

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 156/NO. 42/OCTOBER 17, 1990

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Rwanda strife

Fighting continues; Katrina Knox, parents in Nairobi

KIGALI, Rwanda (BP) — Tensions in parts of Rwanda eased Oct. 8 after more than a week of fighting between government and rebel forces — fighting that shut down most mission work, a Southern Baptist missionary said.

"It's much better today," said missionary Sandi Sivage of Luling, Texas. "People are starting to move about on the streets, more shops are open, and I've seen people driving private cars for the first time in several days." Sivage lives in Kigali, the capital of the east African country. Rwanda, about the size of Vermont, has a population of nearly seven million.

Missionary Katrina Knox from Columbia, Tenn., and her visiting parents were detained in the game park hotel for about 24 hours by government troops Oct. 1. The family was visiting the park when they accidentally drove into an area of fighting. Katrina, Kenneth, and Anne Knox later went to Nairobi, Kenya, according to an Oct. 15 report.

Although life in the capital has begun to return to normal, fighting continues in northern Rwanda. Mission officials have asked missionaries outside the capital to come into Kigali for a mission meeting, if safe travel is possible. The missionaries will consider evacuation options and safety factors in staying. In times of unrest, each missionary has the final say on whether to stay on the field or leave.

Fighting broke out Sept. 30 when Rwandan rebels from neighboring Uganda attacked Rwandan government troops near the Akagera game park in northern Rwanda. The rebels advanced to within a few miles of the capital before Rwandan troops, with the aid of Zairian, French, and Belgian soldiers, halted the military push.

Seventeen Southern Baptist mission workers live in Rwanda, including one volunteer couple, seven missionary couples, and one single missionary.

Mission volunteers Rick and Gail Stewart from Sykesville, Md., planned to leave Rwanda Oct. 12 for the United States. With a military escort, the Stewarts drove from Kigali to their home in Mukoma Oct. 9 to collect their things before leaving. The fighting has forced the Stewarts to cut short their volunteer term by about two months.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been in effect since fighting moved toward the capital Oct. 4. Missionaries in Kigali and in cities south of the capital have stayed at home, venturing out only for food and supplies, said mission administrator Vernon Sivage of Midland, Texas.

MissionsFest Tennessee makes impact

'Hands on' experience suits participants

By Wm. Fletcher Allen and Lonnie Wilkey

MissionsFest Tennessee was exactly what it was planned to be — a Baptist festival of foreign missions emphasis.

The long-planned event was held Friday and Saturday in Memphis at Eudora Church. At press time official registration figures were unavailable, but apparently close to 1750 Tennesseans attended.

It was a genuine "hands on" experience. Messages by Foreign Mission Board leaders, conferences led by missionaries and FMB staffers, and a massive global "walk around" provided up-to-date information on Southern Baptist missions.

In an informal dialogue Friday night with Tennessee pastors, FMB President Keith Parks assured those present that "things are going exceedingly well in your foreign missions program."

Parks observed that there are more people today "ready to respond to the Gospel" than at any other period.

He reported on several areas which



AND WHAT'S THIS? — Mike Owen, missionary to Guatemala, explains clothing and customs to group of GA's from First Church, Donelson, during global walkaround.

are having turbulent times. He noted that Tennessean Maurice Graham is still in the United States embassy in Kuwait City and that "he is having a great ministry serving the Lord."

Planning team bound for Chile

A planning team of eight Tennessee Baptists leaves Oct. 24 for Chile to investigate the feasibility of a Tennessee/Chile Partnership Mission to begin in 1992.

The Convention Ministries Committee of the TBC Executive Board earlier recommended that the Tennessee Baptist Convention proceed with discussions of plans with the Foreign Mission Board and Chilean Baptists for such a relationship.

Thurmon Bryant, Tom Vassar, and James Cecil, Foreign Mission Board staff members, met Aug. 28 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood with TBC leaders.

That discussion resulted in a decision by the executive committee, Executive Board, to continue the process of investigation and discussion.

The Tennessee group, which returns Nov. 1, will meet with Spanish South America leadership of the FMB, missionaries on the scene, and leaders of the Evangelical Baptist Convention of Chile. The partnership would overlap the Tennessee partnership with the Philippines by three or four months.

The Tennessee team will report upon return. Any action toward forming the partnership with Chile will be presented to Tennessee Baptist Convention messengers at the annual meeting in Nashville Nov. 13-15.

Representing the TBC on the planning team are D. L. Lowrie, executive director/treasurer; Bill Wilson, director of Convention Ministries Division; Wm. Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector editor; Katharine Bryan,

Woman's Missionary Union executive director; Clarence Stewart, director, Partnership Missions;

Bill Bargioli, director of missions, Big Emory Association, and president of the TBC DOM group; Don Givens, chairman of Convention Ministries Committee; and Howard Olive, president of the Executive Board.

Vassar and Cecil will represent the Foreign Mission Board.

Chile has about 90 Southern Baptist missionaries. It is located from the Andes Mountains west along the Pacific Coast of South America. The country is largely Catholic. There are about 211 Baptist churches. Population is 12.3 million.

Other hotspots in the world, Parks continued, are Liberia, where missionaries have left, and Rwanda, where rebels from Uganda recently entered the country causing conflict in the small East African nation.

Parks responded to several questions from the audience. Asked about the effect of the SBC controversy on FMB income, Parks said the 1991 budget will not be affected. He predicted that the 1992 budget may begin to show whether the controversy will cause a decline in missions gifts. He affirmed the Cooperative Program strongly, but noted there are more churches trying to determine different ways of giving.

"If we ever lose the cooperative way of giving, all of us will suffer," he said. Parks also said that the partnership missions effort is very successful in witness and ministry — at home and with the people in foreign lands.

He discussed some unique ways missions is being done by the FMB and in

(MissionsFest Tennessee, page 7)

Budget Committee asks Board to rescind BJC funding move

The Budget and Program Committee, Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board, is requesting the board to rescind an amendment to the proposed 1991 budget.

Unanimous action taken Thursday by the committee requests the Executive Board "to rescind the amendment to the budget which would designate .29 percent to the Baptist Joint Committee."

The board meets the day before every annual TBC meeting. This year, the board meets Nov. 12. The recommendation on the .29 percent allocation which amounted to about \$28,000, was passed by the board at its Sept. 7 meeting.

This budget committee action puts the recommendation on the Nov. 12 agenda. If the recommendation is rescinded by board action, the 1991 budget would be presented to con-

vention messengers without amendment on Nov. 13 and voted on on Nov. 14.

The \$28,000 as recommended would be taken from Cooperative Program funds going to the Southern Baptist Convention, but would not change the TBC's budget total. (See page 2 editorial.)

Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Church, is chairman of the Budget and Program Committee. In addition to Oakley, other committee members present included Bobby Turner, Jerry Barker, Gerrald Bland, Thomas Gatton, Larry Gilmore, Otis Hinton, John Hillard, Bruce Hullette, Mike Kemper, Joe Littlefield, Max Walker, Fred Ward, and Howard Olive, ex officio as president of the Executive Board. Lee Barrett, Franklin Davis, and Danny Ruehling were not present.

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Editorials

Budget Committee makes move to alleviate pressure

This is October, the designated month for touting the Cooperative Program. It is appropriate to study the CP and its history and virtues, especially since it may be a cause for major discussion during the Tennessee Baptist Convention next month.

Last year's annual meeting held at Central Church Bearden, Knoxville, set a record for attendance. More than 2000 Tennessee Baptists registered as messengers — for the first time.

This year, as Tennessee Baptists meet at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, that record will be surpassed — probably by more than 200 or 300.

What could be a brouhaha on the floor of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 13-15 may have been defused.

On September 7, the Executive Board approved the 1991 TBC budget recommendation for convention messengers to vote on next month, but not before an amendment was discussed and approved. The amendment allotted .29 percent of the SBC's Cooperative Program share from the Tennessee Baptist Convention — to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Concern was evident across the state. Those who approved of the allocation and those who opposed it began to talk about what could happen on the convention floor.

But the Budget and Program Committee of the Executive Board has "come to the rescue." Last Thursday, the committee met at the Baptist Center in Brentwood and voted unanimously to request the

Executive Board to rescind the budget amendment on the BJCPA allocation.

According to committee chairman Jerry Oakley, only three members of the committee were absent — the other thirteen were in complete accord after thorough discussion. Executive Board president Howard Olive, an ex-officio member of board committees, also was present.

Oakley and Olive made it clear that the committee action was taken in the interest of harmony and peace — for Tennessee Baptists. In particular, they referred to the upcoming state convention at Nashville's Belmont Heights Church.

Along with the committee, they feel that such a request will be a strong message to the Executive Board, setting the stage for a harmonious and productive convention.

But the committee may have had in mind more than temporary calm and quiet on the TBC level. The request, if approved by the Executive Board, should also remind the SBC's Executive Committee that Tennessee leaders solidly support the Cooperative Program.

If the budget recommendation goes to the messengers without an amendment, it is still possible for any messenger to offer an amendment for any purpose. However, without Executive Board approval, such amendments usually fail.

We need to look at how we got to this point. It is evident that a majority of Executive Board members on September 7 wanted to allocate a portion of CP funds to the Baptist Joint Committee.

Though no distinction was made, the voting crossed political boundaries. Some of those who voted for the amendment did so with expressed fear of what would happen to the Cooperative Program. Some voted against the amendment because they felt the Southern Baptist Convention already had acted to cut the BJC budget by \$350,000 — and they agreed. Others did not want the TBC to get involved. Some felt so strongly for the BJC they voted with the realization that precedent was being set.

There were — and are — strong feelings on the issue of support for the Baptist Joint Committee. Whether the Executive Board will uphold the request of the Budget and Program Committee is not yet known. If the amendment is rescinded, messengers can expect less furor at that point.

While we have often forgotten it in the past, we must realize that those with whom we differ are still part of the Baptist family. They stand for their beliefs. They are willing to sacrifice. We must protect that right — and appreciate their honor.

We must make sure — both "sides" in this issue — that reciprocal moves are made toward each other to alleviate pain and distress wrought by division. Tennessee Baptists have a great opportunity — here and now — to demonstrate that kind of attitude to our Southern Baptist leaders.

We cannot accept the "winner takes all" attitude; as Christians we must not. When friends and fellow Christians take opposite views and then can step back for harmony and peace — that harmony and peace will come only if we reciprocate. — WFA

HMB adopts \$78.8 million budget; acts on SBC motions

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Adopting a \$78.8 million budget and responding to motions from the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention topped the agenda for the fall meeting of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board trustees.

Trustees also heard that receipts for the 1990 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering have reached \$34.6 million, an increase of 8.5 percent over the same date last year.

The approved 1991 budget of \$78.8 million is an increase of 1.6 percent over the current year's budget of \$77.65 million.

The budget anticipates \$27.4 million in income from the Cooperative Program unified budget and \$34.5 million from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Additional funds will come from sources such as designated gifts, earnings on investments, and retained

income.

Trustees responded to three motions referred to the HMB by messengers to the denomination's 1990 meeting in New Orleans.

The first concerns involvement of agency personnel in convention politics. The unanimously adopted response states: "The directors of the Home Mission Board are unequivocally opposed to the use of the agency, its resources, or personnel in support of or in opposition to political activities within the Southern Baptist Convention."

Trustee Walter Carpenter of Houston asked whether the admonition on convention politics also referred to trustees. Chairman Ralph Smith responded that it did not.

Carpenter also suggested the statement's parameters of political activity should not prohibit HMB President

Larry Lewis or others from speaking out in support of the Cooperative Program. Smith affirmed that was his understanding of the statement.

Another motion referred from New Orleans asked the HMB to reverse its policy of not providing financial support to churches with female pastors. With three opposing votes, trustees voted that no action be taken on the motion.

The third referred motion requested the HMB to send copies of The Soul Winners New Testament to churches recording no baptisms in one year. Trustees responded that the HMB evangelism section already has undertaken this project.

In other action, trustees:

- Approved structural changes in the extension section, naming J. B. Graham associate vice president and continuing the position of assistant vice president held by David Bunch. The assistant vice president position was to be deleted at year-end as part of the 1989 staff reduction. Graham's previous position of assistant vice president

for missions development was deleted in the transaction.

- Created a new position of director of missions development and named Irvin Dawson to the post. Dawson's previous position of assistant director of missions development was deleted.

- Eliminated the two division director positions in the evangelism section. Ken Carter, director of the evangelism development division, was named to a new post of associate vice president in the evangelism section. Bobby Sunderland, director of the direct evangelism division, was named to a new post as special assistant for promotion and project development in the evangelism section.

- Named a church loan fund in honor of Robert Kilgore, who is retiring as director of the church loans division. The initial source of income for the fund will be high risk loan funds to be provided through the SBC capital needs budget.

- Adopted a new model for cooperative agreements between the HMB and state conventions.

Southeastern has advisory board

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary began the fall semester by inaugurating a president's advisory council which convened in early September.

The group is composed of Christian laypersons who will serve as advisors to the seminary administration in planning, promoting, and building the seminary with a view of its total impact on the world.

The meetings were the first of their kind held on the Wake Forest, N.C., campus and represented the establishment of the council. The council will meet annually to review campus programs and activities and to discuss future development projects. A chairperson, vice chairperson, and a secretary will be elected yearly. Members are nominated and elected by the council and seminary administration.

The president's advisory council will aid in seeking and obtaining gifts for capital needs, endowment, student aid,

as well as recruiting qualified students. It also will pursue the continued development of goodwill between the seminary and local communities. Lewis Drummond, seminary president, said, "I am excited about involving community leaders in the life of Southeastern Seminary. These outstanding laypeople are a tremendous asset to this institution."

The council members, mostly from North Carolina, include: Robert Allen, Greensboro; Sanford Bailey, Wake Forest; Dotson Benefield, Atlanta; Evander M. Britt Sr., Lumberton; Kenny Goetze, Knightdale; Robert Hamblin, Tupelo, Miss.; Billy Hand, Weldon; Stan Hayward, Asheboro; Dorothe Helms, Raleigh; J. T. Knott Jr., Knightdale; Don Lanier, Auburn, Ala.; Daniel M. Lotz, Raleigh; Bob G. Mallory, Weatherford, Texas; Edwin Shufelt, High Point; Dudley Simms III, Winston-Salem; Eldred Turner, Louisville, Ky.; and others who wish to remain unnamed.

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor
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Connie Davis, Assistant Editor
Connie Umstead, News Assistant/Church Pages Coordinator

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Baptist and Reflector is published weekly except Christmas week by the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$8.25; church budget plan, \$5.56 when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780).

Space forbids printing of resolutions, obituaries, and poetry. Advertising rates on request.

Baptist and Reflector holds membership with Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Telephone: (615) 371-2003.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

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FMB trustees adopt record budget; hold dialogue

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND (BP)— Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees, pointing toward the challenges of the future amid sobering realities in the world and the denomination, voted a record \$182.76 million 1991 budget and appointed 48 new overseas personnel at their October meeting.

They also voted to send missionaries to Bulgaria and heard reports of a Baptist seminary scheduled to open in Moscow, worldwide mission advances despite change and unrest, and new approaches to reach the 1.3 billion people in the world who live where Christian witness is virtually nonexistent.

In other action, trustees held a dialogue with pastors from across the Southern Baptist Convention, tabled until December a motion to study criteria for moving the FMB headquarters, appointed a committee to coordinate policy interpretation with staff, and honored 71 retiring missionaries with 2164 years of service.

Trustees also clarified policy on mission service by divorced people, named veteran missionary and administrator Billy Bullington as vice president for Africa, and received a report endorsing continued open and unbiased news reporting by its communications staff.

FMB President Keith Parks said the budget, a \$7.9 million increase over 1990, reflects his belief that Southern Baptists will continue to give cooperatively amid talk of alternative funding programs which has arisen in the Southern Baptist Convention's theological/political controversy.

During the dialogue, reports of growing mission opportunities and advances across the changing world scene excited trustees and 41 visiting pastors from across the SBC spectrum, but the

continuing convention unrest tempered the enthusiasm.

"In spite of all of our idealism, it's impossible for us to just talk missions, evidently, (without) some of the struggles we're facing seeping into the conversation," said SBC President Morris Chapman after several pastors confronted the denominational issues.

Chapman noted that some good can result — "to know each other as brothers and sisters and to communicate."

The pastors gathered at the Foreign Mission Board's invitation for a special session to hear about the challenges of world missions and consider increasing gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. The offering accounts for more than 45 percent of the funds the board needs annually to support and expand its mission force.

FMB trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Louisville, Ky., who conceived the idea of the pastor dialogue, told trustees and visitors that "the work begins as we leave here to support the Lottie Moon offering."

At the end of the four-hour dialogue, Hancock called for an offering among staff, trustees, and visiting pastors in the meeting to start moving toward the Lottie Moon goal. More than \$11,500 was collected, plus \$2700 in pledges.

With the 48 new appointments, the overseas force now numbers 3812 in 120 countries and includes ministries related to about 25 other countries. The board aims toward a goal of 5000 overseas personnel throughout the world by the year 2000.

So far this year, the board has appointed or reappointed 193 career and associate missionaries, compared to 185 in 1989 and 234 in 1988. It also has

sent 162 long-term mission workers overseas through the International Service Corps program compared to 125 in 1989 and 137 in 1988.

The 1990 total now stands at 355, with a projected total of more than 400 by the end of the year. The board appointed 310 workers last year and 371 in 1988.

At the dialogue session, several pastors raised fears about the directions the board may take under conservatives now in control of the SBC. Parks and several of the board's 90 trustees sought to calm those fears.

Parks responded that the board has not changed qualifications for mission appointment and will continue to appoint qualified people without regard to politics. He said the board "will continue to appoint all God-called, Biblically sound, evangelistically committed and otherwise qualified Southern Baptists from the full spectrum of our denomination, while ignoring partisan political identity and avoiding creedal shibboleths."

Chapman addressed doubts expressed by several pastors about the pledge of conservative leaders to "enlarge the tent," or broaden the spectrum of people appointed as trustees of Southern Baptist institutions.

He expressed commitment to listen, learn, and pray as he interacts with those who disagree with him, and said he wants "to lead this convention beyond the perceptions or reality of political coalitions."

But while acknowledging his promise to "enlarge the tent," he added, "You need to hear very carefully that, again and again, I have also indicated the parameters of that tent."

"I have a deep and abiding conviction about the holy Word of God. I do, unapologetically, with all of my heart, believe this Bible to be the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. ... It is not, with me, a matter of theological

FMB, HMB commission missionaries simultaneously

ATLANTA (BP)— Foreign and home missions overlapped for about an hour Oct. 9, yet still were separated by 500 miles.

Because of a coincidence, Southern Baptists set apart 65 home missionaries and 48 foreign missionaries at the same time — in different locations.

The Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board have held joint commissioning ceremonies before, but this could be a first for simultaneous ceremonies in different locations.

While the home missionaries were walking across the platform at Atlanta's First Baptist Church to receive certificates from HMB President Larry Lewis, the new foreign missionaries were receiving congratulations from FMB President Keith Parks at Derbyshire Baptist Church in Richmond.

The 48 individuals appointed as foreign mission personnel included 38 new missionaries and ten representatives of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

The 65 home missionaries will work in 27 states in the areas of black church extension, church and community ministries, evangelism, language church extension, associational missions, and new church extension.

debate. It is a matter that I serve a perfect God. And the only way I can reason in my faith ... is that a perfect God could have done no less than deposit a perfect word on this earth."

A motion by trustee Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif., to consider criteria for possible relocation of the Foreign Mission Board headquarters was passed by the trustee administrative subcommittee. But it was tabled until December at Wilson's request at the trustee business session.

Wilson said the motion has no connection to the SBC controversy, as some observers felt, but added he was asking for the motion to be tabled until December because he had been told Virginia's state Baptist body would interpret it as political pressure. Virginia Baptists meet in Richmond Nov. 13-14 and will vote on a plan to develop alternative funding for Southern Baptist causes in reaction to the SBC controversy.

But trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas, interviewed by a Richmond Times Dispatch reporter, was quoted as saying: "If Virginia Baptists take precipitous action to hurt the Cooperative Program, they (FMB trustees) might be advised to consider whether they would keep the agency in that kind of milieu."

In another action, trustee chairman Hancock appointed a committee at the request of the board's council of trustee committee chairmen to coordinate with staff and trustees to decide who interprets certain policies which have been referred to the council.

On the question of divorce, trustees approved a recommendation that further defined the FMB policy for selecting overseas personnel.

Last February the trustees reaffirmed a longstanding policy that divorced people cannot be appointed as career or associate missionaries. But they voted Oct. 10 to remove the requirement that divorced people must provide their own funding for assignments of two years or less through the International Service Corps. Previously, the board allowed divorced people to serve in ISC roles other than pastoral or theological education assignments if they provided their own funding.

TBC preview next week

The convention issue of the Baptist and Reflector is coming your way.

The Oct. 24 issue will contain information needed by messengers and other interested Tennessee Baptists.

The 116th Annual Session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will meet at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. The church is located near Belmont College on Belmont Boulevard. Perry Michel is pastor.

The program schedule for the entire convention will be included in the special edition. Information about other meetings is standard fare for this paper.

Readers can get information about seminaries luncheons, the annual Pastors' Conference, and various other events.

Vital telephone numbers will be listed.

FMB warns of fraudulent letters

RICHMOND (BP)— Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials are warning U.S. churches about fraudulent letters from a Zambian pastor soliciting church construction funds.

A pastor of a church in Kabwe, Zambia, sent an unknown number of letters to U.S. churches asking for money to complete a stalled church construction project. In fact, the money was intended for the pastor's personal use, said Zeb Moss, FMB associate area director for eastern and southern Africa.

Officials decided not to release the name of the pastor, a young man in his 20s, because he has repented and asked forgiveness, according to Richard Kuter, a Southern Baptist missionary in Zambia, who counseled with him.

Kuter said he believes the young pastor, who got overzealous after attending a fund-raising seminar, is sincerely repentant. He has agreed to write letters to the U.S. churches he contacted and tell them the truth.

"A word of caution is needed on responding to appeals from overseas for funding," Moss said. "Churches need to be sure they can verify the actual need on the mission field and the actual use of the funds."

The pastor's ploy was discovered by Kuter after an inquiry from Terry Braswell, pastor of Doss Memorial Church, Powder Springs, Ga., who received one of the letters. Braswell maintains close ties to Kuter, whose father, Harley, is a member of Doss

Memorial Church.

Braswell said he questioned the Zambian letter because it came from the same city where Kuter and his wife, Eleanor, from St. Louis, work as church starters. The Kuters had never mentioned the church or its construction project before.

Braswell asked Harley Kuter to contact his missionary son and find out more about the request.

According to the letter, construction for a church building had halted because the congregation had run out of money. The Zambian pastor asked, "Would it be possible for a sister church in the United States to assist our struggling congregation?"

Kuter and another Zambian Baptist pastor tracked down the letter-writing pastor. They learned that he was acting on his own; his congregation knew nothing of his actions, Braswell said.

They also learned that the church was not involved in a building program. In fact, it had not even secured land on which to build. The pastor confessed he planned to use the money to build his own house, Braswell said. Kuter could not determine how many churches the pastor has written to or how much money, if any, he has received.

Similar letter-writing schemes are beginning to occur more frequently, according to Kuter. "Often men who are not even legitimate pastors are soliciting money from churches abroad," he said.

Salem Association Baptists dedicate debt-free building

LIBERTY — A dream which began last October when Salem Association messengers voted at their annual meeting to build a new associational office building is now a reality.

And, what's more, the building and its furnishings are debt free.

To mark the occasion, Salem Association Baptists gathered Oct. 7 at their new building and dedicated the facility.

Director of Missions Thurman Seber expressed pleasure that the project was accomplished debt-free.

He recalled that the original plan was to wait before constructing the facility until \$20,000 had been raised by the association's 32 member churches.

In May the building fund surpassed the \$20,000 mark and "we began dreaming about paying for the building as we went," Seber said.

And, thanks to almost 100 percent

Chattanooga church hosts missions conference

Approximately 35 Southern Baptist missionaries will gather at Central Church, Chattanooga, Oct. 31-Nov. 4 as the church hosts its first world missions conference.

The theme of the conference is "Declare His Glory Among the Nations."

Doug Knapp, vice president of the

Fayetteville church sustains fire damage

Friendship Church, Fayetteville, was damaged by fire Oct. 4.

Lightening struck the church at about 8 a.m., said John Gill Jr., a deacon at the church.

He noted the fire began in the kitchen. The building is still standing, but the inside was severely damaged by smoke and heat, Gill said.

The damage was estimated at about \$106,000, Gill reported, adding that the church has sufficient insurance.

Friendship is only three years old and the building, which was constructed by its members, is valued at about \$250,000, Gill said.

Services are temporarily being held at a local restaurant owned by one of the members. Gill said they hope to be back in the church by the first of the year.

financial participation from the churches and nearly \$50,000 worth of donated labor, and other items, the association achieved its goal.

Constructed actually started June 30 when approximately 100 men and women met at the site and began work. In a day's time the walls and roof were finished as the building was "put in the dry."

Since then, hardly a day went by when someone was not at the building doing some work, Seber said.

He noted people, not only from the association, but the community as well caught the spirit of what they were doing and wanted to help.

He recalled that three non-Baptist roofers came one afternoon and volunteered to lay shingles. Another man, who is a Baptist, came by and offered to letter the sign on the building.

Southern Baptist Convention and former agricultural missionary to Tanzania, will be the featured speaker. Interviews, dialogues, panels, and testimonies will be presented by all missionary guests.

Special breakfasts, luncheons, brunches, and a church-wide international dinner are scheduled during the five days of activities.

On Nov. 4, missionaries will be present in the Sunday School classes at Central Church. A "global walk-around" will be held that evening.

One of the conference highlights will be a parade of the flags of nations. Missionaries in native dress will carry the flags, accompanied by children of the church, also attired in native dress.

Chuck McAlister is pastor at Central Church. Staff member Barry Wilson is serving as missions coordinator.

Cleveland church calls Jeff McGough as pastor

Jeff McGough recently became pastor of Calvary Church, Cleveland.

The Cleveland native was ordained earlier this year at the church. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

McGough and his wife, Karen, have two children.

Seber said.

The director of missions observed everyone has gifts and can do something if they are willing. "The right person always came by to do what needed to be done," Seber said.

He said the association spent \$41,900 on the building, including the furnishings, adding that a builder told him the 2240-square-foot building would have cost about \$90,000 excluding fur-

nishings had all the labor been contracted.

The message of dedication was delivered by Thomas Britton, pastor of Faith Church, Smithville, who also took an active part in the construction.

James S. Daniel, pastor of West Main Church, Alexandria, and chairman of the building committee, presented a plaque to Seber for the building.



SALEM DEDICATION — Members of the building committee for Salem Association participated in the dedication of the new office building Oct. 7 in Liberty. From left, (front row) Director of Missions Thurman Seber; Patsy Seal, Elizabeth Chapel, Smithville; Ed Edwards, West Main Church, Alexandria; Thomas Baines, Calvary Church, Smithville; Bobby Colvert, Covenant Church, Smithville; (back row) Thomas Britton, Faith Church, Smithville; James Daniel, West Main, chairman; and Dave Buterbaugh, Prosperity Church, Liberty. Other committee members included Brett Curtis, John Evans, Tom Keith, Tommy Presley, Darrel Whaley, and Bobby Zumbro.

Our Readers Write

New to family

My wife and I have just returned from attending the New Church Staff Orientation, held Oct. 4-5, at the Baptist Center. It was a wonderful experience for both of us.

After having lived most of my life in another state, and having spent 20 years pastoring in that state, I was concerned about "breaking-in" a new state convention. All of my anxieties were laid to rest during the orientation.

We came away sensing a genuine commitment on the part of the entire staff, and a Christ-like concern, to do all they can to lead us to "Impact Tennessee."

Dr. Lowrie and the entire staff are to be commended for making us feel so much at home. We are proud to be a part of the TBC family.

Jim Clayton, pastor
2235 Midway Road
Knoxville 37914

Stop hindering

I agree with Brother Murcheson's letter that we "moderates" should either submit to the "conservative" leadership or leave. However, I disagree with his misquoting the Scriptures to prove his point. Romans 13:1-7 concerns secular (i. e. Roman) authority not ecclesiastical authority. But there is no authority (like the SBC, a preacher, or even the Bible) between Christ and the believer!

When they began this battle for the Bible, surely "conservatives" realized that "moderates" would resist, become disenfranchised, and eventually withdraw financial support. I do not criticize either "moderates" or "conservatives" from withholding support when the SBC does not represent their views and values.

God created the body with both right ("conservative") and left ("liberal")

sides, so it could be bipedal. Yet someone is always wanting to hinder or to amputate the other side!

It is sad to see "conservatives" being unequally yoked with secular politics, be defensive, hostile, and judgmental, and be so obsessed with winning, being right, and having the right beliefs, views, doctrines, and interpretations that they cannot see or tolerate anything else!

Jim E. Pennington
P. O. Box 5445 EKS
Johnson City 37603

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on pertinent subjects are welcomed. Letters should be concise, no more than 250 words. 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.

Repentance, forgiveness

In regard to reports of sanctimonious repentance and forgiveness by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, I have this to say: It is the epitome of hypocrisy.

When folks get nervous about money, they suddenly get convicted about sin. But instead of voicing true repentance, they offer to forgive those they've wronged.

Ben Bledsoe
394 North McNeil St.
Memphis 38112

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

I still like what I see. I met with Murray Mathis, president of our convention, and Claude King to talk about calling our convention to prayer and solemn assembly.

When I sensed the burden of the heart of our president, my heart leaped within me. You will be hearing more about this call to prayer. We want to extend it to each pastor and church in our state. Any time God's people feel a burden to pray, that burden is from the Lord.

I met this week with one of our committees to talk about our business. As I listened to them share their concerns and burdens, my heart leaped again. They do care about the work of God through Tennessee Baptists. They were



LOWRIE

prepared to do whatever is necessary to build a fellowship and to strengthen the work.

I had a call this week from a brother in one of our associations. He has been elected prayer coordinator for his association and he wanted to know how to do his work. It will be a joy to provide training for him. This blessed me.

Another prayer coordinator in another association shared with me her plans to train leaders from the churches in establishing an intercessory prayer ministry.

Only God knows what this will mean in the life of those churches. This blessed me immeasurably. The Lord is at work among us. He is opening our eyes so that we can see our needs and see the needs of the world in its lostness. I like what I see because I believe I see the hand of God at work among Tennessee Baptists.

Reaching baby boomers topic of conference

By *Connie Davis*, assistant editor
FRANKLIN — First Church, Franklin, was the site of a Baptist Sunday School Board sponsored conference on baby boomers because of its success at reaching the group and its leadership by Pastor Rick White, also a boomer.

Boomers were identified as those born between 1946 and 1964 after World War II — making up one-third of the United States' population and 40 percent of adults, reported Clifford Tharp of the BSSB corporate planning and research department. Births dropped significantly after that period and are just beginning to reach the same level.

A survey of adult Southern Baptists reported that boomers attend religious services less frequently, are less involved as church leaders, and are more mobile, noted Tharp.

However, boomers have adopted a "new seriousness" as many approach middle age. The 43- to 26-year-olds are focusing on the well-being of the planet, children, and replacing short-term goals with long-term goals. These factors are leading boomers to search for a spiritual meaning to life, he continued.

White, who addressed the about 50 participants attending the Oct. 8-11 meeting, reported First Church, Franklin, targeted boomers.

Although a church runs a risk of being criticized because of targeting one audience, White said, "It's going to take all kinds of churches to reach all



WHITE

kinds of people."

The church gathered demographic information from a hospital planning expansion in Williamson County and from two marketing surveys. It revealed 70 percent of the people within a ten-mile radius of the church were boomers or younger. The church also conducted a community survey to gain further information, White reported.

The church has increased from 800 to 1700 resident members and relocated to a new facility during White's eight-year tenure. Currently 76 percent of its members are boomers.

The biggest transition for the church

was in its worship style, which is high energy and high quality with no dead time, he said, to meet expectations of a TV generation. In sermons, White emphasizes God's grace rather than condemnation, he added.

First Church, Franklin, also restricts all activities to Sunday or Wednesday night except Monday evening visitation because of the busy schedules of boomers. And during the summer, Sunday evening activities were trimmed down to an evening service beginning at 6:15 followed by a meal.

Outreach will be done by mail in the near future, said White. He makes no visits without making an appointment.

The church's Sunday School classes include one for new SS participants and one for blended families — families formed when adults with children marry. Plans are to begin classes for persons with addiction and parents with children of the same age. White also believes large classes can be effective if the internal organization meets personal needs of members.

Bill Reed, minister of education, Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., a conference leader, affirmed an earlier Sunday evening schedule, which is meeting the needs of boomers at that church.

A key to reaching unchurched people is language, cited Jim Fitch, Sunday School Division, BSSB.

The Bible is relevant to boomers if taught using common rather than theological words, he suggested, citing examples such as confess/admit, Gospel/good news, baptize/emerge, repent/willing to change.

Boomers are asking, "Can I live what you're talking about or must I just believe and go on," he said.

Fitch advised teachers of the unchurched to follow Paul's example and refrain from criticizing them, said Fitch.

Addressing church marketing was Charles Snyder Jr., vice president of a Brentwood-based advertising, marketing, and public relations firm, and a member of First Church, Franklin. He encouraged churches to write a church marketing plan.

'... leading boomers to search for a spiritual meaning to life.'

"Marketing is not heresy; it's not selling Christianity," said Snyder. "It's prioritizing the assets of your church. . . . We can use what secular businesses have used over the years to reach people."

He noted that the Mormon church successfully has used the mass media and gained 250,000 members last year.

Marketing research helps a church identify its audience. Forty-five percent of growing churches advertise, added Snyder.

"We need to see ourselves as our prospects do in order to position ourselves in their minds," he said concerning the technique of positioning.

To reach boomers, churches "may need to reposition ourselves out of denominational circles."

Snyder quoted a pastor who said, "We've decided to defer to the customer except when it conflicts with Scripture."

One Word More

By *Wm. Fletcher Allen*, editor

It was long ago and far away.

The weather seemed constantly cold and damp. Summer lasted about a month, and a jacket or sweater always felt comfortable.

We bumped along the roads between Fulda, Honebach, and Wustensachen, patrolling the border between West and East Germany. Winters were like Antarctica — frozen rivers and lakes, snows that piled up enough to keep the roads indistinguishable from fields.

I'm turning back the calendar some 35 years. And to my mind come memories of the battalion motor pool — endless days and nights keeping the jeeps, tanks, trucks running. And I can see the bakery in Rasdorf, and the shallow place in the stream there where the geese forded.

The Tann pocket was a bulge in the boundary, pushing a dozen kilometers into East Germany, and leaving the little town surrounded by barbed wire and hostile stares from border guards.

There were towns like Soisdorf, Phillipsthal, Aschenbach, Herringen, and Vacha.

Vacha best expressed the futility of war and its aftermath. The barbed wire that traversed old Germany, split the once-proud nation into two very different entities. And the wire ran right through Vacha — dividing houses, families, farms.

Some news stirs images of the past and informs us that progress is made occasionally toward fragile peace. Walls coming down in Europe have profoundly affected that part of the world — including the two Germanies. The tumbling wall has made them one.

As one soldier in the 14th Armored Calvary Regiment, I "toughed it out" for two years — just as did thousands

of others then and since. The shadow of communism darkened prospects for world peace — swallowed the East and threatened the West. We were holding on in a time of daily threats and testy relations.

One day on return from border patrol, we saw several buses coming in from across the border. They had met East German buses there — and picked up hundreds of West German men who had been captured by the Soviets in World War I, and had been imprisoned for eight or ten years.

Along the roadside, the same villagers who befriended us received the homecoming men with joy expressed by tears, flowers, gifts. There was a wild celebration — then the calm of peace.

Now those days are remembered only as troubled times. Wounds heal; they have to. All those border farms and villages can relax, and welcome neighbors from across what was once "no man's land."

They will have to learn to be neighbors again, and friends.

And I am filled with joy that flowers and crops can grow in that "no man's land" of separation. Yes, it is possible because plows have been made from swords and guns.

Word comes that the Soviet Union has decided to give credence to its once meaningless law allowing religious freedom. That is another way of beating swords into plowshares — knowing the truth, and being free.



ALLEN

Phone scam continues, pastor says

A Clarksville pastor has received a collect call from a "pastor" repeating a telephone scam involving Southern Baptist churches in several Southern states.

Wesley Shotwell, pastor, Excell Church, Clarksville, accepted the collect call placed by the U.S. Sprint phone company, but was not fooled because he had read a March 7 Baptist and Reflector story and previous stories about the scam.

Shotwell explained he accepted the call though he didn't hear the name of the "pastor" calling. The man, speaking quickly, said he was calling from an airport where he and several church members were stranded after returning from a mission trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The man claimed the group had been attacked and robbed. He said his assistant pastor had been stabbed in the chest. He asked Shotwell to send him money.

Shotwell tried to get a phone number from the caller, who claimed the phone could not receive incoming calls. Shotwell then told him he knew the man was lying and was admonished angrily and advised to pray for forgiveness.

In March the caller placed three calls with a Nashville-based U.S. Sprint agent identifying himself as "Pastor Harmon." He tried to call a Southern Baptist pastor in Alabama and two other pastors.

He told agent Robin Ray, First Church, Lebanon, who also was aware of the scam from the Baptist and Reflector, he was calling from LaGuardia Airport in New York City. The pastor traveling with him had been shot and their musical in-

struments had been stolen, he said.

The FMB reported in Oct. 1989 the phony pastor sometimes identifies himself as "Bill Slater" or "Bill Jennings" and says he is a missionary from Brazil or a pastor from the general area of the church he is calling. — *Connie Davis*

Association gatherings

Midland Association

Midland, of which Glenn Ford is director of missions, met Sept. 17-18 at Grace Missionary Church, Knoxville.

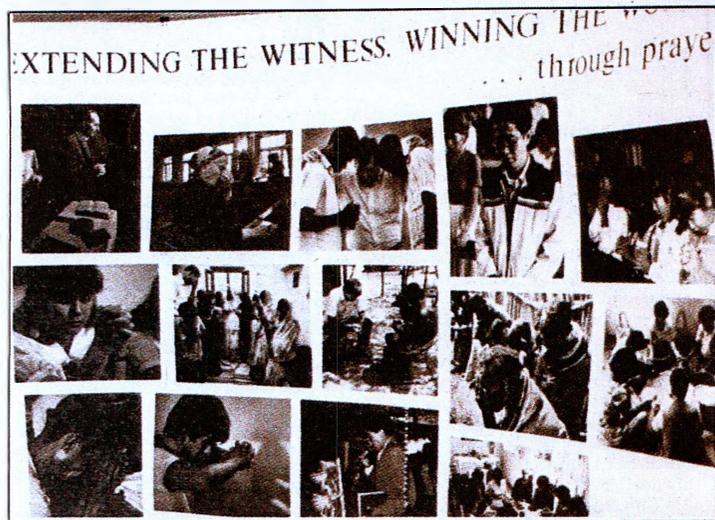
Messengers elected Ralph Waggoner, pastor, New Hope Church, Knoxville, moderator; Gary Vandergriff, pastor, Union Church, Knoxville, assistant moderator; Robert Mynatt, member, Union Church, Knoxville, treasurer; and Patricia Ford, member, Black Oak Ridge Church, Knoxville, clerk.

Judson Association of Missionary Baptists

Messengers adopted the association's first budget and reported a record 114 baptisms among its 11 churches at its annual meeting. It was held Oct. 5-6 at Maple Grove Church, Dickson. Charles Livengood is director of missions.

Officers were re-elected and include John E. Tidwell, pastor, Missionary Ridge Church, Bon Aqua, moderator; Ted Daughtry, pastor, Mount Zion Church, Fairview, vice moderator; Cletus Tidwell, member, New Hope Church, Bon Aqua, treasurer; and Thomas Sullivan, pastor, Liberty Church, McEwen, clerk.

Event, happening, extravaganza: MissionsFest Tennessee gives rare missions view



AT WORK — Debbie Sexton, left, First Church, Morrison, and Bobbie Jackson, First Church, Millington and a Foreign Mission Board trustee, work on an activity during a conference on foreign mission study helps.



GA TOUR — Two of the crew mates (Ac-teens) who led GAs on a tour of the global walkaround were De Anne Wing, left, Eudora Church, Memphis, and Ginny Vinson, First Church, Collierville.

Question answered:

Has MissionsFest changed your missions outlook?

"I came looking for help and greatly burdened about my understanding of what God wants me to do in foreign missions. I'm closer to that now — and I know more about missions." — Chip Mann, layman, First Church, Hickory Withe.

"The entire program has been good and interesting. I've seen the displays and talked with missionaries. It's like being there, and will help spark interest in missions." — Lisa Sills, First Church, Martin.

"We are trying to find out more about missions — something to help us make decisions about missions service. I think we found some answers." — Daron Sills, First Church, Martin.

"MissionsFest has enlarged my outlook by helping me to understand the needs of our missionaries and their families. I will know what to pray for more clearly." — Theodosia Clift, Smyrna Church, Burlison

"I try to take every chance to learn more about missions. This has reaffirmed and strengthened my love and support for missions." — Anne Johnson, First Church, McEwen

"Hearing Dr. Parks preach, and seeing the exhibits has drawn me closer to missions. Something like this makes my understand better the importance of the Cooperative Program in helping our missionaries." — Phil Mitchell, pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Cedar Grove

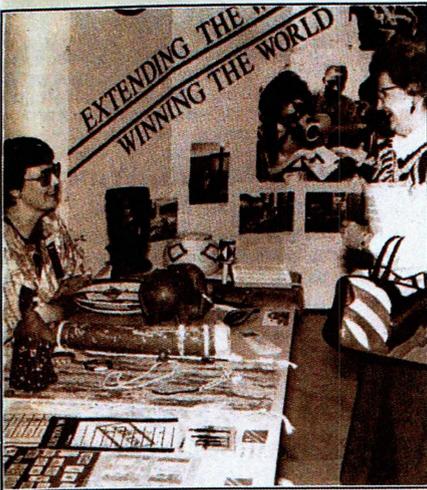


ATTENTIVE PASTOR — Venezuela missionaries Steve and Jan Lyon describe something across the aisle to Pastor Gerald Hallmark of Colonial Church, Memphis.

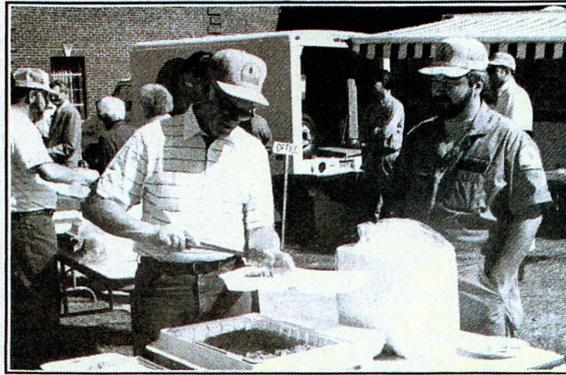
UNDERSTANDING MISSIONS — Bill Peacock, FMB staff, right, explains missions overseas to a conference group.



WHERE'S YOUR COUNTRY? — Barbara Schleiff, tells about missions work in Zimbabwe to an interested group.



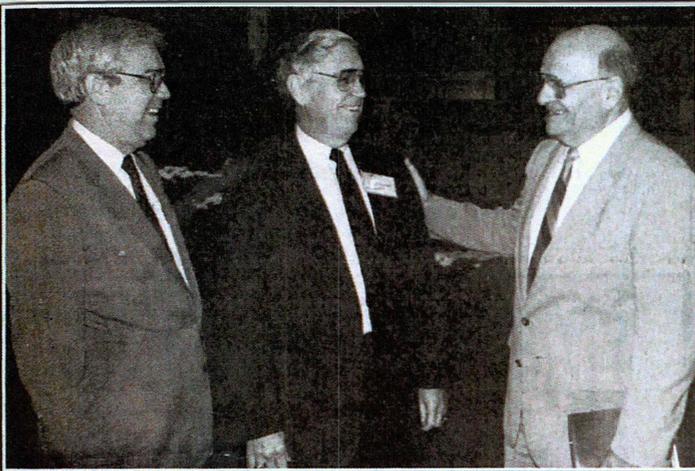
TALKING MISSIONS — Vel Cross, missionary to Namibia, currently on furlough at First Church, Hendersonville, visited with Joreen Bozeman, Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis.



SERVING IT UP — Roy Davis, left, director of missions, Cumberland Plateau Association, and Jim Ellis, Southside Church, Johnson City, serve barbecue at the Saturday lunch which was prepared from the Tennessee Baptist Convention's disaster relief van. Approximately 200 meals were served.



FROM PANAMA — Jack and Betty Jones of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, visit with missionary Pauline Nicholson of Panama.



WELCOMING PAIR — D. L. Lowrie, left, TBC executive director, and Calvin Harvell, pastor at Eudora Church, welcome Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, right, to MissionsFest Tennessee.



MORE ABOUT JAPAN — Missionary Mary Elizabeth Ray, left, meets Lisa and Daron Sills, members at First Church, Martin. She found they were interested in missions work in Japan.

MissionsFest Tennessee impacts . . .

(Continued from page 1)
 conjunction with other denominations. "We have learned that we can help each other in sharing the Gospel," he said, noting that sometimes some groups have better access to missions inroads.

The global walk-around, staged continuously, featured missionaries in national dress with displays featuring crafts and photos of their field of service. There were 42 missionaries available for discussions, dialogue, and — autographs eagerly sought by some 500 GA's who were also meeting at Eudora.

Bill O'Brien, FMB vice president for public affairs, said the world is more responsive than ever in recorded church history, in a Friday night message. He said God is calling Southern Baptists from their apathy to the lostness of two-thirds of the world. "You can only talk about it so long," he said. "If it is not ultimately lived out, you can't prove you believe it. We

sometimes have a kind of corporate Barthelemy blindness," he said.

"It is time to quit trying to convince each other we believe the Bible. If we do," he said, "let's devote our energies to convincing the world who has never heard of Christ."

O'Brien talked about exciting missions results in Costa Rica where Baptists are doing "door to door" intercessory prayer. He mentioned Argentina and Guatemala where God's people are breaking through in missions. There is great enthusiasm in Venezuela, he said, and Mexico is experiencing record church growth.

Brazil is sending out foreign missionaries on their own, O'Brien reported, and "God is moving all across Africa." He mentioned growth in Indonesia, Kenya, 140 new church starts in India, a revival of some 50 years in Korea. More than half the teachers and 80 percent of the doctors in Singapore are Christians, he said.

He discussed also great strides of Christian churches in the Soviet Union

and some opening doors in China. "Sometimes God's Spirit comes in ways not noticeable," he said. "In the troubled Middle East, seeds of the Gospel are being planted in tears and blood and death. They will slowly take root and grow."

Parks issued a charge to the missionaries in the closing service Saturday night. He reminded them that Jesus showed the greatest love of all when He washed His disciples' feet, as He noted they would soon return to their fields of service.

"We can stand and preach, we can teach in a classroom, we can wield a scalpel, but we begin to reveal who Jesus is when we pick up our towels and wash another's feet."

Parks challenged the missionaries "to take your towels with you."

He also charged the congregation. "We in America have a syndrome of towel rejection," he said. "Our culture says it has to be bigger, better, richer, and stronger than yesterday or

anything nearby."

He reminded the congregation that salvation is never cheap. "It is free to the one who receives, but it always costs the one who brings it." He reflected on materialism of today's society. "Some of us cannot pick up a towel because we are busy reaching out for material things. You can't carry money and a towel in the same hand," he charged.

The missions program also provided films on foreign missions, a Friday night commitment service, a procession of foreign flags, outstanding music, several missionary testimonies, a Saturday night commitment charge, in addition to the conferences and messages.

Calvin Harvell is pastor of Eudora, the host church. The two-day program was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board, SBC. Shelby Association churches led the way in participation, though all areas of Tennessee were represented.



North Carolina's proposed budget to designate part of CP

CARY, N.C. (BP) — The General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina voted recently to designate a portion of the 1991 Cooperative Program unified budget money for Southern Baptist causes. The proposed action requires the vote of the full convention meeting Nov. 12-14 in Winston-Salem.

All money in the proposed plan will go to Southern Baptist mission causes, with no money going to the newly formed Baptist Cooperative Missions Program. A story in the Baptist Courier, newsjournal of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, erroneously reported that the North Carolina plan included the new group recently formed in Atlanta.

Under the proposal, the North Carolina convention will continue to send about 35 percent of its Cooperative Program receipts to the Southern Baptist Convention. The only dif-

ference in the new proposal is that about 20 percent would go undesignated, as is true with the full 35 percent this year, and 15 percent would be earmarked for designated SBC causes.

The new plan, if adopted in November, will provide for more money for Southern Baptist foreign mission and home mission causes.

"We are extremely sorry that an earlier story reported that part of our CP gifts would go to the new group that met recently in Atlanta," said Roy J. Smith, North Carolina executive director.

"This is totally untrue. We never at any point in our budget planning ever

even considered sending money to the newly formed group in Atlanta, or for that matter, to any mission causes other than Southern Baptist ones," Smith said.

"We have insisted throughout the budgeting process that North Carolina Baptists would not use a 'third broker.' In fact, the North Carolina budget was completed and approved by the executive committee prior to the Atlanta meeting," Smith said.

North Carolina churches may still elect to send their Cooperative Program gift undesignated to the SBC.

The new approach, added Smith, was developed to give churches greater options in giving while at the same time provide maximum support for SBC mission causes.

First Church, Watauga calls Eric Heaton

First Church, Watauga, recently called Eric Heaton as bivocational pastor.

Heaton was previously pastor of Green Pine Church, Johnson City, for two years.

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SINGLES RETREAT DISCOVERING NEW PATHWAYS

OCTOBER 26th and 27th

Guest Speakers

Shirley Stanifer, Ed. S. Grace Resources Counseling; Knoxville, TN
Rev. Eddie Baker, Minister of Singles and Activities, Manly Baptist Church; Morristown, TN
Mr. Greg Johnson, Financial Consultant, Merrill Lynch; Knoxville, TN
Dr. Joe Wren, Pastor, First Baptist Church; Sevierville, TN

Agenda

Friday Evening — October 26, 1990	Saturday Morning — October 27, 1990
6:30 p.m. Registration	8:30-9:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast
7:00 p.m. "Discovering New Pathways" Shirley Stanifer	9:15-10:00 a.m. Conference
8:00 p.m. "Discovering New Friends" Eddie Baker	10:15-11:00 a.m. Conference
	11:15-12:00 noon Conference
	12:15- Complimentary Lunch

Fellowship/Light Refreshments
You may choose to attend any 3 of these 4 conferences. Conference Topics:

Ms. Shirley Stanifer — "Discovering New Pathways"
Rev. Eddie Baker — "What's This Growing In My Refrigerator?"
Mr. Greg Johnson — "How To Make Your Dollar Make Cents"
Dr. Joe Wren — "You're Not Alone"

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THE MAXIMUM MAN

"I sought for a man to stand in the gap."
Ezekiel 22:30

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WILLIAM "BILL" KANAGA, ALAN CELORIA.

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TenneScene

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

University, Jackson, has been appointed to the same position at Lane College, Jackson.

Churches ...

Members of First Church, Spring City, will celebrate homecoming and the church's 100th anniversary Oct. 21. Former pastor Kenneth Clayton, presently pastor of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, will be guest speaker. Afternoon festivities will be a meal at 12:30, memorial service at 2, and musical praise at 2:15.

A special program was held at Immanuel Church, Nashville, recognizing the Week of Prayer for State Missions. Included in the program were John and Dorothy Steen, portraying Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Golden.

First Church, Kingsport, along with Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Kingsport, is sponsoring a singles' conference Oct. 26-27. The theme is "Seasons of Life." Martha Baker a time management consultant from Orange County, Calif., will be keynote speaker. Keith Longbotham will provide special music.

A chile cookoff for singles from the Nashville Metropolitan area will be held Oct. 27 at First Church, Franklin. Activities will include volleyball and live entertainment.

Homecoming and the church's 150th anniversary will be celebrated Oct. 28 at Greenwood Church, Doyle. Cos Davis, a former member of the church, will speak during morning worship, followed by luncheon and special music in the afternoon. A book of the history of the church will be presented to the members.

A homecoming celebration will be held Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Charlotte. A service will be held Saturday night at 7 p.m. and luncheon and

special music will follow Sunday morning worship.

The congregation of Second Church, Dyersburg, will celebrate homecoming Oct. 21.

Associations ...

A note burning and dedication of the office building of Northern Association was held Sept. 30. Leslie Baumgartner and Paul Hall, both retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department, spoke. Lawrence Fultz was chairman of the building committee.

Ordinations ...

Wilburn Yates will be ordained as deacon Oct. 21 at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

First Church, Lewisburg, ordained Don Steely as deacon Sept. 30.

Shirley W. Cook was ordained as deacon Sept. 23 at First Church, Smithville.

Herschel Caldwell and Danny Guill were recently ordained as deacons at First Church, White House.

Charles Curtis and James Curtis were ordained to the deacon ministry Sept. 2 at Calvary Church, Etowah.

Central Church, Hixson, ordained J. E. Carroll, Joel Dew, Steve Martin, and Scott Smith as deacons Sept. 23.

Karl Bedwell and Chris Boals were ordained as deacons recently at First Church, Kingston.

Centerview Church, Newport, recently ordained Johnny Ellison to the ministry.

First Church, Minor Hill, recently ordained Randall Glass to the ministry.

Harold Jennings, Leon Risner, and Barry Fralix were recently ordained as deacons at Liberty Hill Church, Ethridge.

People ...

Louis Hamada, a Southern Baptist in Jackson who ministers to Muslims, has written a new book, *Understanding the Arab World*, published by Thomas Nelson Publishers in Nashville. Hamada is a recognized authority on Semitic Arabs and Muslim evangelization.

Keith Curd, a former interim pastor at Southside Church, Lebanon, has been called as pastor of Good News Church, Gallipolis, Ohio.

Leadership ...

Bob Peek was recently called to Ridgeview Church, Knoxville, to serve as associate pastor. He is a part-time chaplain at Baptist Hospital in Rockwood.

Jim Lindsay has been called as interim pastor of Riverview Church, Elizabethton.

Steve Taylor has been called as pastor of Witt Church, Morristown.

Woodland Church, Woodbury, called Hank Cook as pastor. He was ordained Sept. 23 at Pleasant View Church, Woodbury.

B. J. Ferguson of Raytown, Mo., spoke at Second Church, Union City, recently, and was presented a certificate acknowledging his 38 years of ministry since being ordained at Second Church in 1952.

Eastview Church, Huntingdon, called Dean Brown as minister of music and youth. He is a student at Union University, Jackson.

Mt. Harmony Church, Knoxville, recently called Bob E. Knisley as interim pastor.

Scott McReynolds will join the staff of Calvary Church, Jackson, Oct. 21 as minister of activities.

Grace Church, Elizabethton, called Joe Hardin as music, youth, and children's director.

Don Maxey pastor of Reelfoot Church, Troy, recently resigned to assume the pastorate of Immanuel Church, Lansing, Mich.

Georgian Hills Church, Memphis, recently called Rob Freshour as part-time minister of youth.

Richard Shaw, recently resigned the pastorate of Doe River Church, Elizabethton, to move to a church in South Carolina.

Page Heights Church, Goodlettsville, called Robert and Ruby Holt as minister of music and pianist respectively.

Clyde Tilley, former professor of religion and philosophy at Union

Paul Hall of Brentwood, retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department, has been named interim director of missions in Lawrence County Association. He succeeds Bob Polk, who is Watauga Association director of missions.

Southeast Church, Murfreesboro, called Christopher Bailey as minister of music and youth. He is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Revivals ...

Lake Church, Donelson, will hold revival services Oct. 21-24. Fred Johnson will lead the services and Jim Hawkins will lead music.

Pastor G. Ross Maroney Sr., led revival Sept. 23-26 at Stones River Church, Smyrna. Nolan S. Barham Sr., led music. Eighteen people made professions of faith and 57 made other decisions.

A fall crusade with Evangelist Jay Strack will be held Oct. 28-31 at First Church, Franklin.

Fred Kendall, vice president for religious affairs at Belmont College, Nashville, will lead revival Oct. 28-31 at First Church, Manchester.

Two Lebanon churches have scheduled revivals. Webb's Chapel will hold revival Oct. 21-26 with evangelist Bill Cook, and Immanuel Church will hold revival Oct. 28-31 with evangelist Bob Hammer and music evangelist Wayne Ray.

Rivergate First Church, Hendersonville, held revival recently with evangelist Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Music evangelist was Garry Valentine.

Several churches in Maury Association held revivals recently: Mission Chapel Church, Williamsport; First Church, Spring Hill; Friendship Church, Culleoka; and House of Prayer Church, Columbia.

Revival led by Thomas Mattox was held recently at First Church, Loretto.

Tom Vestal, Raleigh, N.C., led revival recently at Rocky Mount Church, Athens. Ron and Kay Galloway led music.

East Valley Church, Dunlap, held revival in September with evangelist Bob McFarland.

Union Association reported the following churches held revivals in September: Bear Cove Church, Sparta; Greenwood Church, Doyle; and First Church, Spencer.

Revival will be held Oct. 22-26 at New Prospect Church, Lawrenceburg. Kenneth Rooks will lead the services.

Seven people joined Central Point Church, Paris, after a recently held revival led by Steve Gallimore.

One person made a profession of faith at revival held recently at Springville Church, Springville. Jimmy Allison was evangelist.

Former Tennessee pastor now serving as chaplain in Saudi Arabia

Former Tennessee Baptist pastor Stephen Atwood is now meeting the needs of soldiers who have been deployed to Saudi Arabia.

Atwood was pastor of New Hope Church, Hermitage, prior to his Army service as a chaplain. He is the son of Raymond and Wanda Atwood of Lenoir City. Raymond Atwood is director of missions for Loudon County Association.



ATWOOD

Atwood, a captain, shipped out with his unit, the 82nd Airborne from Fort Bragg, N. C., in mid-August, according to his mother.

Mrs. Atwood recently received a letter from her son, who said it was hot in Saudi Arabia. He noted, however, he was getting the chance to preach often.

Mrs. Atwood said her son had preached to 6000 people in services and 20 had given their hearts to Jesus. She noted that hundreds of others promised to read their Bibles.

And, despite being in Saudi Arabia where streams of water are not overly abundant, Atwood even held a baptismal service, his mother reported.

To conduct the baptism, they dug a trench in the sand, lined it with plastic garbage bags, and filled it with water, she related.

Mrs. Atwood said her son indicated he was not receiving much news. "I'm afraid to send any to him because he may not receive it," she said.

She noted that her son assured her he was getting "three hot meals" every day.

"Being parents we would like for him to be at his home, but we know he is fulfilling his duty and being a good soldier, she said, adding that "we want him to return home to his wife and three sons."

Atwood's wife, Jeal, and his sons reside in Fayetteville, N. C.

In anticipation of Atwood's safe return, a yellow ribbon and an American flag have been placed in the front yard of the associational office in Lenoir City. — Adapted from a story in the *Lenoir City News Herald*.

SBC loses 235 churches yearly; dwindling attendance, finances cited

ATLANTA (BP) — An average of 235 Southern Baptist churches die each year, with dwindling attendance and financial support the most common causes of death, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board study reveals.

The findings were reported by Orrin

SBA ponders relationship with SBC

WASHINGTON (BP) — Steering a course they believe leads to an eventual split of the 14.9 million-member Southern Baptist Convention, directors of the Southern Baptist Alliance are recommending action to distance the organization from the "conservative"-dominated SBC and open doors for ministry relationships outside the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination.

The Alliance was begun four years ago as a haven for "moderates" unhappy with changes imposed in their denomination by a new generation of more "conservative" leaders but committed to remaining in the Southern Baptist Convention. The group's board of directors, meeting Sept. 27-28 in Washington, envisioned a post-Southern Baptist Alliance.

The directors voted unanimously to strike from the purpose statement in the SBA constitution a reference to "the continuance of our ministry and mission within the Southern Baptist Convention" and replace the phrase

Morris, director of the HMB's research division. To conduct the study, Morris and his staff looked at statistics reported on the SBC Uniform Church Letter for the past 19 years. A more intensive study was made of the 764 churches dropped from SBC rolls in

with, "to the expression of our ministry and mission through cooperative relationships with other Baptist bodies and the larger Christian community."

Embodying the change in focus, the directors voted to "affirm procedure and progress toward cooperative ventures in ministry and mission" with the 1.5 million-member American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. They also affirmed intentions to invite similar dialogue with other Baptist groups and voted to set up a task force to invite leaders of the predominantly-black Progressive National Baptist Convention to discuss possible joint ventures with the SBA.

1985, 1986, and 1987.

Currently, the SBC has more than 37,700 churches nationwide. The count of "dropped" churches includes a small percentage of congregations that still exist but no longer affiliate with the SBC.

Between 1971 and 1989, there were 4496 churches dropped from the convention's rolls. The largest number was recorded in 1974, when 289 churches were removed. The low was in 1988 with 198 drops.

"Many dropped churches were small and financially weak," Morris said. "Most had shown no gain in members or attendance for several years. Most were located in the Old South. But this is about as far as one can generalize the situation."

Texas, the state with the largest number of Southern Baptist churches, recorded the largest numerical loss of churches during the 19-year period. The Lone Star state dropped 686 churches.

Texas and eight other states accounted for 60 percent of all dropped churches, Morris said. The other states — most of which are among Southern Baptist strongholds — are Georgia (361), North Carolina (341), Tennessee (275), Alabama (234), California (233), Missouri (219), Kentucky (217) and Florida (203).

Morris classified the churches which died into eight major categories: (1) churches in transitional communities; (2) churches that split; (3) churches that failed to evangelize; (4) churches that never developed financial stewardship; (5) churches with weak lay leadership; (6) churches with weak pastoral leadership; (7) churches started by weak sponsors; (8) churches appealing only to a narrow population niche that suddenly moved away.

The detailed study of churches dropped between 1985 and 1987 showed three similarities — few members, low attendance, were older churches.

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Jesus' preparation for His ministry

By Dennis P. Lunsford, pastor; Antioch Church, Humboldt

John was bewildered by the request of Jesus to be baptized by him (Matthew 3:14). What purpose would this serve? Jesus was aware that His baptism was according to God's will for His life and ministry (Matthew 3:15). Jesus' baptism was a sign to the people that He was preparing for the role God had commissioned Him to the earth to fulfill.

Jesus' baptism (Luke 3:21-28)

Why did Jesus possess a desire to be baptized? Several reasons are given by various commentators. Some have held the baptism of Jesus identified Him with the sinners He came to save. Others have stated it "officially" launched His ministry (Acts 1:21-22; 10:37-38). However our Lord's words tell us the main reason for His baptism: "for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). Jesus'



LUNS FORD

baptism was by immersion, which symbolized death, burial, and resurrection. It is important to hold to the words concerning His baptism, "it fulfilled all righteousness."

It is also important to note the Father's involvement in the baptism of His Son. The Father spoke from heaven, serving to identify Jesus as the beloved Son of God. The Spirit visibly came upon Jesus in the form of a dove. The relationship Jesus had with His Father was clearly expressed as Jesus prayed to Him, coming forth from the water. Jesus depended upon His Father to meet His needs, thus the reason for His prayer.

Luke traced the genealogy of Jesus back to Adam. His purpose was to make clear to his readers that the Son of God was also the Son of man. Jesus was born into a world that was lost in sin, hurting. He identified with its needs and problems.

The temptations of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13) When facing problems and difficulties, have you ever felt alone or that no one cared about you or what

you were facing? Jesus may have felt alone as He battled Satan. However one outstanding fact was clear. Jesus knew the source for His strength and Satan knew with whom he was dealing.

Satan used three basic elements of life to buffet Jesus. Those elements were: food/hunger, need for acceptance/love, and protection of life/survival. The real issue as posed by Satan was doubt, "Jesus, is God really sufficient to meet your needs?"

BIBLE BOOK
October 21 Lesson
Basic Passage: Luke 3:21 to 4:13

Ironically, as Warren Wiersbe states, "The first Adam was tempted in a beautiful Garden and failed. The Last Adam was tempted in a dangerous wilderness (Mark 1:13) and succeeded."

Conclusion

How did Jesus defeat Satan? What powers did He rely upon? Jesus defeated Satan through the power of God's Word!

Satan offered Jesus a shortcut in every temptation. "Turn a stone into bread. Bow to my authority. Jump off of this pinnacle." Every temptation was to create doubt in the mind of Jesus about the reliability of God's Word. His method of operation is still the same: "Buy a 'lotto ticket.' Gain instant riches. Bet the horses. Get rich quick. Climb the social ladder. Become a 'somebody.'"

We are reminded there are no shortcuts in Christian life, nor does an easy way to spiritual growth and maturity exist. Wiersbe stated: "If the perfect Son of God had to hang on a tree before He could sit on the throne, His followers should not expect an easier way of life."

The experiences of Jesus illustrate temptation as being Satan's weapon to defeat us. It can also become God's tool to build us. The key to victory is this: Jesus was prepared! Prior to coming, even while on earth, Jesus maintained His relationship with His Father. We too, must have a relationship with God. Imperative is the need for every man, woman, boy, and girl to have claimed Christ as their Savior and Lord. Having done so, one stands prepared to face the challenges Satan may throw our way!

Isaiah and Ahaz

By Carlos R. Peterson, pastor; First Church, Athens

A. J. Cronin, in an autobiography entitled *Adventure in Two Worlds*, relates that after many years of stress and exaggerated effort in his professional medical career, he found himself spiritually empty. He became increasingly aware that something was missing in his life. After much self-reflection, he reached the conclusion of what he perceived to be the problem: He had forgotten God.

Here and there, he could see glimmerings of the Christlikeness in others, including some of the committed and dedicated medical personnel with whom he worked. What Dr. Cronin finally discovered virtually revolutionized and redirected his life.

He described it in his own words: "I have handed myself over to God, body

and soul. It is this surrender, total, unquestioning, in complete and absolute humility, which is the true essential of belief."

It is exciting to hear testimonies of those who have discovered the joy, peace, and fulfillment of total surrender to the will of God. From the moment that such a discovery is made, followed by a commitment to trust God in His revealed plan and purpose, life takes on a new perspective. But, sadly, not everyone is willing to surrender to God and His purposes for them in His redemptive work.

The Scripture passage for this week's lesson reveals one who was unwilling to let God work through his life and the cost of such a decision.

Crisis in Judah (7:1-2)

Due to the threat of invasion by Assyria, the kings of Syria and Israel had formed an alliance. Realizing they needed the added strength of Judah to fend off Assyria, Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Israel, invited

Ahaz, Judah's new king, to join their alliance. Ahaz's refusal precipitated the attack of Syria and Israel on the city of Jerusalem as an attempt to force this union of their respective nations. Jerusalem continued to stand firm against the invasion, but panic rose in the house of Ahaz and throughout the land. Judah was in a state of crisis and Ahaz faced his first test as the nation's leader.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
October 21 Lesson
Basic Passage: Isaiah 7

Conference with the king (7:3-9)

While inspecting the water supply in this crisis situation, Ahaz was confronted by the young prophet, Isaiah, with a message from God. Isaiah informed Ahaz that God had the situation in hand. Rezin and Pekah were no real threat for they were but "two smoldering stumps of firebrands." Ahaz was encouraged to stand firm without fear and trust God to work through him if he would obey.

Challenge to obedience (7:10-13)

As an evidence of God's promised protection for Judah, Ahaz was challenged to ask for a sign from God. He refused the opportunity, but for a sinister reason. His mind was already set on appealing to wicked Assyria for assistance against Israel and Syria.

Out of his intellect, Ahaz chose to follow the direction of his own making. He determined he did not need God's involvement or His protection. Like so many others, Ahaz imagined he "had a better idea."

Cost of self-will (7:14-17)

Even though Ahaz refused to ask for a sign from God, Isaiah gave him one anyway. The king gained temporary security, but serious consequences lay ahead for him and the entire nation of Judah. Destruction would be the outcome of making the wrong choice in resistance to God's Word.

Ahaz learned the hard way that one cannot resist God without tragic consequences. Only through total surrender to God's will and purposes do we effect the right outcome and reflect God as sovereign of life.



PETERSON

God's presence and power

Though we may be small in stature and appear to be insignificant when exposed to brute strength or extraordinary skills, our God measures us differently from man's estimates. God has His way of lifting us beyond what we think we are capable of doing. Like little children who are subdued by the size of larger people, we stand before God as mere midgets. But He lifts us up to respond to His challenges.

We can understand something about Moses and the questions he put to God. We have been there, in a sense, when we face our unworthiness.

In this Scripture from Exodus 3 and 4, Moses is standing before God in the awesome reality of the bush that burns but is not consumed. In the first verses of chapter 3, God speaks to Moses, the wilderness shepherd, from the "midst of a bush" that blazed. He told Moses that he was the one chosen to deliver

His people from the Egyptians — and identified Himself as the God of Moses' forefathers.

Moses' response was much like that which you or I might make. He was concerned whether He was big enough to do God's bidding. God answered (v. 12) with assurance that He would be with Moses. Moses was not confident in himself, and doubted his ability. We, too, often doubt we measure up to the standard expected by God or others. We may even settle for a task that is undemanding.

Then Moses, as if to say, "Are you big enough to do this thing?" asked God about how he would explain his assignment to those who inquired. "Who shall I say sent me?," was his question.

God's awesome reply (v. 14) is almost beyond our understanding. "I AM THAT I AM," God said, and He

told Moses to tell the children of Israel, "I AM hath sent me unto you."

LIFE AND WORK
October 21 Lesson
Basic Passage: Exodus 3:11 to 4:9

Consider that answer as more than a proclamation. It was a promise that God would personally deliver the Hebrew people from Egypt, and that He wanted Moses to lead the exodus. Verses 19-20 say, God is big enough to lead Moses in confrontation with mighty Pharaoh — and win! His unequalled power and splendor would be more than sufficient. And Moses would return to a land where he was wanted for murder, and explain to Pharaoh that he was a messenger from the only God!

Finally, Moses told God that the people will not believe him — nor will

they listen to him. He contradicted God, for He had said in Exodus 3:18, "They shall harken to thy voice." But God used Moses anyway, though he was afraid, unbelieving, uncommitted, reluctant. God's patience is great.

Then God gave Moses His assurance through signs — signs which would excite the Egyptians and stymie Pharaoh's court magicians. Moses was afraid of the rod that God changed to a serpent. But he obeyed God.

Why was all this necessary? In bringing the Hebrews out of Egypt, neither Moses nor the people would be heroes. God would be glorified (ch. 4, v. 5). Not only would the Egyptians learn about God, the Hebrews would know that Moses was God's own messenger.

In any work assignment, in any challenge to ordinary Christians, we only have to "put out our hands" in faith to God. His hand is greater than ours — and much greater than the challenge. — Wm. Fletcher Allen

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Southwestern Seminary professor called into active military duty

FORT WORTH, Texas — A Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor is answering a call of a different kind as he heads to the Middle East, joining the American military buildup there.

Jim Spivey, assistant professor of church history, has received orders to join a Texas Army Reserve unit mobilized to go to the Middle East as part of the U.S. military's Operation Desert Shield. He will serve as a chaplain. The unit he will join has orders for at least three months, Spivey said. Along with Spivey, two Southwestern students, Kevin Forrester and Craig Hutson, already have withdrawn from seminary for military purposes, according to the seminary's registrar's office.

Because of the opportunities he will have, Spivey said he sees his chaplain's role as a ministry. "There are people there who have all sorts of anxieties, fears, homesickness, and crises in their lives. They will be listening now because of the fear of what's ahead," he said. "People begin to ask questions about the ultimate reality. They start asking about life and death matters."

Spivey said he has been taken out of his own unit and placed in another unit which needs a chaplain. He has been in the reserves for 18 years, serving as an artilleryman for 14 years. "I was stationed in Saudi Arabia in 1976 and 77, so I know something about the Persian Gulf area."

HMB introduces new evangelism emphasis

ATLANTA — Evangelism should not be an independent program but a continuous process within the life of a church, said Darrell Robinson, vice president for evangelism with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. During the National Soul Winning Conference Sept. 20-22 he introduced "Total Church Life" as the HMB's overall emphasis on evangelism for the coming year.

Total Church Life is a "growth without gimmicks approach," Robinson said. "It's more than a one-time program. I'm talking about a continuous process. You don't bring life through a program," he said. "You can take any evangelistic program we have at the Home Mission Board and superimpose it on a dead church and you'll still have a dead church."

"My highest goal as evangelism director is to help influence the Southern Baptist mentality about evangelism," Robinson declared. "We've got to develop a mindset of reaching every person, not overlooking anybody." Robinson called for the church to reclaim a holistic approach to ministry rather than focusing only on one aspect of ministry. "Evangelism is the consequence of the church being the church," he said.

Tennessee volunteers helped**Pastor hopes church never returns to 'normal' after Hugo**

By Sarah Zimmerman

MACEDONIA, S.C. (BP) — One year after Hurricane Hugo dealt its destructive blow to South Carolina, pastor Mickey Caison hopes his church never gets back to normal.

He's glad the electricity is on and people have roofs over their heads, but he's also thankful for the changes the hurricane stirred in Providence Church.

"We're a different people after seeing so much done for the kingdom of God," Caison said. "There was so much witnessing and sharing during the relief efforts. I hope we never get back to normal."

The church is 40 miles inland from Charleston, but it nevertheless felt Hurricane Hugo's full force.

Caison, who is also assistant chief of the fire department, said 90 of the 1000

The Total Church Life seminar, which will be taught across the United States, is based on Robinson's book of the same title.

Southern's alumni officers ask trustees to rescind action

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's National Alumni Association officers have called on the school's trustees to rescind new employment guidelines adopted for seminary faculty.

In a "Statement of Concern" issued Sept. 28 following a meeting of national alumni officers on the Louisville, Ky., seminary's campus, alumni association leaders said they "fear" the trustees' addition of the 1987 Peace Committee report as a theological guideline for faculty personnel decisions is "another step toward creedalism." They said this is "the first time that specific interpretations of God's Holy Word have been required of any Southern Baptist educational institution."

The statement was signed by alumni association president Bobby S. Terry, editor of *Word and Way*, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention; immediate past president Floyd F. Roebuck, pastor of First Church, Rome, Ga.; and president-elect Emmanuel L. McCall, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division.

Alumni officers pointed out that traditionally Baptists have resisted creeds. "Historically, Baptists have refused to have any creed but the Bible," the statement said. "We have refused to elevate man's words above God's Word. The trustees have gone farther than the Peace Committee or the Southern Baptist Convention was willing to go."

Baptist publishing ministry torched by arsonists in Italy

ALTAMURA, Italy — A fire started by arsonists Oct. 2 seriously damaged a Baptist printing and publications operation in Southern Italy. Damages from the early-morning fire and the water used to fight it have halted the ministry's printing operations. Initial damage estimates totaled more than \$168,000 to equipment and \$32,000 to books and other printed materials stored in the offices.

According to an initial police investigation, the criminal act appears to be the work of the local Mafia. The fire was similar to fires set at four other businesses on the same day in the city of Bari, the provincial capital of the region.

The publishing operation, called Filadelfia, occupies the entire ground floor of the Baptist church in Altamura, a town of 60,000 people. Filadelfia is owned and operated as a cooperative by several members of the 80-member congregation.

Filadelfia received start-up grants from Baptist and other Christian sources. Through the years Baptist members of the cooperative struggled to build the volume of activity at Filadelfia. Before the fire, the operation was producing virtually all of the printed materials for the Italian Baptist Union and all Sunday School literature for the Italian Protestant Federation, which serves Baptists, Methodists, and other denominations.

Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

Example in greatness

"He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments (outer cloak), and took a towel, and girded himself" — John 13:4.

Even in so tender a scene as the Last Passover meal, the apostles had "strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest" (Luke 22:24).

In that day the host at a meal had a slave to rinse dust from the feet of arriving guests. Jesus had no slave. Certainly the proud, self-seeking apostles would not do this for one another. It was such a demeaning task that a rabbi was forbidden to have his pupils rinse his feet.

So Jesus filled this role Himself



HOBBS

(John 13:5-10). He told the apostles that if He did this for them, they should be willing to do it for each other. He did not give them a third ordinance but an example in Christian service.

Before the turn of the century if you were an overnight guest in a home, before retiring you placed your shoes outside the door. A servant would shine them and return them in the morning.

John A. Broadus, the great New Testament scholar, had such a guest. He heard someone pick up his shoes that night. Hearing him return them the next morning, he opened the door. A man was bent over to place the shoes on the floor. When he stood up, the guest looked into the face of Broadus.

Like Jesus, he had no servant. And like Him, he performed a humble service. He had learned the secret of Christian greatness.

homes in the fire district were destroyed by the hurricane. The church, which lost the roofs on all three of its buildings, became the center of relief efforts.

The feeding unit from the Tennessee Baptist Convention was one of the first on the scene. Another group of 400 Tennessee volunteers spent their Thanksgiving weekend putting new roofs on homes. Caison said they cooked 40 turkeys for Thanksgiving Day last year, and the volunteers laid enough shingles to cover two football fields.

Three meals a day for volunteer groups were cooked at the church through the end of April this year. Caison said there were few nights that volunteers were not sleeping in the church's Sunday School classrooms. At one point, seven campers were parked in the pastor's front yard.

The outpouring of assistance left its mark on Caison and the community. "I guess I had become cynical," Caison said. "I didn't expect the love and compassion shown from all over the United States, from Vermont to Arkansas."

Many residents had fire insurance on their homes, but not insurance against water or wind damage. When people realized they had lost literally everything with little hope of replacing it, Caison was able to tell them: "In the midst of all this, God and God's people still care for you."

A year later, Caison said, "Almost every day we hear someone say, 'We're thankful for what your church did.' Every week someone visits our

church for a closer look.

"It's raised the community's sensitivity to the church. We're trying to capitalize on that interest."

The church built a 30-by-60-foot warehouse to store food and other items for disaster relief. The warehouse is open each Tuesday, and Caison said as many as five families a week still come to the church seeking assistance.

The warehouse also stores the church's disaster relief unit. The church decided to begin its own feeding operation after seeing the work of the Tennessee unit. It is South Carolina's first disaster relief unit.

"Our people worked with the Tennessee volunteers shoulder to shoulder and it rubbed off. They saw it as a legitimate ministry," Caison said.

The church's first feeding operation was to 100 volunteers during a mock tornado and chemical spill in August. Its second service was 650 meals to hostages from Kuwait who flew through Charleston on their way home.

Bill Dixon accepts Townsend pastorate

Bill R. Dixon recently became pastor of Taylor's Chapel, Townsend.

He was formerly pastor of Centenary Church, Maryville; South Madisonville Church, Madisonville; Citico Church, Vonore; and Mount Carmel Church, Maryville, where he was ordained in 1973.

He and wife, Mary, have one son and one daughter.