues that the case provides an opportunity for the Court to revisit and overturn Roe v. Wade, the case that in 1973 made abortion legal in the United States since the constitutionality of the regulations hinge to some degree on the constitutionality of Roe. "Roe v. Wade should be overruled, for there is no fundamental right to abortion under the tests established by this Court for determining fundamental rights," the brief says.

# Missions Department: 'to bring missions into 21st century'



LOIS NUGENT, JERE PHILLIPS

By *Connie Davis, assistant editor*  
Jere Phillips, though only on the job three months as Missions Department director, has driven 15,000 miles to visit Tennessee Baptists, and developed goals for himself and his department. It and the Sunday School Department are the largest departments in the Church Programs Division.

He already has a grasp of the role of the department. "We do not see ourselves with limitations to new work and other typical mission ministries, but reaching the whole church. It's because we have the unique relationship with the directors of missions that we have such a broad job, in cooperation with the other departments," said Phillips.

Specifically, the department's work is "vast," he explained. Responsibilities of the eight-member staff range from coordinating and overseeing work of missionaries jointly funded by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, to assisting black Baptists.

More importantly, said Phillips, its goals are to develop healthy Tennessee churches, help churches minister to their communities, and help healthy, ministering churches replicate themselves.

**Industrial, inner-city challenges**  
His business-like approach to work is not without a dream — "to bring missions into the 21st century."

His plans are not directed to west Tennessee, where he served on the staff of Germantown Church, Germantown. Phillips has met with officials at the General Motors Saturn automobile plant in Spring Hill, which will bring 10,000 people into middle Tennessee, to lay the groundwork for ministry.

"We have more than just the three great divisions in the state," said Phillips, noting agricultural communities covering the state are being crowded by metropolitan and resort areas.

Inner-city areas are "really hurting where our traditional churches have left for the suburbs." Memphis, whose inhabitants include 50 percent of the state's black population, will soon have a black church consultant, said Phillips.

Though he must work principally through the department's three associates and Tennessee's 66 directors of missions, he's going to lead by example, he added. Every month he will do some missions ministry work. And he will help start two churches during the next five years. The department's goal

is to start 175 congregations in five years.

Phillips is assisted by the department's administrative secretary, Lois Nugent, who has 27 years of experience at the TBC.

Associates share work

"What we need is an extra \$1 million and about five more people," Phillips remarked somewhat facetiously. James Redding, J. C. Carpenter, and Larry Kirk readily agree because of their numerous responsibilities.

Carpenter, who has served for four years, oversees blind ministries, black ministries, chaplaincy, associational missions development, and resort missions including the summer missionary program. Frances Terry works with Carpenter.

Kirk, whose secretary is Elizabeth Farmer, has led the following work for three years: church extension, black church development, bivocational pastors, associational strategic planning, and multi-family housing ministries.

Redding has served for seven years and recently has resigned to return to the pastorate. He leads language and deaf work and inter-faith witness with the help of Madge Larabee, who has worked in the department for 13 years. Redding will leave his position by the end of the year.

Tennessee Baptists "are responding in a wonderful way," said Redding, and are reaching the "future leaders" of America and our convention.

Churches are ministering across the state in four more languages than last year and 22 total languages. Forty pastors are leading language congregations. And last year Tennesseans sponsored the second largest number of refugees among the states — 42, said Redding proudly. California, which has a larger international population, sponsored the largest number.

About 40 inter-faith associates are available to train others in areas like the New Age Movement, the Occult, and the Way International, he added.

J. C. Carpenter describes his work as reaching people that are "overlooked and forgotten by churches" — in campgrounds, truckstops, flea markets, and prisons.

An estimated 500,000 Tennesseans are functionally illiterate, said Carpenter. He assists Baptists with such programs, he explained.

He works with Jarvis Hearn at the TBC to provide cassette tape recordings of the Baptist and Reflector for blind people.

Carpenter also is heading up the department's goal of assisting directors of missions in leading each church to survey its community for ministry opportunities by 2000 A.D.

Larry Kirk is enthusiastic but soberly challenged by his work of starting churches. Ninety years ago Tennessee had one Southern Baptist church for every 4000 people. Today it has one Southern Baptist church for every 6200 people, noted Kirk. Cities are home for 75 percent of the population but 18 percent of Southern Baptist churches are located in metropolitan areas, cited Kirk.

Our society — a "Burger King" or "specialty" society — requires a church for every target group, said Kirk.

Every church "ought to be as large as it can be," he stated, but the "big-

ger is better" philosophy is a myth. Loans, grants, and supplements — many funded by the Golden State Missions Offering — are available to support churches and individuals starting congregations, Kirk continued.

Concerning his responsibility for associational planning, he wishes to help pastors and directors of missions



J. C. CARPENTER, FRANCES TERRY

see that the "good old boy fellowship and keeping the peace strategy" needs to be substituted with aggressive planning.

Tennessee Baptists should "dream our dream again" of reaching everyone with the Gospel, said Kirk.



LARRY KIRK, ELIZABETH FARMER



JAMES REDDING, MADGE LARABEE

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Things pile up.

Papers on the desk, stacks of wood to chop; things pile up. Old worn-out clothes you want to give to the "crisis closet," photos of precious little children who are now adults and not always precious; things pile up.

Memories pile up. They burden our minds with a constant tearing that finally causes stress that strains and then something snaps inside.

Fear is that dreadful instructor that teaches us a narrow, introspective view of self and others. Fear is the instigator of some of those piles we wish would just go away.

Two of my dear aunts lived across the river. When I was a boy, a trek to their home took two or three hours though it was not that far.

A kind of dread enveloped me as we approached the long bridge that spanned the treacherous, swift waters. It seemed it was always dark when we came to the bridge — no matter the time of day.

I had heard tales about that bridge. Men, it was said, had lost their lives in its construction.

We always paused at the very edge of the bridge. Built prior to depression days, the builders observed sparse traffic and opted for just one lane.

Fear piled up some dreadful thoughts. It made the brief crossing almost interminable. The little boy I was, sat still and quiet until we were

safely over.

In retrospect, I know there was no need for fear. But every crossing left an ever-growing pile of doubts and uncertainties. Though my parents were not even aware of my childish feelings, the fear piled up unwanted doubts.

In time, I learned that the car always made the trip safely, the bridge never collapsed, the waters never engulfed us, no cries for help rose from the deep waters.

I crossed that bridge many times before we arrived at the river. I crossed it and went on my way in dread. I crossed it and — until, one day I came to know that I could not, should not, attempt a crossing in my mind.

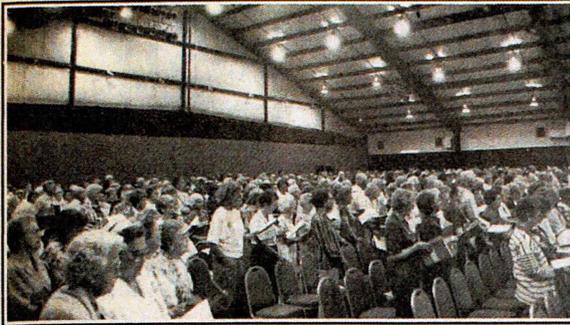
The return trip, usually at night, held no fear for the little lad. Safely asleep, head resting on mother's softness, I dreamed of pleasant things.

I remember then, the calm assurance of being lifted in my father's arms and gently laid on my bed.

Difficulties pile up. Problems arise. But crossing the bridges with Christ as guide is the way to overcome. Never cross without Him, and never — before you reach the bridge.



ALLEN



**IN PIGEON FORGE** — The conference was held at the Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Pigeon Forge.



**← OLDEST CONFEREEES** — Johnnie Hall, right, recognizes the oldest participants, from left, Ben Felts, 97 years old, First Church, Hendersonville; Elsie Allen, 92, Nashville; Inez Pilgrim, 90, Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg; and Mayme Polts, 90, Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville. Polts returns a bag to Hall for a different gift.

## About 800 senior adults 'enjoy life' at conference

By Connie Davis, assistant editor  
**PIGEON FORGE** — Herbert Gabhart called the 785 senior adults gathered for the Tennessee Baptist Senior Adult Conference to prayer, directing their efforts toward the Southern Baptist Convention.

"How under God can Bush and Hussein settle their differences if Southern Baptists can't settle their differences. There's got to be unity in diversity in a convention that is functioning," proclaimed the chancellor of Nashville's Belmont College.

"I've been guilty of using rhetoric that is too strong, both sides have. . . . The Holy Spirit doesn't move among people when there's division.

"The world is laughing at us. It's not a question of who is right. It's a question what God requires of us," he continued.

Those attending the Sept. 5-7 meeting studied prayer during four sessions led by Gabhart, who focused on John 17. He identified the chapter as "the greatest utterance of Jesus." The prayer known as the Lord's Prayer was simply a guide for prayer, he explained.

The greatest three-letter word in the Bible besides God and Son is ask, he observed.



**SHOPPING** — Raymond Parker, Ellendale Church, Memphis, looks at a decorated T-shirt in the craft display.

Gabhart used allegories to describe prayer — walking into the throne of grace, drawing the breath of the soul, lying in the sunshine of God's grace, claiming the fruits of grace.

He noted Jesus prayed even though he and God were one and everything was at His command. Jesus asked God to meet his human needs, for wisdom

and guidance, to give thanks, and to update his stewardship with God.

God will answer prayer if it is the soul's sincere desire, if one is willing for the answer to be in accordance with God's will, and if one will give the results to God, stated Gabhart.

Describing as "ludicrous" the "selfish pioucity we express about

ourselves to God," he suggested prayer priorities: enemies, others, and finally self.

Conferences on senior adult living were led by Bob Cook, retired senior adult consultant, Florida Baptist Convention, and C. Winfield Rich, interim minister of education, Central Church, Oak Ridge. Leading training for leaders of senior adults were Dallas Roscoe, minister of senior adults, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, and Millie Shirley, director of senior adult work, Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

A conference about Tennessee Baptist Convention programs was led by Earl Wilson, Tennessee Baptist Foundation. Pete Ford, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes; and Gerald Stow, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

Musicians leading the conference were David and Linda Ford of Nashville.

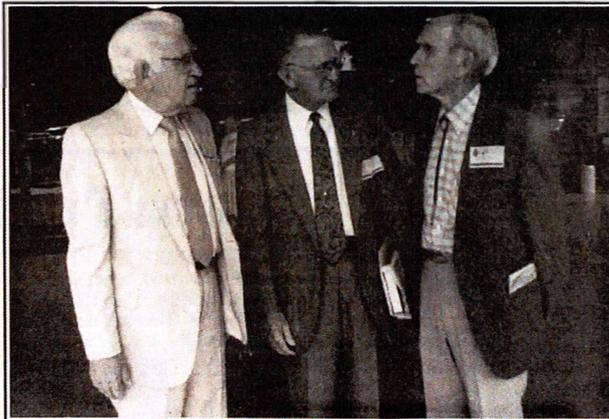
Senior adult choirs from Central Church, Oak Ridge, and Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, also performed.



**WORSHIP AND ENTERTAINMENT** — Musician David Ford, accompanied by Linda Ford, sings.



**FIRST AID** — Mary McSwiney, left, and Chris Carter, both of First Church, Nashville, provided this.



**BUDDIES** — Renewing their friendship was, from left, Roy Alsop and Stuart Mullins, Glenwood Church, Kingsport, and Paul Hall, Brentwood Church, Brentwood.

### Seniors report on conference, ministry

"It's the best the Baptists get along." — Helen Robinson, First Church, Smithville

"It just shows people you can be a Christian and enjoy life too." — Glenda Good, First Church, Smithville

"I would like to see more senior adult work in our associations. . . . Southern Baptists have so much to offer us that unless we're organized through the Southern Baptist program we're missing a lot. . . . When you retire you can do the things you love to do and this is a love." — Gladys Cowart, senior adult coordinator, First Church, Pigeon Forge, and conference local coordinator

"It's amazing what you can learn." — Betty Vaught, Lakeland, Fla., formerly of Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol

"Everybody can come together and enjoy themselves like one big family. There are wonderful services. It's an inspiration." — Estelle Poston, First Church, Rickman

"I come because of the speakers and the outstanding messages they bring. It gives you strength. . . . I help lead a shut-in ministry. It's a great pleasure." — Jack Riley, First Church, Joelton

"I've come since it (conference) started in 1973. I haven't missed a year. I come for the spiritual refreshment and to meet old friends . . . Senior adults are the backbone of our church, in giving, attendance, and everything and I enjoy working with them." — Herman King, Judson Church, Nashville



**← FROM FIRST CHURCH, PIGEON FORGE** — Members, from left, Vida Brickey, Aline Houlik, Gladys Cowart, and Mamie Watson, attended the conference.

# Tennessee Baptist churches call new pastors

## First Church, Whitesburg

Jim Stump recently joined the staff of First Church, Whitesburg, as pastor.

Stump most recently served as pastor of Centerview Church, Bybee. He has also been pastor of Dutch Bottoms Church, Newport, where he served 16 years; Catherine Nenny Church, Whitesburg; and Roe Junction Church, Morristown.

He was ordained in 1954 at Buffalo Trail Church, Morristown.

He and his wife, Jessie Lee, have three sons.

## Slayden Church

Slayden Church, Cumberland Furnace, recently called Ken Fraley as pastor.

Fraley formerly served as pastor of Kirkwood Church, Clarksville, and Northside Church, also in Clarksville.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, and has attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The Missouri native and his wife, Judy, have two children.

## Volunteer Church

Kenneth W. Jordan joined the staff of Volunteer Church, Bristol, as pastor Aug. 19.

He was most recently pastor of Bardwell Church, Bardwell, Ky. He also served as pastor of an Elizabethton church, and was on the faculty of Union University, Jackson, for one year. He was ordained in 1977.

Jordan earned a bachelor's degree at East Tennessee State University.



JORDAN

Johnson City; a master's degree at University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

He and his wife, Terri, have one child.

## Big Spring Church

Gary Thacker recently joined the staff of Big Spring Church, Cleveland, as pastor.

He was most recently pastor of Piney Flats Church, Piney Flats.

Thacker was ordained in 1983 at Hillcrest Church, Morristown, and earned an associate of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Morristown native and his wife, Doris Ann, have three daughters.

## First Church, Lobelville

David Emmert accepted the pastorate of First Church, Lobelville, effective Sept. 2.

Emmert most recently served as minister of youth at University Church, Thibodaux, La. He has also served as minister of youth at a Kentucky church, and as a missionary in Zambia.

He is a graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

## First Church, McKenzie

First Church, McKenzie, recently called Roy D. Graves as pastor.

Graves was most recently pastor of Riverside Church, Nashville.

The Nashville native was ordained in 1977 at Stevens Street Church, Cookeville. He earned a bachelor of arts from Belmont College, Nashville; a master of divinity from Southeastern

Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; and a doctor of ministry from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Frances, have two children.

## First Church, Adamsville

First Church, Adamsville, called Frank Kemper as pastor, effective Sept. 9.

Kemper served as pastor of First Church, Kenton, for the past 11 years.

Other pastorates include Gallatin Road Church, Nashville; Antioch Church, Humboldt; and Friendship Church, Medina.

He served as president of the West Tennessee Pastors' Conference, and held various offices on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Kemper is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

## Rogers Creek Church

Rogers Creek Church, Decatur, called Dillard Hagan as pastor, after he served as interim pastor for eight months.

Hagan has been in the ministry 44 years. He retired a year ago.

The Kentucky native was ordained in 1946 at Mill Creek Church, Blascoe, Ky. He graduated from Campbellsville (Ky.) College.

He and his wife, Maxine, have two children.

## Cottontown Church

Ronnie Crosslin recently joined the staff of Cottontown Church, Cottontown, as pastor.

He has served as a supply pastor since 1987, when he was called to preach. Cottontown Church is his first pastorate.

He and his wife, Kathy, have one son.

## Hulen Church

Hulen Church, Erwin, recently called Floyd Robinson as pastor.

Robinson has served as pastor of Harmony and Lynn Valley churches, both in Elizabethton, and as interim pastor of Biltmore Church, Elizabethton.

He earned an associate degree from Steed College, Elizabethton.

He and his wife, Diane, have two daughters.

## Poplar Creek Church

Bill Dawson recently joined the staff of Poplar Creek Church, Clinton, as pastor.

Dawson came to Poplar Creek from Batley Church, Clinton, where he was pastor for four years. He has served as pastor at several other Tennessee churches.

The Maryville native was ordained in 1974 at Hillvale Church, Clinton.

He and his wife, Helen, have two children.

## Belmont creates option for seminary extension course

Formation for Ministry, a seminary extension course, is being team taught by area ministers and denominational workers at Belmont College, Nashville, this fall.

The course involves leaders who use personal experiences in ministry to inspire the students.

Guest lecturers are: Mack Hannah, pastor of Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville; D. L. Lowrie, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Herbert Gabhart, chancellor of Belmont College; and Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

David Smith, dean of admissions at Belmont, is the coordinator for the course. The class meets on Tuesday from 7:15-8:45 p.m. in room 105 of Fidelity Hall. Registration for this course has been extended. For more information, contact Belmont's office of religious affairs at (615) 385-6435.



KEMPER

## Volunteers needed to teach basic skills in Philippines

Southern Baptist missionary Douglas Kellum, on furlough in Tennessee, is looking for volunteers of a different sort.

While basic evangelistic tools are needed and would be used, what's more important is volunteers who can teach basic skills such as driver education, auto maintenance, basic construction, typing, and American homemaking, Kellum explained.

Kellum is director of Philippine Baptist Refugee Ministries at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center on the Bataan Peninsula.

While on furlough at Berclair Church, Memphis, Kellum recently visited the Baptist Center in Brentwood and offered opportunities for people who wanted to do something in the Tennessee/Philippines partnership that "is not on the preacher side."

Kellum needs people who can teach basic skills to refugees who will be coming to the United States from southeast Asia.

Refugees go to the center in the Philippines for six months of intensive language study before coming to the states, Kellum said. He explained the center is administered

by the Philippines government with funds from the United Nations.

The Foreign Mission Board is one of the many agencies headquartered at the center. The FMB has primary responsibilities for vocational training, Kellum noted.

And, while volunteers spend a great deal of time teaching, evenings are spent doing evangelistic work, Kellum said.

The Mississippi native noted there are five churches in the center — two Vietnamese, and Lao, Cambodian, and ethnic Chinese. "We're the basic evangelical organization working with these people," he said.

Kellum said volunteers lead Bible studies, visit, and work with youth and children. Last year, 1200 people were baptized in the five congregations, he said.

Because of the nature and structure of the work, Kellum said people are needed who can give one or two year commitments, although volunteers are sometimes accepted for six-month stints.

Anyone interested in this work can contact the international services department of the FMB at (804) 353-0151, ext. 500. — Lonnie Wilkey

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

There is a lot involved in being family. Alice and I have been family for more than 32 years. This has not been without its challenges, but it has brought much joy.

Alice and I do not agree on everything. I think our first serious disagreement as a family was when we went to the grocery store together for the first time. In our family we never

bought fresh fruit except on special occasions; Alice's family bought fresh fruit whenever they pleased. We had even stronger disagreements about the discipline of our boys. I accused her of not believing the Bible when it warned about sparing the rod; she suspected I was provoking them to anger. There have been other disagreements. Such disagreements are a part of being family.

How do you keep on being family

when you disagree? Keep on talking to each other and avoid talking about each other. When you start talking about each other, the family is in jeopardy. We have never talked with parents about our disagreements.

Never let disagreements overshadow positive things in the relationship. For every point of tension there have been a dozen times of joy and fulfillment. Remembering the positive keeps you working on the relationship.

Remember the basis of your family. Alice and I believe that God joined us together. We do not intend to destroy what God put together.

I keep remembering that we Tennessee Baptists are family. We have the same Father, share the same spiritual life in Christ, are heirs together with Christ, and are headed for the same heavenly home. We have to work at being family like Alice and I have had to work at it. We must not "put asunder" what God has "joined together."

I am glad that I am in the family of God with you (1 John 3:1-2).



LOWRIE

# TenneScene

... Along the Tennessee trail, from Cumberland Furnace to Mohawk, by way of Gruetli-Laager ...

## Associations ...

Officers were recently elected for the 1990-91 Cumberland Association Pastors' Conference. They are President Gene Horn, pastor of Northeast Church, Clarksville; Vice President David Atherton, pastor of Kenwood Church, Clarksville; and Secretary D. C. Sherrill, pastor of First Canaan Church, Palmyra.

## Churches ...

The 40th anniversary of Highland Heights Church, Tullahoma, will be celebrated with special services Sept. 29-30. A dinner for charter members and a reception for the congregation will be held Saturday, and a covered dish dinner and music service will be held Sunday.

The membership of Pomona Church, Dickson, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 30. An add-a-dish dinner and special music service will follow morning worship.

Homecoming will be celebrated Sept. 30 at Harvest Fields Mission, formerly Dry Creek Mission, in Pegram. Activities include music by the Stem Family and a potluck dinner.

Special services will be held Sept. 23 at Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, to

## Church media library regional clinics set

Two church media library fall regional clinics will be held on consecutive Saturdays on Baptist college campuses this year.

The first clinic is set for Sept. 29 at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. The second clinic is scheduled Oct. 6 at Union University in Jackson.

Both clinics are sponsored by the church media library/church recreation office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Conferences include sessions on book repairs, how to select and catalog media, how to select and use videos, general promotion and how to plan an emphasis week, and selection and weeding.

Program leaders include Floyd Simpson and Anne Long from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Registration fee for each clinic is \$20. For additional information, contact the TBC's church media library at (615) 371-2033.

dedicate new educational space and a gymnasium.

The congregation of Auburn Church, Auburntown, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 30.

Homecoming services will be held Sept. 30 at South Gate Church, Nashville. A special dinner and recreation time will be held in the afternoon.

Mack's Grove Church, Dresden, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 30 with a special meal and music by the Melody Makers.

Members of First Church, Lexington, will dedicate a new multipurpose building Sept. 23 at 11 a.m. Open House will be held from 2-4 p.m.

Members of Peabody Church, Memphis, will observe the church's 108th anniversary and its 30th year at the present location, with homecoming services Sept. 23. Speakers will include Loyd Shelton Jr., whose late father served as pastor at Peabody for 31 years.

## Leadership ...

Jerry Glenn Heflin has joined the staff of First Church, Goodlettsville, as associate pastor with responsibilities in education and administration. He was formerly pastor of Mt. Harmony Church, Knoxville, and served as a professor for 15 years at Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour.

Etter Church, Byrdstown, called Jeffrey Brown, Albany, Ky., as interim pastor.

Larry Reeves has been called as interim pastor to Stevens Street Church, Cookeville. He is Baptist Student Union director at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.

Calvary Church, Brownsville, called Brett Smith, Duquoin, Ill., as minister of music and youth. He is a student at Union University, Jackson.

Cumberland Drive Church, Clarksville, called Joel Worley, Cecelia, Ky., as minister of music and activities.

Donnie Craig recently resigned from the pastorate of First Church, Pinewood, to accept the pastorate of Riverview Church, Riverview, Mich.

Oak Grove Church, Milan, called Shawn Parker as pastor. He has been serving as interim pastor and is a student at Union University, Jackson.

Rodney Syler has been called as interim minister of youth to Brook Hollow Church, Nashville.

First Church, Erwin, called William Purdue as interim pastor.

Sunnyside Church, Kingsport, called Dennis B. Taylor as minister of music.

Ronald Midkiff, chairman of the education division at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, recently presented a paper at the 1990 World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching held in Singapore.

First Church, Paris, called Mark Wilson as minister of program development.

First Church, Michie, called Paul Wallace as minister of music and youth.

L. W. Todd recently joined the staff of Mt. Gilead Church, Bethel Springs, as interim pastor.

B. C. Wilcutt has been called as interim pastor to Walnut Grove Church, Savannah.

## Ordinations ...

Calvary Church, Jackson, ordained David Dorris, Kenny Sadler, Earl Shackelford, and Don Vaughn as deacons Sept. 16.

Lenox Church, Lenox, recently ordained David Haddock, Marvin Haddock, Joe Ledford, Brad Studdard, and Bob Veal as deacons.

## Two Tennesseans graduate at NOBTS



BASS



NEAL

**NEW ORLEANS** — Two Tennessee Baptists were among summer graduates of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

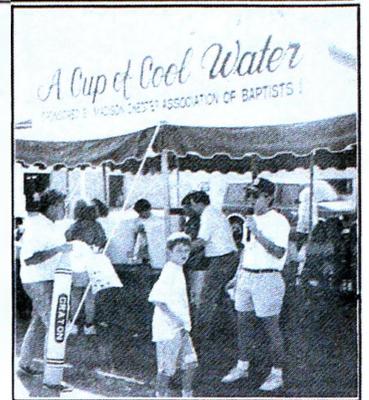
Raymond Dwight Bass of Harriman received the master of arts in Christian education degree. Bass, a missionary to Kenya, is married to the former Joyce Stevens, also of Harriman.

Bass considers South Harriman Church his home church. He is also a graduate of University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

David L. Neal of Pulaski earned the master of divinity degree.

Neal, pastor of Cornerstone Mission, Slidell, La., is married to the former Melissa Taylor, also of Pulaski.

A graduate of the University of the State of New York in Albany, Neal considers First Church, Pulaski, his home church.



**COOL DRINK** — The Madison-Chester Association sponsored a "Cup of Cool Water" tent at the West Tennessee State Fair Aug. 20-26. More than 3000 cups of cool water and 2000 New Testaments were distributed.

## Revivals ...

Greene Lawn Church, Greeneville, will celebrate its 29th anniversary and begin revival Sept. 30. Tom Madden, former executive director-secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will lead the services which will conclude Oct. 5.

Jimmy Nettles recently led revival at First Church, Covington. Six people were baptized and two were called to church vocations as a result of the revival.

Rosedale Church, Nashville, will hold revival Sept. 23-26 with evangelist Austin Moore and music director Dan Johnson.

Gary Hearon, director of missions for Dallas Association, Dallas, Texas, will lead revival Sept. 23-27 at Bear Cove Church, Sparta.

Stones River Church, Smyrna, will hold an "old-fashioned" tent revival Sept. 23-26. The evangelist will be G. Ross Maroney Sr. and Nolan S. Barham Sr. will lead music.

Walnut Log Church, Union City, will hold revival Sept. 24-28 with evangelist David Gargus.

Donald Pharris will lead revival Sept. 30-Oct. 5 at First Church, Alexandria.

Lakeview Church, Selmer, recently held revival led by Walter K. Ayers. Nine people made professions of faith.

Pleasant View Church, Woodbury, will hold revival Sept. 30-Oct. 4. Jack Custer will be evangelist.

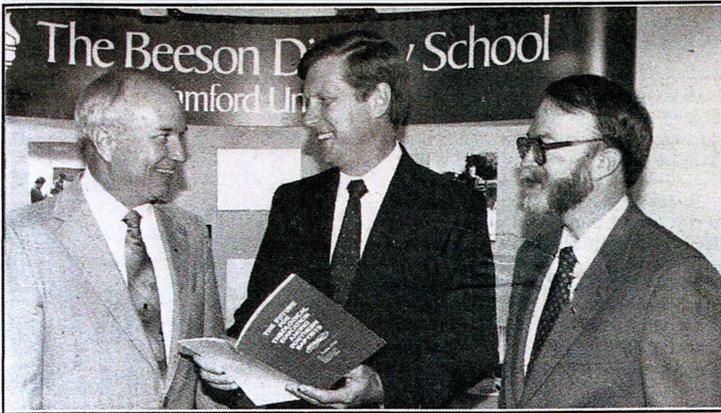
Mt. Zion Church, Liberty, began revival Sept. 16. C. E. Clay is leading the services, which will conclude Sept. 21.

John Davis began leading revival services Sept. 16 at Wolf Creek Church, Silver Point.

Dyer Association reported the following churches are having or have scheduled revivals: Southside Church, Dyersburg, Sept. 16-21, John Adams; McCullough Chapel Church, Dyersburg, Sept. 17-23, Don Williams; First Church, Newbern, Sept. 23-27, Walter Ayers; Finley Church, Finley, Sept. 28-30, Joe T. Naylor; and Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, Sept. 30-Oct. 5, Bob Smith.



**WATERTOWN GIFT** — First Church, Watertown, recently presented a \$15,000 check to Stoneway Acres group home in Lebanon. The home houses eight mentally handicapped adults and is owned and operated by Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, Inc. Pastor Bill Enoch, right, made the presentation to BHEP President Joy Nabi. Also present for the presentation were church member Judy Kizer (beside Nabi) and deacons, from left, Edsel Floyd, Herald Hancock, Steve Carlile, Ed Bailey, Jewell Huddleston, and Richard Smith.



**AT PASTORS' SCHOOL** — Tennessee Baptist pastor Vernon Johnson was among some 200 pastors from 12 states who attended the third annual Pastors' School sponsored by Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity. Johnson, left, visited with Princeton Theological Seminary professor Thomas Long, center, and Beeson Divinity School Dean Timothy George. Johnson is pastor of Bethel Church, Townsend.

**Communications focus of Knoxville seminar**

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's office of public relations will sponsor a "Communications and the Local Church" seminar Oct. 18 at Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville.

The one-day meeting (9:45 a.m.-4 p.m. eastern time) will feature conferences to help church communication committees with various aspects of public relations.

Topics are communicating with the unchurched, the church secretary as an image builder, keeping your church in the news, desktop publishing, church history, why have a public relations committee, and photography.

Program participants include Calvin Metcalf, pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; James McCluskey, pastor, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville; and Sheridan Barker, assistant professor of com-

munication arts at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Registration fee for the conference is \$15 and includes a noon meal.

For additional information, contact the office of public relations at (615) 371-2015.

**Webb's Chapel Church calls Kenneth Wilson**

Kenneth Wilson has been called as pastor of Webb's Chapel Church, Lebanon, after serving as interim pastor.

Wilson has served several churches in Tennessee, including Calvary Church, Vine Church, Hurricane Church, and Southside Church, all in Lebanon; and First Church, Millersville.

He and his wife, Audrey, have three daughters.

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Sponsored by: Church Program, Training Center, Baptist Sunday School Board

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# The prediction of Saul's death

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

The three chapters of this lesson can be divided into three headings. First, we will discover David finding an unusual home in protecting himself against Saul. Second, we will see the ungodly hypocrisy of Saul as he consults a medium. And finally, we will note the Philistines' reluctance to use David and his men in war.



HAUN

An unusual home (27:1-12)

David was tired of his close calls with Saul. A life of running, hiding, and looking over his shoulder caused David to try his luck among the enemy Philistines. David took his 600 men and their families and went to King Achish in Gath. Sure enough, Saul stopped his relentless pursuit of David.

Meanwhile, King Achish welcomed David because he knew of David's split

with Saul. It was good propaganda to have David leave Israel and seek a home among the Philistines. He stayed a year and four months.

In the same way, the believer mustn't get too attached to this world. We are heavenly citizens living in a foreign world for a short time.

King Achish allowed David and his men to control the city of Ziklag. David led raids on Israel's enemies, but reported to Achish that his raids had been on Israel. Achish did not find out differently because David and his men utterly destroyed the cities. These enemies which were defeated then would not have to be fought when David became Israel's king. Certainly, all the enemies of temptation and sin you and I defeat today will insure greater strength for us spiritually in the days ahead.

Ungodly hypocrisy (28:1-25)  
After Samuel's death, Saul called for a ban on all mediums and wizards from Israel. But who does he consort

with when faced with a growing Philistine army? — the witch at Endor! Saul, wearing a disguise, asked the medium to summon Samuel. Saul had so isolated the priesthood he could no longer go to them for advice. Thus, he hypocritically compromised the very command he had issued throughout the land.

Did this woman call Samuel from the dead with her Satanic powers? No! Necromancy was a sham then and is today. The Bible says, "There is a great gulf fixed" (chasm) (Luke 16:26) between the dead and the living. Only one has the power to bring someone across that chasm — Almighty God (John 11). When the medium saw a real spirit, Samuel, she was terrified. God was confirming the fate of Saul through Samuel's departed spirit. "You will be judged as I said before for disobeying God's instructions with the Amalekites" (15:23). It was Saul's disobedience Samuel compared to witchcraft. Saul heard of his destiny through attempting to use witchcraft

which he had banned.

Intense fear gripped Saul's heart as he heard these words. Those who live lives of hypocrisy and disobedience often discover with their lifestyle comes the baggage of fear and uncertainty.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
September 23 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 27:1 to 29:11

Unwanted help (29:1-11)

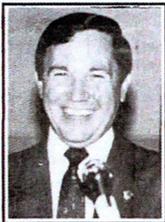
When the Philistines mobilized their armies against Israel, the Philistine generals said, "Thanks, but no thanks" to David's help. Despite King Achish's objections and guarantees, David was politely asked to stay home. Chapter 30 tells us of the Amalekite raid on Ziklag. Had David fought with the Philistines, he would have never recovered his wives and possessions.

Sometimes we may feel unwanted in our efforts to help or serve the Lord. But God may have another project or ministry prepared for us. Rather than hurt feelings or brooding anger, we should look for and allow God to place our lives as He chooses.

# Elijah and Ahab

By John Henry Pippin, pastor; First Church, Savannah

One late November afternoon, I poured the trash out on a bare spot of ground in the corner of my garden. I struck a match and set the paper on fire. There was little wind stirring, so I gave no thought to the possibility of the fire spreading to the nearby brown grass. After a short time, I checked the fire and discovered it had burned a large part of my yard and was spreading rapidly. Twenty minutes later, the fire was extinguished, but I had to live with a black yard until spring.



PIPPIN

Why? I was careless with a fire.

This Scripture shows what happens in one's life when one is careless with sin.

Covetousness leads to discontentment (1 Kings 21:4-6)

This black deed began with King Ahab's innocent desire to possess Naboth's vineyard. Ahab offered to buy or trade a better vineyard for Naboth's property. However, when Naboth refused both offers, the king's desire became covetousness. He had to have that vineyard! Nothing would satisfy him but possessing that property. So he went home, piled up on his bed and pouted — discontented. Any gratitude he might have had was lost in his covetousness for that which he could not have.

Sinful counsel (1 Kings 21:7)  
Discontentment led to listening to sinful counsel. Ahab would listen to anything that would get him what he wanted, even advice that he would once have rejected. But the tempter was aware of this unguarded state and he attacked Ahab at that weak point.

The tempter often uses sinful companions to lure one further into sin, so one must be careful of sinful associates and of carelessness regarding sin.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
September 23 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 1 Kings 21

Deceitful schemes accompany sinful counsel (21:8-11a)

Ahab listened to Jezebel's deceitful scheme to try Naboth for cursing God and the king. The scheme included two witnesses who would lie about Naboth and the elders who would pronounce and carry out the sentence of death. Ahab agreed to such evil actions because he had allowed his desire to go unguarded. That same process is frequently followed by those whose desire to make money, advance socially, or gain positions of power has become covetousness. Failure to be on guard against temptation can lead to the use of lies and deceit.

Judgment follows (21:17-19)  
Ahab's desire was satisfied when he

took possession of Naboth's vineyard. He forgot he had lied and murdered to get it. However, God saw, God knew, and God judged! God sent His prophet, Elijah, to pronounce the sentence of death on Ahab. That judgment was announced on the very soil which Ahab had coveted. The sweet became bitter when Ahab learned that he would die for his sin.

It is very disappointing to learn that the wages of sin is death. With the lost person, it is eternal death. With the saved person, it may be the death of influence, power, spiritual sensitivity or spiritual perception. But it is always death, for God has so declared it (Romans 6:23).

Conclusion: No one can relax when confronted by temptation. The one who does will find himself further into sin than he ever dreamed possible, doing things he never thought he would do. Then, he will face a God who doesn't judge him on the basis of what he thought he wouldn't do, but on the basis of what he has done. Sin will find man, but he doesn't have to let it in.

# Do good

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

In this week's lesson, we are encouraged to do good.

The Bible teaches that the person who knows to do good, but fails to do it is guilty of sin. Sometimes people think that sin is only possible when they do bad things. The Bible states, "To him that knows to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).



WREN

Do good according to the Word (James 1:22-27)

Too many people see conversion as the ultimate destination rather than the beginning of a wonderful adventure. They get saved and seated, converted and comfortable, and regenerated and retired. The Christian life is not to be that way.

In our text, James gave two illustrations concerning the way people treat the Word of God. He described a person who attends church, listens to the

reading and proclamation of the Word, and consequently, considers himself a good Christian. The second person described in the text looks in a mirror, sees smudges on his face, messy hair, and buttons unbuttoned; but, he chooses to do nothing about it.

**LIFE AND WORK**  
September 23 Lesson  
Basic Passage: James 1:19-17;  
Luke 6:27-36; Galatians 6:7-10

What is the meaning of these illustrations? We are to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. Christians must not only be "believers" in the Bible, we must be "be-livers." We are commanded to be doers of the Word, which suggests continuity in the process of one's development and growth.

James gave three examples of practicing the Word. First, referring to carelessness of speech, he pointed out that we need to discipline the tongue. Second, James exhorted Christians to care for the needy. The third example

deals with living unspotted lives. Jesus said that we are to be "in the world, but not of the world." It is only as we practice the Word that we are set in contradistinction to the world and its standards.

Do good to enemies (Luke 6:27-28)  
Jesus taught that we are to love, bless, do good to, and pray for our enemies. This requires a conscientious effort because we are not conditioned to respond to our enemies in such a manner. We are taught to fight back, get even, and do unto others before they do unto you.

We sometimes soothe our consciences by doing nothing to our opposition. Because we do not retaliate, curse, or take a swipe at them, we consider ourselves good. However, Jesus taught us to take action. We must love, do good, bless, and pray for our enemies.

Jesus is our supreme example. He loved those who mistreated Him, prayed for those who nailed Him to the cross, and died for those who are responsible for His death.

Think of those who have mistreated, slandered, used, or cursed you. What are you doing to comply with the

teachings and example of Jesus Christ?

Do good always (Galatians 6:9-10)  
Fatigue, stress, and burn-out are three emotional experiences that can discourage and defeat people. Paul wrote to some churches in Galatia which had experienced burn-out by church members. They were tired of fighting the heresy of the Judaizers and trying to perform their regular responsibilities such as proclaiming the Good News and reaching new converts.

These emotions are prevalent among many Christians and churches today.

Consequently, we need to hear and heed the encouraging words Paul shared with the Galatians. He said, "Let us not be weary in well doing . . . let us do good unto all men" (vv. 9-10). We should always strive to do good to everyone, especially fellow Christians. Knowing we are part of God's divine agenda, have been entrusted with a great responsibility, and will reap, should motivate us to always do good!

Let us strive to be doers of good and not just "do-gooders." As the television commercial states, "Just do it!"

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**HMB Atlanta staff pilots one-day evangelism workshop**

ATLANTA — Staff members of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board recorded 20 professions of faith and 129 visits while trying out a new one-day evangelism workshop.

In three separate sessions this summer, 137 HMB staff members participated in the "One-day Soul Winning Workshop" which the board's personal evangelism department recently developed.

The workshop is designed for use in churches and associations as a means of getting more people involved in personal evangelism quickly, said Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism. It is a complement to more in-depth programs such as Continuing Witness Training.

Ramsey led the HMB staffers through the entire presentation which has been packaged for church leaders to teach. The workshop trains participants to use the "Eternal Life" tract to present the Gospel through door-to-door visitation.

**CLC opposes cap on charitable deductions**

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission is urging members of the Budget Summit, who are negotiating an agreement on the federal budget, not to place a cap on the deductibility of charitable contributions. News reports have indicated the negotiators are considering such a proposal in order to raise more tax money.

In letters to Budget Summit participants, Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard D. Land called the proposal "extremely short-sighted" and "an unwise tax policy."

"It is a well-proven axiom of government that activities which you exempt you encourage and activities which you tax you discourage," Land said. "A cap on the deductibility of charitable contributions will increase government's burden at all levels since it will be forced to replace many of the services which will be lost as a result of declines in charitable activities."

Land said, "Nonprofit, charitable activities have served our nation well. Charitable activities represent part of the unique character of America. The continuation of current tax law regarding this matter is essential if the nonprofit sector and the religious community are to assume more responsibility for assisting those in need in our society," Land said.

**First Church, Atlanta, completes sale of property**

ATLANTA — Members of First Church, Atlanta, voted Aug. 29 to sell most

of the church's 14-acre site in midtown Atlanta to an unnamed buyer for \$43.5 million.

On Aug. 26, the congregation approved plans for a new \$40 million facility. The church bought 52 acres of land on the northern edge of Atlanta's city limits in October 1988, after members voted to sell the midtown property.

Charles Stanley, former Southern Baptist Convention president, is pastor of the 12,000-member church.

First Church will continue to occupy its current facilities until April 1994. Plans for the new facility call for a 145,000-square-foot sanctuary to seat 7000 people, a small lake, gardens with fountains and a reflecting pool, picnic facilities, and walking trails. The church will renovate a 240,000-square-foot building currently on the property for educational space. First Church has been in downtown Atlanta since 1848. The current sanctuary was constructed in 1930.

**Missionaries in Cyprus continue their 'wait-and-see' attitude**

NICOSIA, Cyprus — In Cyprus, nine Southern Baptist workers who evacuated Jordan, and 12 who evacuated Yemen, have been discussing "what it would take" for them to return to their assignments in each country, said Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa.

"We've had a lot of discussions, but no definite plans for anyone going back as yet," Thorne said Sept. 4 in a telephone interview from his office in Nicosia, Cyprus.

"It's so difficult to know which way the whole situation is going to go," he said, so the evacuees continue their "wait-and-see" vigil.

Some exploration also has begun of possible temporary assignments in other countries for some of the workers, Thorne said, "but nothing definite" has been decided.

**Brazil student ministry partnership finalized**

RIDGECREST, N.C. — A partnership between Southern Baptists and Brazilian Baptists to develop a student ministry in Brazil is now being implemented after two years of planning.

An agreement for the partnership signed in July will allow Brazilian Baptists to translate and adapt Southern Baptist student ministry materials, allow Southern Baptist student ministry leaders to provide training for Brazilian Baptists, and allow the two groups to exchange articles for student publications.

The idea for the partnership began with the U.S.-Brazil Student Missions Encounter in January 1988 when 150 Southern Baptist and 100 Brazilian Baptist students participated in joint mission projects throughout Brazil, according to Jimmy Joseph, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil. "Brazilian Baptists got a vision for what could be done through student ministry from what they saw in the project," Joseph said.

Although Brazilian Baptists had tried twice to develop a student ministry program, they did not have a model until they saw the Southern Baptist program at work through the student missions project in 1988, Joseph said.

**'All-American' family attacked by addictions, on road to recovery**

By Maria Sykes

NASHVILLE (BP) — Until 1986, Frank and Carolyn Andrews of Brentwood had the typical all-American family life. The Andrews and their four children enjoyed family vacations, were faithful members of a local church, and worked through routine family crises common in large families.

But then things began to change when Brent, the youngest, then 12 years old, began to do things different-

ly. He would often wear a black leather jacket, combat boots, torn jeans, and would shave his head. Spending many hours out with older friends soon found Brent deeply involved in alcohol and substance abuse.

"It was cool to do drugs and drink," said Brent, while sharing his experience in chapel at the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville recently. "I wanted to be tough. I was using drugs and didn't care who knew it," he continued.

"When I was high I was carefree. I felt I could do anything. I could talk to anybody and say anything — nothing really mattered," he said.

Brent recalled one specific day drinking liquor and taking seven Valium pills. After an emergency trip to the hospital, the doctor told his parents there was nothing to do except let it wear off. "I don't remember much about those two days that it took to recover from that," reflected Brent.

It wasn't until two years later on Feb. 29, 1988, after finding a half full bottle of vodka he had forgotten, that Brent's parents recognized he had a problem that had to be dealt with.

put away our apathy toward alcohol and drug abuse and become aware of what is happening in our neighborhoods and schools. First grade is not too early to start children in awareness programs."

After two and a half years of sobriety, Brent admits, "I am an alcoholic. Abusers have to hit bottom before making a successful recovery. That bottom varies for each person.

"Alcoholism is a chronic disease. It lies, then tries to cover itself," Brent explained. "Alcoholism and drug abuse doesn't care who or how it strikes. This can happen to anyone," he said.

After graduating from high school in 1991, Brent plans to go to college and study to be a writer. When faced with drugs or alcohol today, Brent said, "I find my strength from within. To become involved again would be a blow to my ego. I've worked hard to be where I am today. I like myself again."

Brent talks with various groups and assemblies about his experience and recovery. To a group of seventh and eighth graders Brent stated, "Drinking and taking drugs is not cool. If you are using them, stop."

Brent encourages parents to notice early possible signs of drug or alcohol abuse: violent outbursts, abusive behavior, mood swings, seclusion, a change of friends, lying, and slipping grades. Upon discovering a child with a chemical dependency, Brent encourages parents to provide positive reinforcement and lots of love. — Sykes is editorial assistant in the Baptist Press office, Nashville.

**Baptist Beliefs**

By Herschel Hobbs

**The Holy Spirit and prayer**

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (Himself) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." — Romans 8:26.

Have you ever been so burdened that you felt you could not pray? You could not put your feelings into words. It is then that the Holy Spirit comes to our aid.

The key word in this verse is "helpeth." It translates a compound Greek verb *sunantilambano* (sun, with or together, anti, over against or face to face, lambano, take hold).

You see a man trying to load a

500-pound bale of cotton on his wagon. It is too large for him to take hold and lift. So you tell him you can help. "You get on that side of the bale, and I will get on this side. We will stand face to face (anti). Then we will take hold (lambano) of the bale. And together (sun) we will lift the bale."

Likewise you have a burden so heavy you cannot put it into words. You feel that you cannot pray. In such time the Holy Spirit says, "You get on that side of your burden and I on this side, face to face. Then we will take hold and together lift it to the throne of grace."

How does the Spirit do this? The Father knows the mind of the Spirit (v. 27). No words are necessary for communication between them.

"With groanings which cannot be uttered" (v. 26) or put into words. So if in the Holy Spirit you groan in your soul, it becomes the most eloquent prayer you ever prayed.



HOBBS