

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 156/NO. 45/NOVEMBER 7, 1990

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

On high attendance day

Tennessee Baptist churches have 'super outstanding Sundays'

Tennessee Baptist churches indeed had "super outstanding Sundays" on Oct. 28, high attendance day in Sunday Schools across the state.

According to reports from 2230 of the state's almost 3000 churches and missions, 331,141 people attended Sunday School on Oct. 28.

The theme for the attendance push was "Super Outstanding Sunday" and the goal was 300,000, said Greer Ruble, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department.

"We are grateful to God for the beautiful Lord's Day He provided throughout Tennessee on Oct. 28 and we thank everyone who worked so diligently to reach 331,141 in Sunday School attendance," Ruble said.

Last year, average weekly attendance in TBC Sunday School was 289,382 or 53 percent of Sunday School enrollment.

The 331,141 high attendance day total represents a 13 percent increase over the average and represents 60 percent of total Sunday School enrollment.

Roy Miller, program associate in the Sunday School Department, observed that across the Southern Baptist Convention, 48 percent of those enrolled in Sunday School attend.

"Tennessee Baptists have consistently stayed above the SBC average," Miller said.

Success stories of Sunday School attendance were abundant across the state.

First Church, LaVergne had a goal of 202 with an actual attendance of 206, a record for the church.

Shellsford Church in McMinnville had a goal of 175, but 202 were present in Sunday School.

Beulah Association had a goal for its churches to have an attendance of 4000, 106 above the average. Forty of the association's 41 churches reported an attendance of 4733.

Bill Wolfe, ASSISTeam (Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team) director for the association observed many of the

churches discovered new prospects and many churches had first time salvation experiences during morning worship.

Stewart County Association also reported tremendous success. With an average weekly attendance of 454, the association's 16 churches had an attendance of 602, the "most ever," said Director of Missions William Gray.

Gray noted "we have already met with an ASSISTeam and plan to promote high attendance day every year."

The state's three largest associations — Shelby County, Nashville, and Knox County — also had good reports.

Knox County churches reported an attendance of 26,876, almost 5000 above last year's average.

In Nashville Association, churches had a goal of reaching ten percent of the state's goal of 300,000, said Charles McMinn, church development director for the association. The reported attendance did just that as 31,105 were in Sunday Schools across the association.

Some 33,000 people were in Sunday

Schools in Shelby County Association churches, about 3000 above last year's average.

Cumberland Association churches increased their attendance over the average by about 1700 people. Several churches reported unusual successes.

Maplewood Church had 30 the same time a year ago, but this year had 74 in attendance because of the emphasis, said Wesley Pitts, director of missions.

Other churches with excellent reports were Gum Springs, 135 compared to last year's average of 80; Cross Creek, 135, compared to 64; Northeast, 139, compared to 75; Woodlawn, 60, compared to 30; and Tabernacle, a black congregation, 155, compared to 88.

In Wilson County Association, Hillcrest Church, Lebanon, reported an attendance of 209, the highest in 87 years. Last year's average at the church was 107.

Also in Lebanon, Immanuel Church had an attendance of 862, well above last year's average of 724.

Ethnic churches also fared well with the high attendance promotion. First Chinese Church, Memphis, had 87 people in Sunday School, approximately 20 over the recent average.

Numerous other churches and associations across the state had similar stories, but Ruble emphasized high attendance day emphases are not just for numbers alone.

"The bottom line of Sunday School attendance emphases is the reaching (Tennessee Baptist, page 3)

Volunteers ask FMB for Eastern Europe opportunities

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP) — Eastern European Baptists are not ready for large numbers of Southern Baptist volunteers, according to Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president.

And many Southern Baptists, Parks acknowledged, are frustrated by lack of opportunity to participate in board-approved evangelism or church construction and renovation projects in the wake of communism's demise in Eastern Europe.

Leaders of the Baptist General Con-

vention of Texas say they have asked the Foreign Mission Board for volunteer opportunities in Eastern Europe since the Berlin Wall fell last November. The convention's executive board has even created a task force to work with the FMB to find volunteer opportunities as soon as possible and stands ready to send volunteers with a variety of skills.

Parks said Foreign Mission Board personnel assigned to Eastern Europe "have been working diligently" with Baptist leaders there to initiate ap-

propriate volunteer opportunities.

To date, the FMB has scheduled three major volunteer efforts in Eastern Europe. It has sent teams to Hungary since 1988 to help construct a seminary building, helped North Carolina Baptists and Polish Baptists establish a partnership, and sent Baptist students to Leningrad to help renovate a church.

Otherwise, Eastern European Baptist leaders have been hesitant about — even wary of — volunteer projects, Parks said. Their reasons range from a lack of manpower to handle an influx of volunteers to concern that volunteers may import the theological controversy that has divided Southern Baptists.

However, Ed Schmeltekopf, associate executive director of Texas Baptists, said Texans hear two different messages about volunteer work in Eastern Europe — and "the messages do not coincide."

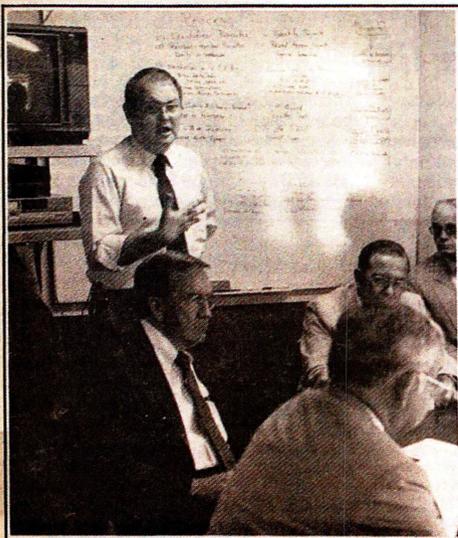
While the Foreign Mission Board urges caution, some Baptists and some parachurch groups tell of successful efforts in Eastern Europe, Schmeltekopf said. "At least that's the report they're giving," he said.

Parks acknowledged that it is relatively easy for a group from the United States to venture to Eastern Europe and persuade one or more individual churches to form some sort of partnership.

"I don't question anybody's motives in this," Parks commented. "I think it's all an effort to be of help, but if our honest efforts end up splintering or fragmenting Eastern European Baptists, all of us will regret that."

Volunteer efforts and other aid for a few congregations can cause strife when they undercut cooperative work of churches through their national

(Volunteers, page 3)



Chile report

COORDINATOR — Richard Poe, missionary from Oak Ridge now serving in Santiago, is coordinator for the Chile Baptist Mission in discussions on a Partnership Mission with Tennessee. Bill Wilson and Clarence Stewart are in foreground. See pages 6-7 for report on the survey team's trip to the South American nation. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

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October gifts give 1990 slight increase

The 1990 budget year is over for Tennessee Baptists, and a new one started Nov. 1.

While October was a good month in Cooperative Program budget goal receipts, the budget fell short by \$1,541,837.25.

The good news, according to D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer, is that the gain over 1989 amounted to 4.55 percent, or \$1,098,705.09.

October's total was \$2,635,983.95, an increase of \$780,654.25 over the previous October.

The 1990 budget goal was \$26,797,860.

"Cooperative Program gifts from the churches in October helped us to improve significantly over September's total," said Lowrie.

He added that the national economy dictates to some extent how much the churches can contribute.

"The Middle East crisis is affecting the Tennessee economy," he said. Lowrie said a 5.75 percent gain will be necessary to achieve the 1991 budget which is the same as for 1990.

Guest editorial**Urgency of Bold Mission Thrust draws near**

By Warren Hultgren

The proposal to the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention that Southern Baptists undertake the bold challenge of sharing the Gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 was the result of two years of work and study by a committee authorized by messengers to the 1974 SBC meeting.

One of the most memorable experiences in my Christian life was to chair the Missions Challenge Committee. It was comprised of a cross-section of proven convention leadership. Our meetings were an excellent illustration of dedicated people cooperating constructively. We sought to give unified direction and encouragement to SBC boards and agencies. Their basic commitment to Biblical commands kept us on target, productive, and in good spirit.

We were given four assignments:

- Study areas where the plans of the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board might be inter-related.
- Measure Southern Baptists' human and financial resources and potential for mission advance.
- Involve all appropriate agencies, state conventions, and interested individuals in developing a challenge to Southern Baptists to help meet world needs in the final quarter of this century.
- Call the convention to sacrificial commitment and to dedicated prayer for guidance and power in this compelling task.

We adopted the name Missions Challenge Committee and undertook to look at the pressing issues of missions education and mission strategy. Our final report given to Convention messengers gathered in Norfolk, Va., included 15 recommendations, but the most important was the challenge itself in recommendation 1:

That the Convention set as its primary missions challenge that every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Christ in the next 25 years, and that in the presentation of this message, the Biblical faith be magnified so that all men, women, and children can understand the claim Jesus Christ has on their lives.

One of the most critical early questions in our discussions was the thought that this goal, presenting the Gospel to every person in the world in the next 25 years, was impossible. However, we concluded that anything less than the Great Commission — "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" — would not have been adequate. Jesus did not say, "Do your best." We had to go with the ideal.

New missionary requests up; evangelism tops list

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist foreign missionaries worldwide want 454 new co-workers in 1991, a 22 percent increase over 1990 requests.

For 1991, overseas mission administrators have asked the Foreign Mission Board to appoint 342 missionaries — or 75 percent of new missionaries requested — for evangelism and church-starting assignments. They requested that 112 of next year's new missionaries fill specialist roles in fields such as medicine, education, and agriculture.

"We will always do a variety of things on the field," said Lloyd Atkinson, director of the board's personnel selection department. "But it's not surprising that three-fourths of our requests are for seminary-trained individuals who'll work in church planting and development — that's the main goal of the Foreign Mission Board."

Mission area directors and regional vice presidents recently compiled a list of the top 30 missionary needs for 1991. A pastor for an international church who will also work as a church planter

in Karachi, Pakistan, leads the list. A staff surgeon for Jibla Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen, is second.

Sixteen top needs call for evangelists and church developers. Also, five nonresidential missionary requests appear on the list — three for Asia and two for North Africa or the Middle East. Nonresidential missionaries target unevangelized people groups in highly restricted areas from bases outside those areas.

Also in Asia, mission administrators are calling for a church planter to work in Bangladesh. The new missionary would plant churches in rural areas, train church leaders, and assist in community development programs.

Southern Africa needs church developers. The top need in Uganda is for a church developer to help plant rural churches near the city of Lira. Nigeria's top need is for a church consultant to evangelize two nomadic people groups — the Hausa and Fulfulde people.

While personnel requests have increased, the ratio of requests for evangelists and specialists has not

In presenting one section of our report to the Southern Baptist Convention, Carl Bates reflected this conviction when he said no individual or group "could do the SBC a greater service than to provide a challenge sufficient to command the expenditure of the life and substance of this convention to its very limit."

The report of the Missions Challenge Committee which became known as Bold Mission Thrust did not change the direction of Southern Baptists. Our challenge always has been missions. But the challenge we sought to set forth was how to do missions better and more fruitfully.

Our report included other recommendations which essentially represented strategies for achieving the overall goal. They were enthusiastically approved and included the following:

- Reaffirmed the place of the local church in missions.
- Requested the two mission boards to discover and use new patterns of mission work.
- Asked the two mission boards, the Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and the Sunday School Board to work together to secure a better understanding of the Biblical base for missions and to discover and implement plans for a broader missions education.
- Called on churches to teach the Biblical revelation of Christian stewardship and enlist every member in the stewardship of possessions.
- Requested the Stewardship Commission to step up its Cooperative Program promotion looking toward 50/50 division of funds between local church

TBC's 116th annual session — let us all stay on target

At every annual convention, Tennessee Baptists have had opportunity to take bold actions for our Lord. It is no less true in November 1990.

The theme for the meeting in Nashville that begins next Tuesday is "IMPACTennessee — Touching Lives." Whether we adhere to that theme and build on it depends on our determination not to yield to sideshows.

Sometimes great meetings are compared to the circus where the center ring is the main show. While we do not compare our convention to a circus — we do have a main show. We must not allow sideshows to intervene.

Messengers on November 13-15, and in other

meetings during the week, should not let other agenda divert our attention and energies from touching lives through evangelism, Cooperative Program giving, making disciples, ministry, prayer, church growth, and challenge to serve.

Issues not germane to the "center ring" sometimes become part of our passion. If these become more important than who and what we are as Tennessee Baptists, we may lose sight of the goal to impact our state with the Gospel.

- Asked the mission boards to develop long- and short-term programs for involvement of laypersons in mission work.
- Commended the boards in their efforts to develop improved objectives and strategies.
- Requested the six seminaries to work with the mission boards to strengthen training programs for missionaries.
- Requested the two mission boards to work with others to establish witness among foreigners in our land.

As we embark upon the last decade of Bold Mission Thrust, much has been accomplished. Much remains to be done.

In 1976, Owen Cooper, a member of our committee, said, "The task is not beyond Southern Baptists, but it is beyond the reach of what we are doing now."

In 1990, Owen Cooper's words are still true. Southern Baptists have the organization, the finances, and the disciples to accomplish the challenge. We have the commission from Jesus Christ to be about the task. It will demand all that we have and are, setting aside differences, joining hands and hearts to work together every minute of every year for the rest of this century and beyond

Warren Hultgren is pastor of First Church, Tulsa, Okla., and chaired the Missions Challenge Committee which presented what became Bold Mission Thrust to the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention.

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Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

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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, \$6.25; 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Roy Fowler, chairman; Paul Durham, vice chairman; Gary Anderson, Raymond Boston, Herschel Chevallier, Larry Gilmore, Don Givens, Irvin Hays, M. B. Howard, James Hutson, Moncrief Jordan, John D. Laida, Murray Mathis, Jerry Oakley, Howard Olive, James Porch, Frank Samuels, Bobby Turner, and Emerson Wiles Jr.

Porter removed as editor, reassigned at BSSB

NASHVILLE — As a result of remarks made during the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter has been removed from his position as a design editor of adult Sunday School lesson materials at the Baptist Sunday School Board and assigned to a non-editorial position.

Porter, 61, and a 14-year employee of the board, is now projects consultant in the Sunday School youth-adult department. Porter has written a letter of apology to the administration and the board of trustees.

Porter, who has been registration secretary since 1977, conducted a Wednesday afternoon session June 13 in New Orleans with a seminary class from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Seminary students have routinely interviewed Porter and other SBC leaders for several years.

During the two-and-one-half hour dialogue held in the messenger registration area at the Louisiana Superdome, Porter made critical interpretations and personal comments on a wide range of issues in the 12-year SBC controversy.

Porter's remarks were printed

Tennessee Baptist . . .

(Continued from page 1) of people for salvation in Christ and for church membership," Ruble said.

Miller agreed, observing that the more people in attendance, the more prospects there are for the church to cultivate.

— Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey compiled this story with information and data supplied by the TBC's Sunday School Department.

Groundbreaking held for TBCH's Boys Ranch

The Boys Ranch, located on a 224-acre farm in Millington, was dedicated Oct. 25 as the newest ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. The program provides care, counseling, and spiritual guidance to boys who have behavioral problems due to sometimes turbulent family backgrounds.

"The future cannot be found only in bricks and mortar," said Richard

Hackett, mayor of Memphis, in expressing his enthusiasm for the ministry to teenage boys. "Our future will be found in our children — our most precious resource."

"This is a gorgeous place," said Murray Mathis, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, on viewing the rolling hillsides of autumn foliage at the newly dedicated Boys Ranch. "On behalf of more than one million

almost three months later in the Sept. 11 issue of the *Indiana Baptist*. According to an editor's note in that issue, managing editor Tammi Ledbetter "wandered onto the scene of Porter's delivery by chance while searching registration records for the location of an Indiana messenger. After observing another non-student taking notes on the lecture, she remained to cover the meeting. Notes from both sources were later compared to provide this article."

Copies of the Porter article were placed at the seats of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, during its September meeting in Nashville one week after the article was published.

Gary Cook, vice president for church programs and services at the BSSB, told the Baptist and Reflector the matter came to the board's attention as a result of the *Indiana Baptist* article.

But, he said, the issue is the incident in New Orleans. Board officials reviewed the matter and concluded, according to an administrative report, that Porter "violated the established parameters of the Baptist Sunday School Board for acceptable employee conduct. His use of inflammatory language has impacted his performance as an employee and the board's relationship with its Southern Baptist constituency."

Questioned about the fact Porter was acting at the time as an SBC officer, and not a BSSB employee, Cook replied, "You can't separate the fact that whatever he does, he is still an employee of the board."

When contacted in September after the article appeared in the *Indiana Baptist*, Porter said some of the comments attributed to him in the article

were taken out of context or misquoted.

At the time, Porter said he could not understand why it took almost three months for the story to be published and he questioned the timing of its publication prior to the SBC Executive Committee meeting. In June, Porter was re-elected to this post despite opposition. Registration and recording secretaries generally in the past have been unopposed for office, but Martin Bradley was unseated as recording secretary by David Atchison of Nashville.

When questioned Oct. 31, however, Porter said he could not comment on the matter further.

In a prepared statement attributed to Porter and released to Baptist Press, he said, "I want to emphasize my deeply felt apology and ask forgiveness for the words I have spoken and for any pain and disruption my remarks have brought to any person. I accept the decisions of the Baptist Sunday School Board and will seek to serve faithfully in the tasks assigned me."

Porter also affirmed his total allegiance to the trustworthiness of the Bible. "The whole Bible has been the book of my life," he added.

In response to an article published in

Volunteers ask FMB for . . .

(Continued from page 1) organizations (called unions), Parks said. Eastern European churches, through union deliberations, are targeting the most crucial evangelistic, Bible distribution, and church development needs, he said. Southern Baptists should plan in cooperation with them

SBC Today which said board officials have instructed Porter to announce soon that he will not be a candidate for SBC office next year, Cook did not confirm or deny that, but noted the matter has been discussed with Porter.

Cook observed that Porter's role as an SBC officer "created the problem in this situation."

"As part of our whole discussion related to this incident we talked about his not running again," Cook said.

Cook, however, would not confirm whether Porter was instructed by board officials to announce he would not seek SBC office again.

Cook said, "He (Porter) arrived at the conclusion he would make that decision to step down himself."

As of Nov. 5 Porter had not announced his decision about seeking reelection as SBC registration secretary next June when the convention meets in Atlanta.

Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder said, "This has been dealt with fairly and firmly as a personnel matter. The Sunday School Board deeply respects the work of the churches and wants to move on with the challenging tasks assigned to us."

— This story was compiled from information gathered by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor, and a Baptist Press news release.

"to feed into the churches, to multiply, and strengthen them," he added.

Parks said the FMB is in the process of assigning personnel to every Eastern European country except Albania, which continues to restrict Christian work. "As we get people in place, we feel we'll be able to cultivate trust and help them see how volunteers could strengthen what they're trying to do."

Parks acknowledged that the board's approach "will take a little longer" and "probably won't satisfy frustrations that Baptists in this country have of wanting immediate, hands-on involvement." But he said the board also must maintain a working relationship with Eastern European Baptists long after the world's current fascination with the region subsides.

Schmeltekopf anticipates the Texas convention's task force on volunteers will hear out the board's concerns. And the task force will hear from those who have gone to Eastern Europe and found opportunities for ministry.

Tennessee Baptists today, I rejoice in this historic event."

Mathis and Hackett participated in a traditional groundbreaking ceremony, along with Gerald L. Stow, TBCH executive director; Gene Gafford, TBCH regional director; Kenneth A. Turner, Memphis Juvenile Court judge; Carmen Keathley, chairman of the Boys Ranch Partnership Committee; Jackie Kay, chairman-elect of the TBCH Board of Trustees; and Jeff Swinford, a resident of the Boys Ranch.

"This project is the culmination of a lot of dreams and prayers," said Stow. "We are so indebted to the people who were able to make this dream a reality."

Memphis businessman Carmen Keathley is chairing the Boys Ranch Partnership Committee, a group of Memphis area business leaders who are raising \$2 million for construction of the four cottage homes, commissary, and farm buildings. Several area businesses and churches have donated materials and labor for the construction of the first home.

"The Boys Ranch has become a community effort," said Gafford. "It is conceivable that we could have all the materials and labor donated for this first cottage."

Construction of roads to the building sites of the Boys Ranch will be complete by Christmas. As planned, the first cottage will be built in the spring.



TBCH GROUNDBREAKING — The groundbreaking of the Boys Ranch, the newest ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, was held Oct. 25 on the 224-acre ranch in Millington. Participating in the ceremony were from left, Murray Mathis, TBC president; Jackie Kay, chairman-elect of the TBCH board of trustees; Gerald Stow, TBCH executive director; and Gene Gafford, regional director of the Memphis TBCH ministries.

Telephones set for TBC meeting

Two convention office telephones, a press room telephone, and a Baptist and Reflector telephone will be in operation next week during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Belmont Heights Church in Nashville.

The convention office phones may be used by those needing to contact messengers and visitors attending the convention. The two numbers are (615) 386-3364 and 386-3365.

Messages called to those numbers will be relayed to convention attenders.

The press room is (615) 386-3271. The Baptist and Reflector number is (615) 386-3317.

Association gatherings . . .

Beech River Association

In its Oct. 15-16 meeting at Rock Hill Church, Lexington, the association elected the following pastors as officers: David Ray, First Church, Parsons, moderator; Phil Mitchell, Mount Gilead Church, Lexington, assistant moderator; and Mike Rhodes, Calvary Church, Parsons, treasurer/clerk.

Big Emory Association

Messengers met Oct. 18 at First Church, Rockwood, and Kellytown Church, Oliver Springs. They re-elected Billy Edmonds, pastor, Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield, as moderator; Tom Mooty, pastor, First Church, Wartburg, vice moderator; George Wadlington, minister of music, South Harriman Church, Harriman, treasurer; and Herbert Lee, pastor, First Church, Sunbright, clerk.

Central Association

The association passed a resolution opposing a Nov. 6 referendum to legalize liquor sales, including liquor by the drink, in Warren County. The resolution also encouraged Baptists and other Christians to vote.

It met Oct. 22-23 at First Church, Smartt, and First Church, Morrison. Officers include Kevin Goza, pastor, Northside Church, McMinnville, moderator; Garvin Haley, pastor, Fall City Church, Rock Island, vice moderator; M. D. Overton, member, First Church, McMinnville, treasurer; and Paul Walker, member, First Church, Smartt, assistant treasurer.

Dyer Association

Messengers adopted a motion to appoint a committee to study factors prohibiting Gideons, a Bible distribution organization, from dispersing Bibles in Dyer County schools.

The association, which met Oct. 22-23 at Macedonia Church, Ripley, and Second Church, Dyersburg, was honored by the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes for its financial support.

Those elected as officers were Stan Anderson, pastor, Westside Church, Halls, moderator; Rodney Alexander, pastor, First Church, Halls, assistant moderator; Larry Fowlkes, member, Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes, treasurer; Mrs. Tommye Abbott, member, Fowlkes Church, assistant treasurer; and Vickie Shelton, associational secretary, clerk.

Grainger Association

The association met Oct. 18-19 meeting at Helton Springs Church, Rutledge, and Block Springs Church and Indian Ridge Church in Blaine. It was recognized for support of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Glenda Roach of Blue Springs Church, Rutledge, was presented the Woman's Missionary Union leadership diploma.

Elected as officers were Mark Kitts, pastor, Block Springs Church, Blaine, moderator; Jack Hipsher, pastor, Buffalo Church, Rutledge, vice moderator; Guy Moore, member, New Blackwell Church, Rutledge, treasurer; and Brenda Hayes, associational secretary, clerk.

Hamilton County Association

The first pastoral ministry diplomas earned at the association's Seminary External Education Division center were awarded to Samuel Khann Chhom, pastor, Cambodian ministry, Silverdale Church, Chattanooga; Steve Howard, member, East Chattanooga Church, Chattanooga; and Donald Smitherman, Georgia.

The annual was dedicated to the memory of Ralph Norton, former Tennessee Baptist Convention executive secretary-treasurer. Workers Fuad Shorosh, director, language missions, and Frances Everett, secretary, were honored for ten years of service.

The gathering was held Oct. 18 at First Church, Hixson.

Officers are Richard Blalock, pastor, Apison Church, Apison, moderator; James C. Hutchings, pastor, New Bethel Church, Chattanooga, vice-moderator; Arthur Bruner, member, White Oak Church, Chattanooga, treasurer; Tom Lewis, member, First Church, Chattanooga, assistant treasurer; Becky Witt, associational staff, clerk; and Pat Malone, associational staff, assistant clerk.

Haywood Association

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes recognized the association for its support. Messengers voted to sponsor Director of Missions Charles Pratt as leader of four associational teams to serve in the Philippines. Messengers also voted to join Brownsville Church, Brownsville, in sponsoring a ministry to Spanish-speaking people, and to affirm the work of Christian Homes for Retarded Individuals.

The meeting was held Oct. 16 at Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville. Officers are Eddie Mallonee, pastor, Poplar Corner, moderator; Bill Robbins, pastor, Allen Church, Brownsville, vice moderator; Mrs. J. C. Williams, associational secretary, treasurer/clerk; and Dewey Jones, member, Holly Grove Church, Bells, assistant treasurer.

Holston Valley Association

During its Oct. 18-19 meeting at West View Church, Rogersville, and Duck Creek Church, Sneedville, messengers adopted long range goals for 1990-95.

Officers follow: John C. Compton, pastor, Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel, moderator; Steve Holt, pastor, Hickory Cove Church, Rogersville, assistant moderator; and Linda D. Williams, associational secretary, treasurer/clerk.

Indian Creek Association

The messengers adopted a resolution supporting the Cooperative Program and voted to study an associational mission center. It also adopted the Tennessee Baptist Convention IM-PACT Tennessee goals.

The meeting was Oct. 15-16 at Philadelphia Church and First Church, Waynesboro.

Those elected as officers were Harold King, pastor, Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, moderator; Cecil Gilliland, pastor, First Church, Waynesboro, assistant moderator; Phil Fisher, member, Green River Church, Waynesboro, treasurer; and Margaret Morrison, member, Upper Green River Church, Waynesboro, clerk.

Jefferson County Association

In its Oct. 25-26 meeting messengers elected Sonny Strange, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Jefferson City, moderator; Norman Turley, pastor, First Church, Strawberry Plains, assistant moderator; Dale Gentry, member, Emmanuel Church, treasurer; and Kathleen Lockhart, member, Flat Gap Church, New Market, clerk.

The gatherings were held at Deep



SECRETARY HONORED — Nolachucky Association Director of Missions James Williams presents Joyce Vile a plaque in recognition of 15 years of service as the association's secretary. She also serves the association as clerk/treasurer.

Spring Church and Central Heights Church, Dandridge, and Buffalo Grove Church, Jefferson City.

Maury Association

Linda Bass was recognized for eight years of work as associational Vacation Bible School director and six years as clerk.

Lawrence Grove Church, Thompson Station, hosted the Oct. 23 meeting. Officers are Jack Westmoreland, member, Friendship Church, Culleoka, moderator; Gilbert Westberry, minister of music, Highland Park Church, Columbia, vice moderator; Jean Gilliam, member, Rock Springs Church, Columbia, treasurer; and Jean Hood, member, Sante Fe Church, Santa Fe, clerk.

Robertson County Association

The association made a commitment to the Tennessee Baptist Convention Witnessing-Giving Life emphasis at its Oct. 22-23 meeting at Grace Church in Springfield and in Pleasant View.

Officers are Ray Stonecypher, pastor, North Springfield Church, Springfield, moderator; Glynn Copeland, pastor, Barren Plains Church, Springfield, assistant moderator; Jo Nelle James, associational secretary, treasurer; and Kim Bibb, member, Cedar Hill Church, Cedar Hill, clerk.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

He has just celebrated his 87th birthday but he still stands straight. His hair is white as snow but his mind is sharp. His voice is strong when he speaks the word of God. I am referring to one of the patriarchs of East Tennessee Baptists, W. F. Hall.

This good man has just finished a term as moderator for Chilhowee Association. I had the joy of hearing him bring the annual sermon to that good association. As he preached I wished that every Tennessee Baptist could have heard his message.

He called on us to take the more excellent way. He used as a basis for his message 1 Corinthians 13, speaking out of his deep convictions and out of his years of experience. He reminded us that we can't do anything unless we love God and love one another.

He chided us for the way we have labeled each other. He rebuked us for our unbrotherly attitudes and actions.

As I heard him speak I felt like I was listening to the Apostle John about the time he penned the first epistle of John. It is reported that the elderly apostle would often say to the believers of that day "little children, love one another."

As we gather in Nashville for our 1990 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention we need to remember Brother Hall's admonition. We do need to love one another. Love will not prevent us from making hard decisions. It will not keep us from confronting the issues. It will not cause us to be soft. It will not cause us to hide our faces from the facts. It will prevent us from hurting one another. It will save us from doing harm to the work of the Lord. It will enable us to bring honor to His name.

So, as you come to Nashville as a messenger from your church, come with a prayer that love may abound.



LOWRIE



NEW BEULAH OFFICERS — Elected to lead Beulah Association during 1990-91 at its meeting at Second Church, Union City, were, from left, Roger S. Oldham, First Church, Martin, assistant moderator; Director of Missions William George; and Bill Wolfe, First Church, Obion, moderator.

— Photo by Connie Davis

Mega Focus associations outpaced others in 1980s, study shows

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Associations participating in Southern Baptists' Mega Focus Cities program reversed downward trends of the 1970s to outpace other associations during the 1980s, a new study says.

The study analyzing results of the Mega Focus Cities program at the end of its first eight-year cycle was conducted by Clay Price, director of the Home Mission Board's program research department.

In the 1970s, associations in America's largest cities were losing ground in Sunday School enrollment, Sunday School attendance, WMU enrollment, and Brotherhood enrollment. The big city associations also trailed behind other associations on seven other statistical measures.

However, by the end of the 1980s, Mega Focus Cities associations had outpaced other associations in all areas except Brotherhood enrollment. And while baptisms were down 16 percent in 1989 compared to 1980, the drop was not as high as the 19 percent loss

recorded for non-Mega Focus Cities associations.

Mega Focus Cities is a joint effort between the Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and Stewardship Commission. It began in 1982 as a program of strategic planning for associations in the 44 largest metropolitan areas in the United States.

Price's study analyzed data from 67 associations as reported on the SBC Uniform Church Letter in 1971, 1980 and 1989. The 11 indicators studied were number of churches, total membership, resident membership, baptisms, Sunday School enrollment, Sunday School average attendance, WMU enrollment, Brotherhood enrollment, total receipts, Cooperative Program giving, and missions expenditures.

Mega Focus associations showed larger gains than other associations on eight of the 11 items studied.

Comparing the 1980s to the 1970s, the metropolitan associations experienced turnarounds in Sunday School enrollment, Sunday School attendance, WMU enrollment, and Brotherhood enrollment. Only total membership, resident membership, and baptisms did not

grow faster in the 1980s than in the 1970s.

"Were it not for the gain in Sunday School average attendance among Mega Focus associations, overall SBC average attendance may have shown a net loss for the 1980s," the report states.

Mega Focus associations in the southeastern U.S. showed the most gains, recording increases in all 11 items studied. The northeastern region ranked second, with only WMU growth in the 1980s not exceeding growth of the 1970s.

Both the western and south central regions registered advances in seven of the 11 categories. The western region did not advance in total membership, Sunday School average attendance, baptisms, or brotherhood enrollment. The south central region did not gain in resident membership, baptisms, Cooperative Program, or mission expenditures.

The north central region registered advances only in WMU enrollment, total receipts, and Cooperative Program. However, three of the seven associations in this region did not begin the Mega Focus Cities planning cycle until 1989 or 1990.

Despite the overall growth found in

Mega Focus associations, not every association's record could be termed a success, the report states. Some associations have shown little change despite extensive strategy planning.

But even the smallest gains in some associations are significant because of the severe losses they were experiencing before starting the Mega Focus program. "It is unlikely these gains would have occurred without some form of special denominational attention given to the major urban areas of the country," Price reports.

Mega Focus cities account for 41 percent of the U.S. population. However, the 67 associations contain only 11 percent of SBC churches and 18 percent of SBC membership. A Mega Focus city is generally defined as a metropolitan area of one million or more people.

Similarly, the ratio of churches to population in these metropolitan areas still wanes in comparison with associations outside the Mega Focus areas.

Southern Baptists have 4115 churches to reach the 101 million people living in these big cities, for a ratio of one church to every 25,000 people. Outside the Mega Focus cities, Southern Baptists have 33,670 churches to reach 149 million people, a ratio of one church for every 4400 people.

Belmont College honors Middle Tennessee DOMs

Directors of Missions in Middle Tennessee will be the guests of honor at a breakfast hosted by Belmont Nov. 14, at 7:30 a.m. Planned in conjunction with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the breakfast will be in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room on campus.

The breakfast is planned to honor mid-state directors of missions for the many ways they promote Belmont College through their associations.

Hosting the group will be William E. Troutt, president; W. Fred Kendall Jr., vice president for church relations/director of planned giving; and Steve Simpler, acting dean of the School of Biblical Studies and Ministry.

Shared governance key to SEBTS meeting

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — "Shared governance" was the predominate theme of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's semi-annual trustee meeting held Oct. 16. The meeting was at the North Carolina Conference Center at Fort Caswell, near Wilmington.

Faculty members were invited to officially observe the workings of the board of trustees. This was believed to be the first time in Southeastern's history that faculty were invited. Furman Hewitt, professor of Christian

ethics, and Michael Hawn, professor of church music at the Wake Forest, N.C., school, were elected by the faculty to attend the sessions.

Observers said due to the significant role of "shared governance," trustees worked their motions in such a way to allow faculty input on issues that would affect the faculty.

"We are all novices in the issue of shared governance. It takes practice. I saw trustees, I think very sincerely, struggle when motions came to the floor to frame them in such a way that there could be faculty input on those motions that affected (the faculty)," Hawn said.

Roger Ellsworth, newly elected chairman and pastor of Emmanuel Church, Benton, Ill., said, "I think the new spirit of cooperation between faculty and trustees will continue and increase. I think the trust level is coming back."

When asked to give his impression of the board of trustees and the seminary in general, Clarence Brock, new trustee and pastor of Coventry Church, Ft. Wayne, Ind., said, "In many ways it looks healthier than I expected and the congeniality of the board was much greater than I anticipated."

As a "coming together point," a statement of mission was established which will require input from every sector of the Southeastern community. The statement will be developed in the context of "shared governance."

A statement of mission is foundational to and more detailed than a statement of purpose, said Robert Cooley, president of Gordon-Conwell Seminary and Association of Theological Schools facilitator, who was invited to help guide Southeastern's first trustee/faculty retreat.

New officers, all elected without opposition, are: Ellsworth, chairman; Jack May, retired pastor of Broadmoor Church, Memphis, vice chairman; Wendell Page, pastor from Lee's Summit, Mo., secretary; and Cecil Rhodes, Wilson, N.C., treasurer.

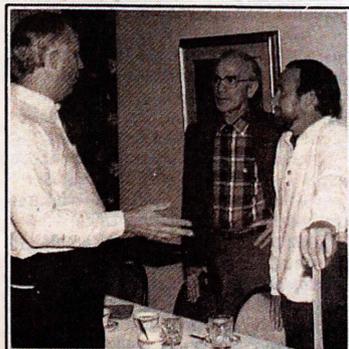
In other business, trustees passed motions and resolutions which included:

- Recommissioning the Task Force on faculty selection in order to develop a process for conducting a "special" faculty search. This process would allow the school to pursue an acclaimed leader in a particular field.
- Instructing the president to establish a statement of missions using the principle of "shared governance."
- Instructing the faculty and administration to develop guidelines for the use of tape recorders in classrooms. These guidelines will be presented for adoption at the trustee meeting in the Spring of 1991.
- Announcing their support for the Cooperative Program unified budget.
- Resolving that they believed in the right to and sanctity of life, where the only exception for abortion given was clear danger to the mother's life.

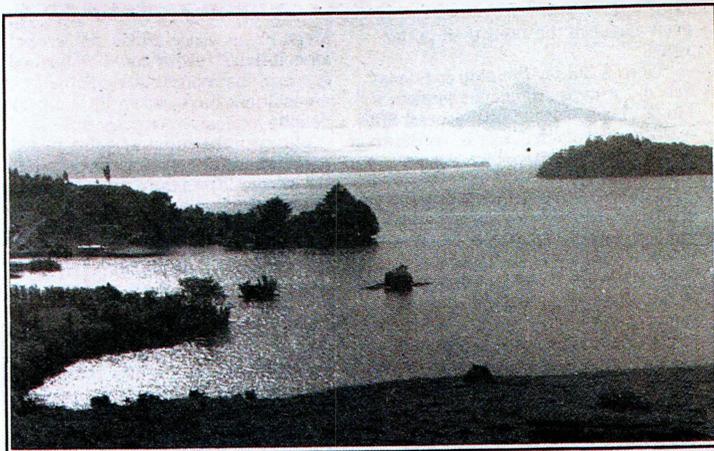


DOM CONFERENCE — Jere Phillips, right, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department, visits with Norris Smith, center, Baptist Sunday School Board consultant, and Bill Black, Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries, during the annual director of missions conference Oct. 24-26 in Pigeon Forge. Smith and Black were among the program leaders for the three-day meeting for directors of missions and their spouses. Above, directors of missions practice for their choral performance during the annual meeting of the TBC Nov. 13-15 in Nashville. The singers were led by Julian Suggs, director of the TBC's Music Department.

— Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



RIVERSIDE OFFICERS — Elected at its fall meeting at First Church, Livingston, to lead Riverside Association were, front row, from left, Wayne Godsey, Memorial Church, moderator; Don Paris, First Church, Byrdstown, vice moderator; second row, Don Cobb, First Church, Livingston, clerk; and Naomi Albright, associational secretary, treasurer. — Photo by Connie Davis



CALM, SERENE — Beautiful snow-covered Osorno Volcano commands the landscape near Puerto Varas with azure waters of Lake Llanquihue in foreground.



LEADERS FROM TWO CONTINENTS — Tennesseans D. L. Lowrie, left, and Howard Olive, at the Santiago planning meeting with Chilean Baptist leaders Victor Olivares and Moises Pinto.



CHILDREN AT PLAY — Children are part of a warm family life structure in Chile.



CHILE



MIRASOL MEMBERS — Supper on Oct. 28. L

Report goes to convention next week

Survey team wraps up meetings with Bapt

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

There is an old legend about Chile, a story coming out of the past.

God took a bit of all the best in His creation, the legend says, and made Chile.

Chile is a shoestring country, no more than 235 miles wide at any point, meandering down the western coast of South America. Chile is perhaps best known to the student of geography for the stark splendor of its eastern border, the Andes Mountains.

Because of the Andes' sheer height and the Pacific Ocean on the west, Chile is isolated from the rest of the continent. Perhaps that's as it should be. Chileans are proud of a heritage that includes Native Indian, German, Scotch, English, Italian, and Spanish ancestry. They have blended into a perfect balance.

Baptists penetrated Chile in 1882 when the first church was established by German colonists. The Evangelical Baptist Convention was organized in 1908.

But Chile's people will not be isolated from those praying and planning to help them in a Partnership Mission. A survey team of eight Tennessee Baptists have just returned from a ten-day

odyssey to the "shoestring" country.

The team, which was sent by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board, will recommend a partnership with Chile, and the board is expected to ask TBC messengers to approve a Partnership Mission with Chile at the Nov. 13-15 annual meeting.

If approved, the partnership will begin in January 1992 when the current partnership with the Philippines ends. Representing Tennessee Baptists on the survey team were D. L. Lowrie, executive director/treasurer; Bill Wilson, Convention Ministries Division director; Clarence Stewart, Partnership Missions director; Katherine Bryan, WMU executive director; Wm. Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector editor;

Bill Bargiol, Big Emory Association director of missions and president of TBC DOMs; Don Givens, pastor of St. Elmo Avenue Church, Chattanooga, and chairman of the missions committee, TBC Executive Board; and Howard Olive, pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, and board president.

Accompanying the Tennesseans were two representatives of the Foreign Mission Board, James Cecil and Tom

Vassar. Cecil is director of overseas partnerships and Vassar is associate director for Spanish-speaking South America. Both are former foreign missionaries.

Six of the group arrived in Chile Oct. 25 and returned Nov. 2. Lowrie arrived Oct. 30 and Wilson on Oct. 27.

The first group of six arrived in Santiago, Chile's capital, and met with Chile Baptist missionaries for orientation. The following day, the team split into teams of two (with missionaries included) and went to four different areas of work across the country.

Chile is 2700 miles long and an average 110 miles wide. It is squeezed between the Andes and the Pacific from Peru to Cape Horn. Chile is larger than Nevada, Utah, and Idaho — or twice the size of California.

Islands, mainly in the south, account for a sixth of its area. Chile has a naval and air base at Puerto Williams, the world's southernmost town.

Explorer Fernando Magellan sailed an unexplored strait that separates Tierra del Fuego from the mainland of Argentina and Chile, in 1520. The strait was named for him.

Bernado O'Higgins, a Chilean-born Irishman, led Chile in its wars for in-

dependence from Spain in the early decades of the 1800s — and became the nation's first president.

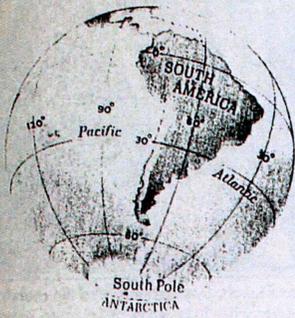
Chile's northland is desert — where rain has never been reported. Nitrates and copper are mined there. Further south, the central valley holds most of the population, industry, and arable land. The area has a mild climate conducive to superb fruit-growing.

Heavy rains nurture timber in the south central area below Santiago. Lakes, like a string of pearls, dot the volcanic landscape.

The south, Patagonia, is rugged and beautiful — with lakes and volcanoes and rugged terrain, especially toward the tip near Cape Horn. There are some oil reserves there. Winds blow constantly and sheets of rain are not infrequent.

The Tennesseans returned to Santiago on Monday, Oct. 29 for discussions and planning sessions with Chile mission leaders and representatives of the Chile Baptists, the Evangelical Baptist Convention.

The two-day sessions dealt with potential projects suggested by the Chilean leaders and mission representatives. The meetings were coordinated by Vassar, Cecil, Stewart, Lowrie, and



BIBLE READING — Missionary Archie Jones, center, looks at a sample Bible with pastors Jaime Sepulveda, Castro, left; and Reinier Quizada, Ancud, as three churches meet together on Chilohue Island.

Here's Chile

Facts about Chile

- Population: 12,700,000
- Area: 292,135 square miles
- Capital: Santiago: 4,750,000
- Principal cities: Concepcion, 300,000; Valparaiso, 280,000; Talcahuano, 270,000; Vina del Mar, Arica, Antofagasta, Temuco, Puerto Montt, Punta Arenas.
- Religion: Mainly Catholic
- Literacy: 94 percent
- Economy: Mining: copper, petroleum, nitrates
- Industries: food processing, cement, textiles.
- Export crops: fruit, fish meal, wood and wood products, wool.
- Per capita income: app. \$1600
- Life expectancy: 71 years.



The congregation of Mirasol Church, Puerto Montt, had its first Lord's Supper. Elder Jose Zuniga is seated at right.



PLANNING SESSION — Some participants in the Santiago planning meeting include Tom Vassar, left, and James Cecil, FMB representatives — and, from left, Pablo Frontier, Victor Lyons, Alberto Salazar, Faustino Aguilera, Victor Olivares, and Moises Pinto.

its in Chile

Charles Alexander, Richard Poe, and Robert Bates.

Poe is the local coordinator for partnerships, Bates is chairman of the mission strategy committee, and Alexander is the Chile mission director.

Chile Baptist leaders included Moises Pinto, convention president and principal of the Baptist Academy in Temuco; Victor Olivares, first vice president and Santiago pastor; Victor Lyons, second vice president and FMB missionary; Alberto Salazar, recording secretary and Santiago pastor; Pablo Frontier, treasurer and retired pastor; John Gilbert, statistical secretary and FMB missionary; and Faustino Aguilera, coordinating secretary and pastor.

There are about 90 Southern Baptist missionaries working now in Chile, and a dozen are from Tennessee, including Richard and Ann Poe, of Oak Ridge, who will be on furlough for three months ending in February, 1992.

The meetings in Santiago concluded with good accord, with ideas of many mutually beneficial projects for Tennessee and Chile Baptists.

President Pinto asked that a greeting be shared with Tennessee Baptists. "We will pray and work with

you," he said, "to see what the Lord can do through our efforts. We face some obvious limitations, but Chile Baptists are committed to evangelize Chile. We want to serve."

Katherine Bryan and Bill Wilson visited with missionaries and Chilean pastors in the Valparaiso and Vina del Mar area.

Don Givens and missionary Richard Poe went to the Temuco mission station where five missionary couples are located, as well as the Temuco Bible Institute.

Bill Bargiol and James Cecil (FMB) were in Concepcion, Cabrero, and Chillan, looking at some of the ministries in that area.

Howard Olive and Tom Vassar (FMB) journeyed north to Antofagasta, in an association that stretches to the Peruvian border.

Clarence Stewart and Fletcher Allen were further south than the other teams — with missionaries Archie and Caroline Jones in Puerto Montt, Puerto Varas, Osorno, and La Union.

After action is taken by Tennessee Baptists next week, a second article will be published about the work of Southern Baptist missionaries in Chile alongside their Chilean compatriots.



OSORNO BAPTISTS — Pastor Miguel Gonzalez, and his wife Patricia, live in Osorno. The church has three missions. A second Patricia, second from right, is a home missionary. Gonzalez' sister-in-law America is at right. He is president of the Austral Association.

At Greenwood Church

Members celebrate 150th anniversary

DOYLE — Members of Greenwood Church, Doyle, celebrated the church's 150th anniversary Oct. 28 in a special homecoming service.

Cos Davis Jr. of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was guest speaker.

Davis, a native of Doyle, grew up in Greenwood Church and was ordained to the ministry there.

He reflected on the church's past, but observed that "as wonderful as the past is, it's just that. The greatest thing we can do about the past is to learn from it, but never live in it," he said.

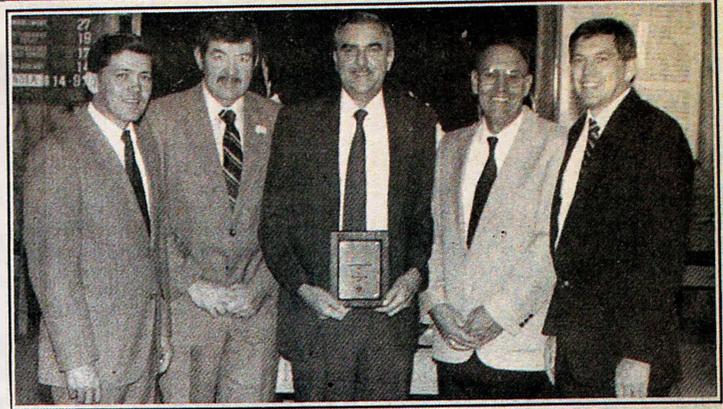
During the morning service Ray Maynard, director of missions for Union Association, presented Pastor Tom Farmer a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, commemorating the church on its anniversary.

The church received several congratulatory messages from across the state and nation, including letters from President George Bush, a certificate of appreciation from Tennessee Governor

Ned McWherter, and a copy of a resolution placed in the state archives by several Tennessee representatives.

On behalf of the church's sesquicentennial committee, Farmer noted the purpose of the celebration was to offer "praise and gratitude to our Lord for allowing us the privilege of serving Him within the fellowship of this church and to recognize the 150 years of continued service to our community, state, nation, and world provided by this church body."

According to the church's history, Greenwood was organized in 1840 by a group from the Lost Creek community who held prayer meetings in the home of Kate Austin in the Greenwood community.



HERITAGE CELEBRATION — Members of Greenwood Church, Doyle, celebrated the church's 150th anniversary in October. Participating in the service were from left, Cos Davis Jr., guest speaker; John McCord, deacon; Pastor Tom Farmer; and deacons David Carr, chairman, and Earl Davis.

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TenneScene

... North to south, from Eulia to Elora by way of Lascassas ...

Leadership ...

Sandi Rogers has been called as part-time minister of families to Brook Hollow Church, Nashville.

Ted E. Davis has retired as director of missions of McMinn-Meigs Association after 16 years. He is now pastor of the North Waterloo Mission in Waterloo, N.C.

W. W. Harrison, former pastor of Gallatin Road Church, Nashville, and Long Hollow Church, Hendersonville, spoke Nov. 4 at Third Church, Nashville, where he served as interim pastor earlier this year. Following the evening service, church members honored the 80-year-old retiree for his contributions as interim pastor.

Alice Bell Church, Knoxville, called **Don Campbell** as minister of music.

First Church, Lawrenceburg, called **Billy Hines** of the Tennessee Baptist

Clarksville church taps TBC's Redding

James Redding, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department since 1983, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Gracey Avenue Church, Clarksville, effective Nov. 30.

During Redding's tenure with the TBC his primary assignments were in the areas of language missions and interfaith witness.

A native of Goodlettsville, Redding is a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Redding and his wife, Marilyn, were Southern Baptist missionaries to Peru for 15 years.

After his FMB service, Redding was pastor of Lamar Heights Church, Memphis, before accepting the TBC post in 1983. Redding also has been a pastor and director of missions in Mississippi.

The Reddings have five children.



REDDING

Convention Evangelism Department as interim pastor.

Hurshall Riddle recently retired from the pastorate of Dodson's Branch Church, Cookeville.

Cedar Hill Church, Baxter, called **Ronda Abbott** as youth director.

Ordinations ...

Gary Kelly and **Tommy Henderson** were recently ordained as deacons at Central Heights Church, Dandridge.

First Church, Greeneville, recently ordained **Tommy McAfee** and **Y. J. Cope** as deacons.

Chris Fleming and **Kyle Hauth** were ordained as deacons at First Church, Selmer.

Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes, recently ordained **Dennis Pyle** and **Lynn Williams** as deacons.

Bill O'Lee was ordained as deacon Oct. 21 at Bellevue Church, Nashville.

Edward Flanagan, **Robert Hill Jr.**, **Rebecca Jackson**, **Dixie Petry**, **Cliff Shirley**, and **Sue Vandergriff** were recently ordained as deacons at First Church, Knoxville.

Fred Robert Wade was ordained to the Gospel ministry Oct. 14 at North Knoxville Church, Knoxville.

First Church, Hixson, ordained **Ken Lewis**, associate pastor/minister to youth, to the ministry Oct. 14.

Richard Lambert was recently ordained as deacon at Toone Church, Toone.

Revivals ...

First Church, Livingston, began revival Nov. 4. Vocational evangelist **Sam Wolfe** of Huntsville, Ala., is leading the services, which will conclude Nov. 9. **David Kress** is leading music.

Revival will be held Nov. 25-28 at **Kensington Church**, Memphis. **Jack May** will lead the services.

First Church, Pigeon Forge, will hold revival Nov. 11-14.

First Church, McKenzie, will hold revival Nov. 18-21 led by **Angel Martinez**.

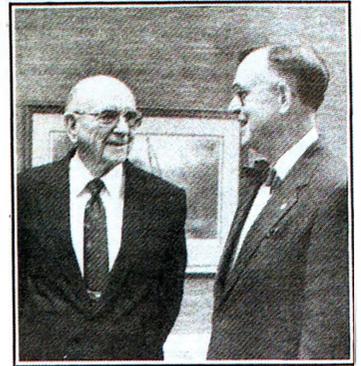
Churches ...

The membership of **Trinity Church**, Memphis, will celebrate the church's 85th anniversary and homecoming Nov. 18. A special dinner will be held at noon.

Members of **Lantana Road Church**, Crossville, recently burned the notes for a building and the church van.

Average Sunday School attendance at **Blairland Church**, Loudon, nearly doubled during the 1989-90 church year, according to Pastor **David Abernathy**. Blairland enrolled 265 people during the year, bring total enrollment up to 491, with an average attendance of 214 compared to 120 the previous year. During the year, 30 people made professions of faith, 42 were baptized, 15 joined the church by letter.

The congregation of **Riverside Church**, Harriman, recently celebrated the church's 45th anniversary and homecoming. **Paul Moody**, pastor of Erin Church, Erin, spoke in the morning worship service. **Joyce Goodman** wrote a history of the church from 1945 to 1990.



RETIRED DOM HONORED — Union University President **Hyran Barefoot**, right, visits with **Joe Harris**, retired director of missions in Carroll-Benton Association. **Harris**, along with **Ed Alexander** of Shiloh Association, was honored for his outstanding service to Tennessee Baptists and Union University.

W. D. Leach accepts Milan pastorate

W. D. Leach was recently called as pastor to Poplar Springs Church, Milan.

He was previously pastor of several churches in West Tennessee, including Mount Pisgah Church, Bradford.

A native of Dyersburg, Leach was ordained in 1953 at Calvary Hill Church in his hometown.

He and his wife have three grown children.



SULLIVAN OFFICERS — Officers of Sullivan Association include, from left, Director of Missions **Tommy Holtzclaw**; **Bill Kendrick**, Greenville Church, moderator; **John Coates**, Calvary Church, outgoing moderator; and **Jan Spangler**, First Church, Kingsport, clerk.



GRAINGER DIRECTORS — Gathered at the Grainger Association meeting at Block Springs Church, Blaine, were, front row, from left, **Barney Evans**, Mouth of Richland Church, outgoing moderator; Director of Missions **David Tydings**; back row, **Sarah Tydings**, Calvary Church; **Brenda Hayes**, associational secretary, clerk; **Guy Moore**, New Blackwell Church, treasurer; **Jack Hipsher**, Buffalo Church, vice moderator; and **Mark Kitts**, Block Springs Church, moderator.

— Photo by Connie Davis



GROUNDBREAKING HELD — New Duck River Association broke ground Sept. 28 for a new associational building to be located on Highway 41-A North. **Bill Wilson**, TBC Convention Ministries director was guest speaker. The building/steering committee includes, from left, **James Hickey**; **Tom Sumners**, moderator; **Cordie Dalton**; **Ted Cashion**, chairman; **Bill Parks**; **Harold Smith**, director of missions; and **Tony Billions**. Also, serving on the committee are **Carol Growden**, **Mike Gass**, and **Bob McKinney** 1990-91 moderator.

Brotherhood's Smith announces retirement

MEMPHIS (BP)— James H. Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, announced his decision to retire June 30, 1991, at the fall commission trustee meeting.

Smith, who will turn 70 in May 1991, came to the Brotherhood Commission in 1979 following the accidental death in 1978 of former president Glendon McCullough. Prior to leading the Brotherhood Commission, he was executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association for 13 years.



SMITH

Other Southern Baptist service includes two years as associate executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention, and pastorates in St. Louis, Kansas City, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Smith has spoken in revivals and special meetings around the world.

Raised in Somerville, Ala., Smith and his wife, Nona, reside in Bartlett.

The trustees appointed a search committee to begin the task of finding a new president. The five member committee includes: Wendell Reed, layman, Salem, Va.; Tommy Knotts, director of missions, Aiken, S.C.; Robert Hill, pastor, Cleveland, Miss.; Joe Lenamon, layman, Fort Worth, Texas; and Billy Summerlin, Gadsden, Ala.

In other commission business, ● Continue World Changers as a program of missions projects and to further study its viability in Southern Baptist life. World Changers is a coed missions education program targeted primarily at an estimated 750,000 Southern Baptist youth who currently are not enrolled in missions education.

● Affirm the Cooperative Program unified budget with a resolution that discourages the withholding of Cooperative Program gifts from Southern Baptist missions causes and negative designation. It calls for continued support of the Cooperative Program.

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OFFICERS ELECTED — New officers were elected for the 1990-91 church year at the Robertson County Association annual meeting Oct. 22-23. From left are Director of Missions Frank Evans, moderator Ray Stonecypher, and vice moderator Glynn Copeland.

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BAPTIST BOOK STORE

Jesus instructs His disciples

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

What does an athletic coach look for in a potential player? Someone unfamiliar with coaching would say, "talent, knowledge of the sport, a determined spirit." Ask any coach of any sport what he/she seeks and the answer would be, "I want an athlete that is coachable. I do not want an athlete that knows it all."

Jesus did not call men to be His disciples who were proficient in the "law." He called men who gave evidence they were "trainable." Thus, Jesus called 12 men from the "followers." They were to be called "disciples and apostles," because they would learn from the master Teacher, and be sent forth on His mission.

Introduction to the task (Luke 6:20-26)
Jesus began the class by preaching to the multitudes. In so doing, He was



LUNSFORD

preaching to His disciples as well (vv. 26, 47).

What were the disciples to learn? They had left all to follow Jesus. Jesus taught them and He continues to teach us as we read this passage. He taught a blessed life comes not from getting or doing, but from being. The emphasis is upon developing a Godlike character. Jesus taught the apostles to focus on attitudes toward circumstances (vv. 2-26), people (vv. 27-28), themselves (vv. 39-45), and God (vv. 46-49).

Our attitude toward circumstances (Luke 6:20-26)

Life then, as it is today, was hard. Many thought happiness was to be found in the accumulation of possessions. Sound familiar? How shocked they must have been to hear Jesus teach just the opposite.

Jesus wasn't against wealth. He only wanted to convince people that nothing can substitute for a personal relationship with God. People without Christ are spiritually bankrupt and do not

realize it.

Our attitude toward people (Luke 6:27-38)

How do we treat our enemies? Retaliate or seek revenge? Jesus knew those who lived for eternal values would get into trouble with the world's crowd. He called His followers "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt stings and light exposes sin. It is not if a Christian will face persecution from the world, but when will the Christian face persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).

BIBLE BOOK

November 11 Lesson

Basic Passage: Luke 6:12-49

How do we handle persecution? Jesus gave two principles that will help us handle persecution. Treat others as we would want to be treated (v. 31). Character will last an eternity. **Our attitude about self (Luke 6:39-45)**

How do you view yourself? The number one complaint lodged against the church by society is, "The church is full of hypocrites." Luke 6:46 quickly reminds us, "We cannot lead others where we have not been ourselves, nor can we be all that our Master is." The

more we strive to be like Him, the more we fail. The purpose for this failing? It is simply to ward off "pride."

Pride prevents one from being honest with God and with self. Exposing the sins of others allows an opportunity to cover up our own sins. People who are continuously criticizing others are usually guilty of something worse in their own lives.

Our attitude about God (Luke 6:46-49)

Jesus placed great emphasis on obedience. We are called to be builders in His kingdom. We must be careful to build wisely.

Conclusion

Hear clearly what Paul, under the inspiration of the Spirit, penned, "No man speaking by the Spirit of God called Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost," (1 Corinthians 12:3). If we are His disciples, we are engaged in a continual learning process. No one has fully "achieved or arrived" at the position of "super saint." Yet, because we are in Christ, we will develop new attitudes concerning circumstances, other people, self, and God that will differentiate us from non-Christians. We may have our faults and failures, but the steady witness of our lives will point to Christ and honor Him.

Jeremiah and Judah's leader

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

During the pastorate of Henry Ward Beecher in Indianapolis, he preached a series of sermons on drunkenness and gambling. In doing so, he agitated, angered, and visibly disturbed the men of that city who profited by these sinful practices. During the ensuing week, he was accosted on the street by a would be assailant with gun in hand.

He angrily demanded that Beecher retract his statements of the previous Sunday.

With an oath he demanded, "Take it back, right here, right now, or I will shoot you where you stand!"

Calmly, without fear, the pastor's response was, "Shoot away." Walking away from the assailant, he offered this parting remark: "I don't believe you can hit the mark as well as I did."



PETERSON

I read somewhere that "courage is not the absence of fear; it is the mastery of it." Being an instrument of God to proclaim His message to a sin darkened world demands courage. In our lesson this week, we study Jeremiah as he stood firm against the people of Judah who violently resisted his prophetic Word from God.

Relevant message (26:1-6)

Jeremiah was commanded by God to position himself by the gate of the temple and speak to those who came to worship. He was charged to proclaim God's Word of warning with clarity, courage, and accuracy. If the people were to be convicted of their sin of resistance to God's law and rejection of His prophets, they had to realize the gravity of their actions. God's warning was that Jerusalem would be destroyed, including the temple.

Reaction of the religious (26:7-11)

When Jeremiah concluded his message, the angry religious leaders seized the prophet and prepared to kill

him. They were infuriated because Jeremiah had prophesied the destruction of their sacred temple, which they believed would stand forever. These priests, prophets, and worshipers could quote multitudes of Scripture references supporting their claim that God would protect and spare His house of worship.

CONVENTION UNIFORM

November 11 Lesson

Basic Passage: Jeremiah 26:1-19

The temple and its permanent safety was a sign to the inhabitants of Jerusalem that they would never experience the destruction of war. God would always preserve, protect, and defend them as His special treasure. Jeremiah's message was a repudiation of all they believed about God and His relationship to them as His people. That was tantamount to treason and deserving of execution.

What God had asked Jeremiah to do

was both difficult and dangerous. It took courage that was available only through complete assurance that he was being obedient to God's voice.

Rescued by officials of the land (26:12-16)

News of the mob action at the temple reached the officials or civil authorities of Jerusalem. They entered the scene and made possible an orderly hearing of the facts. Once both sides were presented, the officials and the people sided with the prophetic words of Jeremiah. By remaining true to His assignment and being courageous in the face of overwhelming hostility, Jeremiah was protected and His message accepted as the truth of God.

Conclusion

Of the memorials in Westminster Abbey, there is not one that gives a nobler thought than that inscribed on the monument to Lord Lawrence — simply his name with the date of his death and these words: "He feared man so little because he feared God so much."

Getting to know the Son

Did you ever hear an older person say, "I know more about Jesus now than when I was young," or, "I feel closer to Jesus every day"?

For Christians the answer is simple. As we are willing to develop a closer walk with Jesus, He reveals more about Himself to us. In other words, we are getting to know the Son.

Almost from birth, our lives begin with relationships. They are building blocks as we develop. From childhood — in school and family — we learn about others. Young couples usually learn quickly that they must work toward a lasting relationship.

Relationships will not succeed unless we are willing to develop them. This is true of our relationship to Christ. In John 1:35-51, several potential disciples came to face Jesus. All were willing to develop a deeper relationship with Him.

John the Baptist gave a personal

witness to two of his disciples, (vv. 35-37). Andrew (v. 40) was one of these, and John was probably the other. He had already said publicly that Jesus was the Messiah.

John pointed the witnesses to Christ, away from himself. He certainly felt secure in his relationship to Jesus. He called Jesus the Lamb of God again (v. 36).

On John the Baptist's testimony, the two disciples indicated their willingness to develop their relationship with Jesus by following Him.

The two became active in pursuing that relationship (vv. 38-39). And Jesus encouraged them to learn more about Him, "Come and see where I live." They wanted to spend more time with Him because they were interested.

Andrew introduced his brother Simon Peter to Jesus (v. 42) and Jesus found Philip (v. 43). Philip brought Nathaniel to Jesus (v. 44-46). Peter and Philip

followed him. But Nathaniel first had questions about Christ (v. 46).

It has been said that real faith often begins with honest doubt. Questions are better than indifference.

LIFE AND WORK

November 11 Lesson

Basic Passage: John 1:35-51

Nathaniel knew about the One "of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets wrote" (v. 5). But there was some skepticism when Philip said Nazareth was Jesus' home. He needed to know more about this Jesus from Nazareth.

Philip was not uncomfortable with Nathaniel's feelings. He simply invited his friend to "Come and see" (v. 46). Jesus met Nathaniel with love and insight into his personality. Does this sound familiar? Does anyone know more about us than Christ?

Of course, Jesus' insights into his life astonished Nathaniel (v. 48). He probably thought, "He looked right through me." But Jesus observed Nathaniel's sincerity and devotion. Nathaniel evidently had searched the Scriptures while awaiting the coming of the Messiah. He was open to the truth.

Nathaniel recognized Jesus as Rabbi, Son of God, King of Israel. He was skeptical, then curious, then hopeful, finally responsive. He had listened to his friend's testimony, acted on it, and discovered the truth for which he had searched. He began an exciting adventure right then — by committing his life to Christ. A new relationship had begun. And Jesus promised him "greater things" (v. 50).

As little children, people learn by asking questions. We are curious also as adults, seeking information. Jesus invites each questioner to come and discover the truth. — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Baptist killed, seminary damaged in Beirut fighting

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A Lebanese Baptist man was killed and the Baptist seminary endured heavy shelling when Syrian troops took over eastern Beirut in mid-October. Farid Bassous, a Lebanese Baptist lay leader, was killed when an artillery shell struck his house in the Mansourieh area east of Beirut. Bassous had taken shelter in the basement with his family, but went upstairs during a lull in a bombing attack to change clothes. While he was on the upper floor, the shell struck the house and exploded. A piece of shrapnel hit Bassous.

Family members braved the continuing rain of shells in an effort to get Bassous to a hospital, but they were unable to do so because roads in the area were blocked by the battle. Bassous was a member of the Mansourieh Church and represented Lebanese Baptists on the board that operates international Baptist institutions for the Middle East and North Africa. He is survived by his wife, Janet, a graduate of Beirut Baptist School, and two teenage daughters.

Reports from Baptists in Lebanon have been slow in getting out because international telephone lines in the country are down. Southern Baptist representatives in Cyprus who monitor Baptist ministry in Lebanon have had to rely on heavily used radio telephones in recent weeks, reported Southern Baptist representative Jim Ragland.

Italian Baptists suffer second property disaster

ROME — Italian Baptists have been hit with their second calamity in less than a month. Sometime during the night of Oct. 21, thieves used blowtorches to penetrate a "thief-proof" door of the Italian Baptist Union's Audio-Visual Production Service (SPAV) in Rome. Working undisturbed in the mostly empty building, they stole more than \$150,000 worth of video recording equipment.

The theft followed the Oct. 2 burning of a Baptist printing operation in southern Italy. Arsonists with suspected Mafia links entered the ground floor of Altamura Church and set fire to the cooperative printing establishment there. Damages have been estimated at more than \$220,000.

Because of the importance of SPAV's production service to Baptist and other Italian evangelical radio and TV ministries, the latest incident is just as serious. "In 20 years of Christian recording activity we've never had anything like this," said Domenico Bempertato, SPAV's chief recording engineer.

Unlike the Altamura printing cooperative, SPAV's equipment was insured. "However, our insurance will pay only 60 to 70 percent of the used value of the equipment. The most we could hope to receive will probably be less than a fourth of the combined replacement value," said Bempertato.

Training sessions, commissioning begin Breakthrough pilot phase

NASHVILLE — The Great Commission Breakthrough project could revolutionize Sunday School work and church efforts to grow, project planners and participants in a pilot project training session contended. More than 160 people participated in a three-day training session Oct. 15-17 in Nashville and were commissioned as Great Commission Breakthrough consultants for the one-year pilot project that is to involve as many as 540 churches.

After the pilot, project planners at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board expect to train as many as 7000 consultants who will work with every interested church and mission in the Southern Baptist Convention to develop Great Commission Breakthrough action plans. The Nashville session was the second of five regional training conferences. The first session was at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Others will be at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center; Dallas; and Tampa, Fla.

Plane crash survivor will return to Oklahoma

HONG KONG — Erin Thomas, the Southern Baptist teacher who survived the Oct. 2 crash-landing of a hijacked plane in Guangzhou, China, has been moved to Hong Kong and will return soon to Oklahoma. Thomas, 30, of Harrah, Okla., traveled by train with her parents from Guangzhou to Hong Kong Oct. 18, where she was met by an ambulance and taken to Hong Kong Baptist Hospital. As soon as arrangements can be made, she will be moved to Baptist Burn Center in Oklahoma City for further medical treatment.

Her Southern Baptist colleague, Mary Anna Gilbert, 23, of Alexander City, Ala., who taught English with Thomas for only one month at Jia Ying University in Meixian, China, was killed in the crash that claimed 132 lives.

Thomas suffered second- and third-degree burns over six percent of her body in the crash and will need skin grafts. She also sustained a dislocated shoulder and several broken bones, and she developed pneumonia from smoke she inhaled while struggling to escape the burning plane wreck. Southern Baptist missionary physician Lewis Smith is treating her during her stay in Hong Kong.

Japanese Baptists ask for 60 volunteer teams

RICHMOND — The Japan Baptist Convention has asked the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to send 60 volunteer teams to participate in one of the largest evangelistic crusades ever planned by Japanese Baptists. Scheduled for May 20-June 3, 1991, the crusade is an outgrowth of Japanese Baptists' goal to increase their churches from 238 to 500 and the number of Baptist believers from 28,000 to 50,000 by the year 2000.

The planned effort also goes hand-in-hand with Southern Baptist missionaries' new drive to start churches in pioneer areas and leave established churches and institutions in the hands of Japanese. Each U.S. volunteer team will include a preacher and two or three lay people. They will work with churches throughout Japan and Okinawa.

Interested people can contact Bill Peacock at the Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230, or call (804) 353-0151.

Resort ministers reach people outside Baptist mainstream

HILTON HEAD, S.C. (BP) — By working where crowds gather, resort ministers are reaching people most Southern Baptists seldom encounter.

Home missionaries assigned to resort areas told of serving people outside the Southern Baptist mainstream during the recent National Resort

Ministries Conference. More than 200 people attended the meeting at First Church, Hilton Head, S.C.

• Randy Cowling's office is two blocks from the boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J. He leads a ministry to thousands of tourists hoping to strike it rich as well as down-and-out residents

who tried their hand at luck and lost.

"Don't tell me about fun and games," Cowling said. "Tell me how to comfort the dying and the crying, the disappointed, and the sorrowful."

• Sam Worley, missionary in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., told of a casino card dealer who became a Christian. When the man died, Worley was asked to lead the funeral service.

"At the funeral I shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with every gambling executive in the United States," Worley said. "They didn't all rush forward to accept Jesus Christ, but they heard the Gospel."

• People attending a sport camp in Grandby, Colo., also heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. Jim Doremus said the campers included the entire local Mormon youth group.

• In North Carolina, one man told Carlene Evans that the day camp the Wilmington Baptist Association provides at the beach is the only opportunity for his granddaughter to hear the Gospel. The girl's mother does not take her to church, but she visits her grandparents at the beach two weeks each summer.

• Another man told of preparing to lead a worship service at a lake. A curious child asked what he was doing. The man said, "We're going to have church." The child asked, "What's church?"

• In the Estes Park, Colo., ski area, Steve Hoekstra led the manager of a mountain top restaurant to become a Christian. The manager in turn led eight of his employees to faith in

Jesus.

In addition to testimonies, the conference featured creative worship services and training seminars.

One worship service, held at the beach, highlighted a sand sculpture by Randy Hofman of Ocean City, Md. Hofman, a wood carver by trade, used shovels, a water hose, and a plastic knife to carve a life-size sand sculpture of Jesus calming the storm.

Hofman said the spectacle of sand sculpture draws a crowd, and he is able to share the significance of the sculpture and his testimony as people gather to watch him work.

The emphasis of the conference was training people to minister in resort areas where they live. Participants were encouraged to consider everything from festivals to theme parks as mission fields.

Union sponsors alumni dinner

Union University will sponsor its annual alumni and friends dinner on Nov. 13 in conjunction with the Tennessee Baptist Convention session.

The meal will begin at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Woodmont Church at the corner of Woodmont Blvd. and Hillsboro Pike.

Tickets, which are \$10 each, can be purchased in advance from the college's alumni office, at Belmont Heights Church, or at the Union booth at the convention site. Ticket sales will close at 2 p.m. at the booth on the day of the dinner.

One Woman's View *By June McEwen*

A word fitly spoken is like pitchers of silver or apples of gold so says the writer of Proverbs. Everyone engages in conversations day after day. Like many of life's everyday activities, we don't give conversation much thought. We just talk. But how many of us

claim our words are fitly spoken enough to be described as pitchers of silver or apples of gold?

I want to propose some ideas for improving conversation. These are ideas I need to apply, so this is not preaching to others without first pointing to self.

• When someone asks you a question about your work, your family, your vacation, or your travel, return the favor. Generally the questioner has something interesting to say on the topic she/he has raised.

• When someone tells you about a significant achievement, a successful venture, a pleasant trip, do you ask further questions or do you immediately try to top his story? With many folks, conversation becomes competition.

• Listen intently to what other people are saying. Don't interrupt. Don't talk over them. Don't think about your answer while the other person is talking. Not only is intent listening polite, it is an action of love.

• Borrow the counselor's strategy of repeating what you have heard. This kind of listening can become ministry as a person talks through memories, events, and problems.

Conversation can be an art. Conversation can be prayer; it can be ministry. Conversation involves both speaking and listening; it involves courtesy toward and interest in someone else. It is thus an opportunity for self-discipline as well as an occasion for learning.



McEWEN