

# Baptist and Reflector

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NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Elder's tenure to end at Sunday School Board

### Agreement reached with trustees

By Wm. Fletcher Allen and  
Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder and trustees have mutually agreed to end Elder's tenure as head of the denomination's 100-year-old education and publication agency.

In a special called meeting of the trustees Jan. 17 in Nashville, Elder presented his plan to retire, effective on the earlier of Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after a successor is named.

Approximately 400 people attended the meeting which was held in open session. It had been speculated the meeting would be held in executive session.

The employment and consultation agreement presented by the board's General Administration Committee (GAC) noted Elder's retirement "is a result of honest differences of opinion between employee and the board with regard to management style, philosophy, and performance."

The document further states the agreement "is not a result of or based upon political or theological differences between the board and employee, but rather results from the parties' honest and good faith differences with regard to the board's management."

The document stated Elder "prays that his request for retirement at this time will not and should not be a reason or basis for dissension, controversy, or disagreement within the Southern Baptist Convention."

Elder, 57, also noted in the agreement that he "intends and agrees to do

all within his power to cause and facilitate a smooth, expeditious, and harmonious transition of his administration to his successor."

Terms of the contract were proposed by Elder and his attorney.

Elder and the committee came to the agreement only about two hours before the full board met.

Tennessee pastor Gene Mims of First Church, Cleveland, and a member of the General Administration Committee, noted, "It's been a long painful process. I thought that as late as 4 p.m. today (Jan. 17) we were at an impasse, facing prospects of real pain and difficulty."

"But I was pleased at the response of the committee to Elder's initiative for early retirement. This was the best we could do."

Speculation has been rampant in recent weeks that Elder faced possible dismissal as president. The called meeting, at the written request of more than 20 trustees, was "for the purpose of evaluating and responding to the performance of Lloyd Elder."

Elder has undergone close scrutiny before. A recommendation to fire Elder was made in August 1989 at the trustees meeting in Glorietta, N.M., but later was withdrawn.

Several meetings have been held since Dec. 13 when a five-member workgroup of the GAC met to review Elder's performance.

The 17-member GAC met with Elder again on Jan. 4 and discussed several options including one in which Elder "would resign quietly within the next



**DURING MEETING** — Baptist Sunday School Board Trustee Chairman Bill Anderson, right, converses during the Jan. 17 called meeting with, from left, Dan Collins, chairman of the General Administration Committee and an attorney from Taylors, S. C.; Larry Thraikil, Nashville attorney representing the board, and President Lloyd Elder.

12 to 18 months." As late as Jan. 10, however, Elder, in a memo to the GAC, had said he would not resign.

Trustee Chairman Bill Anderson of Florida, in his opening remarks, told the trustees that, "The General Administration Committee agreed there

are problems in leadership style, especially with the president.

"Dr. Elder feels, with his attorney's advice, that it is best for him to retire," he said.

Elder then reported to the board.

(Elder's tenure, page 5)

## Hollinger named Baptist Press chief

By Polly House

NASHVILLE (BP) — Herbert V. Hollinger, editor of The California Southern Baptist has been elected vice president of Baptist Press. He plans a March 1 starting date.

Hollinger, 49, has been editor of the newsjournal of the California Southern Baptist Convention since 1983. Before that, he was editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness for five years.

An Idaho native, Hollinger received his bachelor's degree in business administration with a journalism minor from the University of Idaho in 1963. He earned a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., in 1973. He has been pastor of churches in California and Washington.

Hollinger was the unanimous choice of the president and the officers of the Executive Committee. Hollinger will join Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer; Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president; Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., vice president for business and finance; and Mark T. Coppenger, vice president for public relations, as the Executive Committee executive staff. Hollinger, Rosenbaum, and Coppenger are all subject to approval of the entire Executive Committee when the committee meets Feb. 18-20.

"Both my wife and I sought the Lord's will. Most of my ministry has been in the West, but God has given us a new direction," Hollinger said.

"I'm very interested in what happens to Baptist Press. I want to see it be the finest news service it can be,"

Hollinger added. "Frankly, I thought God might have someone else for the job, but I guess it's me."

In the election of Hollinger, Bennett cited Hollinger's "urgent feeling about the position of Baptist Press in Baptist life and his conviction that Baptist Press has a significant place in Baptist life. He has a solid commitment to missions. His work in the West and

(Hollinger named, page 4)

## Persian Gulf war begins; prayer urged

As our readers know, war began in the Persian Gulf area Jan. 16. Many Baptists families are affected by the conflict, including thousands from Tennessee.

The Baptist and Reflector will monitor continuing news, with special attention given to reports relating to our men and women and their families.

The Foreign Mission Board news office will keep us abreast of chaplaincy work and missionaries' status.

Tennessee Baptists are urged to pray fervently to our Lord for peace, safety, and salvation. Pray for our national government headed by President George Bush, and governments of all nations at war.

Let us not forget the men and women whose lives are at great risk. — Editor



**EVANGELISTS MEET** — Meeting Monday morning prior to the State Evangelism Conference in Nashville, Tennessee Baptist Evangelists elected, from left, Henry Lingenfelter, vice president; Gary Rice, music director; and Don Womack, president. Benny Jackson, right, is outgoing president. Speakers included Phil Glisson, Todd Cathey, and Richard Ratliff.

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## Editorials

# Baptist Men's Day, celebrate on January 27

Edwin Markham wrote that we are blind "until we see that in the human plan nothing is worth the making if it does not make the man."

He wrote that nothing we build is worthwhile unless "the builder also grows." In Christian service, this is true.

Baptist Men's Day is to be celebrated on Sunday, January 27. The organization is not young or new, but in Tennessee and some other state conventions, Baptist Men is on the upswing.

So, stop eating breakfast, men! It is time to serve.

Baptist men are beginning to get more involved in the mission program of the local church. Partnership Mission and like programs are reaching men who have been spectators to church growth.

Disaster work is only one area of involvement. Men are beginning to realize that Baptist men are gifted to serve, to work alongside fellow Baptists in many areas of ministry.

Tennessee men are carpenters and bricklayers, plumbers and physicians, truckers and witnesses.

More than that, Tennessee Baptist men are learning that witnessing on the job is the best way to reach people for Christ. That is ministry in fellowship, discipling new Christians.

Cameron Byler and Bob Davison work in the Brotherhood Department with enthusiasm and vigor. They are listening to men and boys when they say, "We want to minister."

They are developing ways to utilize the skills men have honed, to help them attain the best

methods of witness through their spiritual gifts.

God calls all of us as witnesses, as active ministers in all phases of our daily lives. Men of the church often have been categorized as that group which gets together one morning a month to "chow down."

That accusation has to go. No longer can that be said of Baptist men. The groups are rapidly becoming known as builders in the Biblical sense. The builders also should grow. We are all encouraged when men seize the opportunity to become better disciples as they work with their hands and minds in Tennessee and elsewhere.

That is how Jesus' first disciples experienced the Christian life. They had "on the job" training. Likewise, we encourage Tennessee Baptist men to engage themselves in Kingdom work. — WFA

## Baptists will miss Elder's leadership at BSSB

Putting January 17 in perspective is difficult. At the end of a chaotic fortnight, the Baptist Sunday School Board lost its leader.

News elsewhere in this issue describes BSSB trustees' action in accepting President Lloyd Elder's offer of early retirement in exchange for ending a long stalemate over management style, philosophy, and performance differences.

Reasons for Elder's early retirement probably go deeper than that. One observer remarked that the board just couldn't control Lloyd Elder. There was wide speculation whether Elder and his supporters on the board would continue to "fight" the opposition.

Differences between Elder and the 90-member board have been conspicuous for at least two years. BSSB meetings since 1989 have seen those differences accelerated, often dominating board meetings.

Elder has been president of the board for almost seven years. His tenure has been during the 1979-present Southern Baptist Convention struggle between "conservative" and "moderate" elements.

Though Elder emphatically declares his conservative stance, some board members don't agree. In September 1986, for example, he wrote in "Facts

and Trends," "For more than three decades I have gladly considered myself among those who are labeled Biblical conservatives."

That declaration has done him little good. Differences and disagreements continued. They did not abate even after Elder survived a severe challenge in August 1989. In that meeting a motion to fire Elder was later withdrawn. In mixed actions, the trustees rebuked him for what some perceived as involvement in denominational politics but expressed their support to him.

Differences were spelled out in the January 17 meeting. President Elder spoke to each charge, and to his credit, gave a good accounting of progress in the 17 programs of service. He reminded board members that financial losses could not be pinned on leadership entirely and cited their role.

A charge of taping telephone calls tabbed by the General Administration Committee as breach of ethics, was not proven. Elder steadfastly denied the charge — and board attorney Robert Thomas stated that it was not a big issue.

During the weeks prior to January 17, several meetings have been held in Nashville by board committees as options were discussed with the president. Elder's wife Sue was hospitalized for heart

surgery on December 24, exacerbating the situation.

Elder declined to resign, as one option suggested, coming out of an earlier January meeting.

It must be noted that Elder has served as CEO of a mammoth \$190 million operation with more than 1800 employees.

Baptists will individually make their conclusions about the retirement and its terms. After the meeting some of the audience challenged the board's motives toward Elder. We believe Elder has provided sound leadership despite the impasse with trustees. The Baptist Sunday School Board loses a good leader when his work concludes.

When he leaves office, it may be the end of a distinguished denominational career. Regardless of the trustees' motives or reasons, the fact is that Elder joins several others who have left or been dismissed since the power swing: Randall Lolley, Southeastern Seminary president; Al Shackelford and Dan Martin, Baptist Press editors; and Martin Bradley and Lee Porter lost (or will lose) their elected SBC secretarial posts.

Elder's retirement package can be regarded not as a reward for mismanagement nor for leaving office early, but for effective leadership. He deserves that interpretation. — WFA

## Church meets basic, spiritual needs of military families

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — A grandmother, a newlywed, and a woman expecting her third child have found comfort in unity, though their lives are marred by separation.

They are three of 14 women who meet weekly in the military support ministry of Windsor Forest Church in Savannah, Ga. Their common denominator is that their husbands are in the Middle East with Operation Desert Shield.

"All we're doing is trying to keep up their morale and praying a lot," says Nita Lambert, group coordinator.

Lambert's summation oversimplifies the group's structure. Seventy-five church members are involved in the ministry, which began in August. Church members provide child care during the 90-minute meetings and transportation to the church. Sunday School classes take turns providing refreshments.

Perhaps the group called upon most often is the basic repairs committee. Lambert said church members have installed home security lights and repaired cars for the military wives.

During one meeting, a plumber brought a new toilet and demonstrated its upkeep. Another church member prepared a booklet of similar suggestions, such as instructions to check the fuse first if the clothes dryer quits working.

The weekly meetings are divided

into two 45-minute segments. The first is practical advice on everything from budgets to babies.

The second segment involves counseling and support. "That's when we find out their real problems," Lambert says. Discipline for children, loneliness, and uncertainty about the future are inevitable topics of conversation.

In addition, Lambert calls each person involved in the group every week to see if she has any unexpected needs.

Only three of the group's 14 regulars are church members. The meetings are advertised each week through public service radio, television, and newspaper announcements. The group is open to "anyone who can hear or read the announcement," Lambert says.

The church works with chaplain Brett Travis at Savannah's Hunter Army Airfield to find people who might benefit from the support group.

Travis, a Southern Baptist, says such support groups "open doors in the community to share Christ." They give the church a chance to "look into the eyes of conflict and say there is hope."

Travis offers the following suggestions for establishing a ministry to families of people stationed in the Middle East:

- Work with the chaplain at the nearest military base. Ask one church member to attend Sunday morning chapel at the post "in order to keep a

pulse on changes that are occurring."

- "The pastor needs to take a very positive role from the pulpit. He needs to make a statement about what the church represents to the community in a time of crisis," Travis says.

- "Discuss what the Bible says about conflict and how the church fits into that."

- Ask church members with military experience to be leaders in the program because of the credibility they will have with other military families.

- Be creative in approaches to sup-

port groups. Try a Saturday morning prayer breakfast or weekly prayer luncheon as a Middle East support group.

- Be informed about the role of chaplains. Ask a military chaplain to speak during a church service. Prayerfully support their ministry.

Even churches not near a military base can minister to people who have family members in the Middle East. Rather than leading a support group for spouses, such churches could offer support groups to parents or siblings of people stationed in the Middle East.

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# Baptist workers in Israel endure Iraqi missile attack

By Mike Creswell

*Editor's note: Mike Creswell, Baptist Press correspondent for Europe and the Middle East, is covering the impact of the gulf war from a base in Cyprus.*

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — Southern Baptist personnel in Israel wore gas masks and sat huddled in sealed rooms as missiles from Iraq screamed through the air, exploding close enough for some to hear the blasts and feel the shock vibrations during early morning hours Jan. 18.

No Southern Baptist workers were injured as Iraqi missiles struck Tel Aviv and another struck in Haifa just after 2 a.m. Other missiles were reported to have fallen in unpopulated areas.

Although the opening round of missiles carried conventional loads and not deadly chemicals, the workers said they fear this may be only the opening salvo in a continuing missile attack on Israel.

David Groseclose of Melbourne, Fla., who lives in central Haifa, guessed the missile that hit his city may have impacted six miles away, close enough for him to hear the explosion.

Groseclose, who is single, said it was a frightening experience. "You're awakened from sleep by sirens. Your heart starts beating quickly. You're nervous. You don't know if it's just a drill. You can't be sure, so you turn the light on. You get up and start looking for your gas mask. You turn the radio on, because that will tell you if it's real or not."

"Then you hear BOOM, BOOM. You know it's real. You put your gas mask on. It's uncomfortable. You want to see

what the booms are, but you don't go out. You listen to the radio with your stomach churning," Groseclose said of the episode. When he finally was able to look outside his apartment, he could see smoke in the distance.

Later in the day Groseclose was able to call Christian believers with whom he works. "They are nervous, but not panicking," he said. One believer told him, "You're in the safest place you can be — the arms of the Lord."

Thomas and Martha Hocutt of Birmingham, Ala. and Cedartown, Ga., who live on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, also were awakened by air raid sirens and scrambled with their daughter into their sealed room, taping up the door and putting wet towels against it to keep out potential poison gas.

"By the time we were in the room and had the door shut, we heard the first explosion. Shortly afterwards, we heard two more explosions which sounded like sonic booms more than explosions," Hocutt said.

He guessed he was hearing the missiles that struck Tel Aviv.

"They came in quickly. There was little advance warning," he said. "It was very frightening. For me, it probably was the most frightening experience I've ever been through. Breathing in through a filter and expelling air through it makes it harder to breathe. The tension level was so high right then that it took us a long while to relax and be able to breathe properly."

Although the missiles were classified as carrying small explosive loads, Hocutt said a Jerusalem newspaper carried a photo of one missile explosion site that showed two demolished

cars and the front of a building knocked off. "It reminded me of Beirut — that's what it looks like," he said.

When he went out briefly later in the morning to buy the newspaper, he said most people out on the streets were carrying their gas masks with them.

Ray and Suzane Altman of Post and Slaton, Texas, who live outside Tel Aviv, said the missiles that struck Tel Aviv were close enough to shake the ground where they were.

When Altman heard the air raid sirens, he quickly woke up his wife and they hustled to get their four sleepy children dressed, sealed into their "safe room" and wearing gas masks. Mrs. Altman said it was hard to make their daughter Sarah, age three, wear her mask. Their other children are Leah, ten; Adam, eight; and Noah, six.

The Altmans were to travel Jan. 18 to a hotel in what is considered to be a safer location. They were joining Southern Baptist workers Norm and Martha Lytle of Gadsden, Ala., and Jim and Kathy Sibley of Dallas and their two teenage daughters.

Dale Thorne, area director for Southern Baptist work in the Middle East, and Bob Fields, associate director, were up most of the night calling personnel in Israel to ascertain their safety. There was some question for several hours about the status of volunteer Suzanne Griffin, who had been scheduled to leave Tel Aviv on a flight just minutes after the missiles landed.

The Iraqi attack started just 20 minutes before Griffin, of Fayetteville, Ark., was scheduled to leave Tel Aviv on a 2:30 a.m. Tower Air jetliner with

an undisclosed number of passengers. The attack did not disrupt the jet's departure, according to the New York-based company.

The flight stopped in Brussels, Belgium, where Griffin boarded a Sabena Airlines jet scheduled to arrive first in Boston at 1:30 p.m. EST Jan. 18 then in Atlanta at 5 p.m. Sabena officials confirmed Griffin was on the flight, said her sister, Tiffany Matherly of Fayetteville. Griffin had completed two years of work in Israel as a Southern Baptist volunteer.

Communicating with Southern Baptist workers in Israel was complicated by jammed telephone lines, making phone calls into the country difficult. Also, telephones of some workers were not in their sealed safe rooms, and during alerts they were unable to leave their rooms to answer calls.

Despite the horrors of continuing war, all the remaining workers said they still feel comfortable about their decisions to remain in the country. The Altmans had tried to book passage out of the country before war broke out in the early morning hours of Jan. 17, but were unable to do so.

Jan. 18 was Mrs. Altman's birthday, meaning Southern Baptists across the nation were praying for her. "I could really feel the prayer support," she said.

Although Southern Baptist administrators stayed in touch with personnel in Israel and consulted with them on the options of leaving, the choice to go or stay was up to the workers. Some personnel elected to evacuate to the United States and others to Cyprus.

# Foreign missionaries face threat of terrorism in days ahead

By Mary E. Speidel

RICHMOND (BP) — "Face after face after face" flashed through her mind.

When she learned allied missiles had hit Iraq Jan. 17, "All I could see was faces," said a Southern Baptist representative now in Western Europe.

The faces were of Arab friends she made while working in the Middle East for more than a decade. "I know so many people there," she said of the region. "I'm praying that somehow out

of this God would work some kind of miracle."

The woman was among many Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide who prayed for miracles as the Gulf war began Jan. 17. And as war broke out, foreign missionaries — including those living outside the Middle East — realized they could be potential targets of terrorism against Americans abroad.

Iraq has warned a U.S. attack would cause that nation to unleash a wave of

terrorism against American targets. In light of the threat, airports and U.S. military bases around the world have stepped up security.

The U.S. State Department has issued a travel advisory warning all Americans abroad to "be aware of the threat of terrorist actions against U.S. citizens or property in other locations worldwide." The advisory gives specific warnings for Europe, north Africa, the Persian Gulf region, and south Asia.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials in Richmond have sent the advisory to mission administrators living overseas, according to board officials. Those administrators decide how best to share the information with missionaries on the field, officials said.

Keith Parker, the board's area director for Europe, issued a statement Jan. 17 to all mission chairmen in Europe. He advised missionaries to "be alert and have a low profile," to keep in touch with the nearest American consulate, and to be aware of anyone who may be acting suspiciously.

Parker pointed out that Americans in Europe have lived with the threat of terrorism for years. "This is not something new," he said, naming several terrorist groups that have been active throughout Europe.

"You can go to almost every country or every part of Europe and find most of our missionaries have learned over the years how to avoid the places where these folks (terrorist groups) might be focusing their attention," he said.

John Faulkner, area director of eastern and southern Africa missions, reported that the State Department travel advisory has been sent to every missionary in his area along with other security information. "Please assure parents, families, and relatives that missionaries are being careful," Faulkner told officials in Richmond.

In addition, officials in the board's volunteer department are informing Southern Baptist volunteers of the travel advisory. Officials met Jan. 18 to discuss further details of volunteer travel. Several overseas trips for Foreign Mission Board staff members already have been postponed because of the advisory.

Several Southern Baptist representatives in Europe contacted by Baptist Press said they were heeding the State Department advisory.

"We're keeping a low profile as Americans," said one representative in Western Europe. He said he and his family are avoiding any America-affiliated institutions and are careful about not speaking English to one another while outside their home.

News reports said the European countries at greatest risk for potential terrorism are Germany, France, and England. Police across Europe have tightened security at airports, embassies, and other places considered possible targets of terrorism. American schools were closed as a precaution in some European cities.

# Housing benefits considered income for tax credit

WASHINGTON (BP) — While members of the clergy are not required to pay federal income tax on housing benefits they receive, those benefits are considered earned income in determining a taxpayer's eligibility for an Earned Income Credit.

The Earned Income Credit is credit of up to \$953 allowed taxpayers with one or more children whose earned income is at least \$1 but less than \$20,264.

An IRS spokesman said a number of ministers in recent years have mistakenly applied for the credit because they failed to count their non-taxable housing allowance or the rental value of a parsonage as earned income.

In determining their eligibility for the credit, taxpayers must include the total of their taxable and non-taxable earned income.

The IRS has no specific figures on the number of ministers who mistakenly have calculated their qualification for the Earned Income Credit by fail-

ing to count their non-taxable housing benefits as earned income, an agency spokesman said. She further stated that the IRS has no information that ministers deliberately had eligibility for the credit, which is deducted from taxes owed or refunded in cases in which no taxes are owed.

When all U.S. taxpayers are considered, errors in calculating the Earned Income Credit rank in the top ten most frequently made mistakes each year, often in the top five, according to the IRS.

Beginning with 1991 tax returns to be filed in 1992, the IRS hopes to reduce some of the apparent confusion regarding the Earned Income Credit by requiring taxpayers to complete a form, schedule or worksheet to be attached to their tax return. Currently taxpayers use a worksheet provided by IRS to compute the credit, but keep the worksheet with their records rather than including it as part of their tax return.

# Tennessee Baptist trustees comment on Elder's decision

By *Connie Davis and Lonnie Wilkey*  
**NASHVILLE** — Reaction to the Baptist Sunday School Board Jan. 17 called meeting included a turnout of about 400 observers, who overflowed into another room to watch a broadcast of the proceedings. Most observers, including many BSSB employees, declined to comment on the meeting. Four of the Tennessee trustees contacted by the Baptist and Reflector did comment on the meeting.

Humboldt Pastor Dennis Lunsford of Antioch Church said he was "excited" to be a Southern Baptist.

"This could have been a whole lot worse. I think we can put this behind us and get on with what we're supposed to be about."

Lunsford added he was "sad this had to happen. But I believe God is not finished with Southern Baptists."

Trustee Robert York, who is administrator of Investment and Financial Planning, Nashville, and member, First Church, Nashville, believes Elder's agreement to retire came as a result of pressure by the trustee committee reviewing his performance and "constant haranguing."

Similar actions will continue until all of the offices of the SBC are filled with hand-picked individuals, he said, adding, "I always thought I was conservative but they stole my name."

Charges of financial irresponsibility are "absolutely ludicrous," said York. "The 'conservatives' have soundly criticized the literature and I hasten to say some of their criticism was on target." The criticism caused falling

sales, York noted, but added the board and staff have worked together to remedy the problems.

Neither the charge of unethical taping of phone conversations nor Elder's handling of the centennial history were grounds for dismissal, claimed York.

"In big corporations there are crises everyday. I've worked with some . . . People don't just jump up and fire the CEO. They sit down and work it out."

"We're losing a good man. It takes a lot of years to learn to be a CEO of a corporation that large," concluded York.

Bob Pitman, trustee and pastor, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, said he was "saddened that we could not work out some other alternative."

"I was unaware of the agreement (concerning Elder) until the meeting was convened and I was surprised."

## Hollinger named BP chief . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Northwest will help him prepare for similar mission-related activities in the SBC. As a former pastor, he has a pastor's heart and understanding.

"From a journalism point of view, he grew up in the newspaper business. His father owned and operated newspapers. Herb has worked in newspapers most of his life." Bennett added, "His educational background will suit him well for the position. His degree in business will help in running Baptist Press, as will his minor in journalism and years of experience in newspaper work."

Hollinger will "bring a new day of respect for Baptist Press on the part of

The charges against Elder "really did not have a lot of bearing on what I perceived in the meeting as much as Dr. Elder's plan to retire."

"I have confidence in the men on the General Administration Committee. There was no dishonesty on their part at all," he noted.

"I don't see the controversy (SBC) in this. I really don't. I feel there was a difference of opinion on managerial style between Dr. Elder and the board. The controversy was not a factor in my own personal decision," he said, adding the vote on the amendment revealed the "diversity of the board rather than a political machine," said Pitman.

Pitman said he voted against the amendment to deny Elder continued service as president because he felt Elder should be president when the

Centennial Tower, which is under construction, is dedicated.

"The spirit of the meeting was excellent. There were no unChristlike spokesmen. . . . I hurt for the employees of the board because I know some of them were openly upset."

The agreement "was very generous and represented the best of intentions from the board," Pitman concluded.

Raymond Davis said, "I appreciated the spirit of the meeting. Each of us had freedom to express what we felt."

The pastor of Ewtonville Church, Dunlap, predicted everyone "will pull together to have a smooth transition to lead the board to fulfill the role Southern Baptists have assigned to us."

Davis said he felt the amendment should have passed, "but since it didn't I will work within the framework of the document we have."

Hollinger was the man He wanted."

One of the most significant things the Executive Committee has done, according to Sullivan, is to separate the public relations department from Baptist Press. Sullivan added, "Now, we have a way to get out what we want through the public relations arena and we don't have to rely on every bit of information going out through the news."

After Hollinger begins the position, he will give direction to the employing of a second professional-level staff member for Baptist Press, according to Bennett.

Hollinger and his wife, Mary, have three grown children, Doug, Kerri, and Tracy.

all Baptists," said Charles Sullivan, a pastor from Lenoir City, Tenn., and chairman of the Executive Committee's administration and convention arrangements subcommittee. "He also will exemplify the broadest balance in reporting news. He will help to restore the credibility of Baptist Press in the minds of both the public media and the religious media. I'm fully convinced he is going to be God's man and God's voice in the time in which we've come," he added.

God led Bennett and the officers to Hollinger, according to Sullivan. "We interviewed some of the finest men across the convention. We could have been pleased with more than one of them, but God showed us that Herb

## Our Readers Write

### Trustees' action

Concerning your editorial of Jan. 9, I feel that Tennessee Baptists should immediately sever all relations with any institution that removes itself from our control. I doubt that we have any legal grounds for reversing the action of the trustees of Baptist Hospital, Nashville. I do feel, however, that the trustees violated a legal trust to Tennessee Baptists and would be held personally liable for the financial loss to the Tennessee Baptist Convention if suit were filed in a court of law.

I am prepared to offer a motion at the next annual meeting that any trustee of any Tennessee Baptist Convention institution who votes to alter or sever that institution's relationship with the Tennessee Baptist Convention without convention approval be barred from ever holding any office or position, within the

Tennessee Baptist Convention.

*Edward R. Futrell*, pastor  
 Southside Church  
 1928 Wheeler St.  
 Johnson City 37604

### Questions trustees' action

The recent action of the trustees of the Nashville Baptist Hospital is beyond my comprehension. I cannot understand how a body of people could so deliberately violate a sacred trust that had been committed to them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The action of the trustees says that the Baptists of Tennessee do not own and operate the institution. Rather, it is owned and operated by the trustees. If that be true for one institution, then I presume it is legally true for all. In my mind, the action of the trustees constitutes boardroom theft. They have stolen one of the major institutions of the convention.

I have no doubt that the services of the hospital will continue as in the past. But the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its cooperative mission ministries will not. The action of the Nashville Baptist Hospital trustees has destroyed the foundation upon which our cooperative ministries rest — trust. That trust is now effectively destroyed.

I wish it were not so.

*J. William Bargiol*  
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— Tennessee Baptist Convention leaders are dialoging with Baptist Hospital officials about the December action which said hospital trustees could elect their successors. — Editor

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

Peter and John, disciples of Christ, met a man in need one day on their way to worship. He was lame, and Peter said to him in answer to his plea for charity,

"In the name of Jesus Christ, walk!" Peter did not pause to estimate the penalty of such an act. It did not occur to him that the man might not obey. Walk, was his command. Walk in the name of Jesus Christ.

The religious leaders, who would have none of this Jesus and His followers, gave orders to Peter and John not to refer to or teach in the name of Jesus. An absurd order! In boldness and candor, the two men answered that they could not refrain from telling what they had seen and heard.

The church, the individual, certainly are strongest when they are tested. A fiery challenge gives impetus to growing Christian faith. The blasé attitudes, the self-sufficient feelings, the "don't rock the boat" people, will be swept aside when the challenge comes as it came to Peter and John.

Almost ten years ago I read about Eugene Raevsky. He was a Baptist district superintendent in the Soviet Union, much like our directors of missions.

When Raevsky leaves his home to visit his field as a Baptist district superintendent, he leaves his home in Irkutsk to cover a territory that is 5000 miles east to west. He packs enough

clothing for two months.

Raevsky covers the largest Baptist district in the world most likely. The district is extensive, ranging from the Arctic Sea to the borders of China and Mongolia.

But the land mass is not Eugene's greatest obstacle. Think of the constant hazard of his work in an atheistic state. He's of the Peter and John type.

And the people to whom Raevsky ministers, who are they? Consider their method of baptism. Candidates return to the sanctuary immediately after baptism. The pastor stands before them and, with raised hands, prays for the Holy Spirit's continuing visitation.

Then friends come forward with bouquets and greet them with hugs and kisses of welcome. All this, at that time, with government spies sitting in the congregation.

When has your faith been under attack? Should it be? There is no blasé attitude in Raevsky's area churches, nor was there a status quo feeling in Peter's thinking when he said, "Walk!"

It is time to walk, stepping out in the name of Jesus Christ.



ALLEN

**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.**

# Elder's tenure to end at board . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"We have been through some difficult weeks," he told them. "We have looked at some options, and moved forward in our process.

"We had come down to a couple of choices. It had been my hope that we could work together. The General Administration Committee heard me carefully and sincerely during the hours we talked.

"I wanted to work with them in orderly transition. First, what is best for the board, then, what is best for Southern Baptists — and what is best for Lloyd Elder . . .

"I have been willing to serve at the will of the board, effectively, hoping for the good will of the board. If we can't come to that, then we have a painful situation."

Elder discussed the centennial year theme of "Celebrating Hope, Entering Our Second Century." He stressed moving into the next century with hope. "This meeting is about the way we enter that century," he said.

He reported on the 17 programs of work under the Sunday School Board umbrella. "It is the hope and dream of my heart that we honor God through these programs in the next century," he said.

In discussing problems with the manuscript of the centennial history written by Leon McBeth, which the trustees voted not to publish, Elder said there was evidence of mistakes "in managing the manuscript for which I have apologized. There was no breach of integrity."

He talked about other Sunday School Board projects — the New American Commentary, Growing Churches, etc. He discussed financial stability, noting revenue increased from \$96 million in 1979-80 to almost \$172 million in 1988-89. The board's current budget is \$190.4 million.

When Elder concluded his report, Anderson told the board, "Much that thrills us was in that report, but the General Administration Committee

still brings its recommendation to accept Dr. Elder's retirement."

Dan Collins, committee chairman and attorney from Taylors, S.C., introduced an outside parliamentarian for the meeting, Lee Demeter. According to a board spokesman, this was the first time trustees have used a paid parliamentarian in recent history.

Collins explained the committee had met for many hours, some for as much as 70 hours.

"We have seen and reviewed all this material for Dr. Elder's report," he said. "We discussed yesterday (Jan. 16) our preliminary report. We received Dr. Elder's early retirement proposal. All of this has been reviewed with counsel from the board's attorney. The vote of this committee is unanimous to recommend to you Dr. Elder's proposal."

Collins explained the agreement to board members as they received copies. The retirement would be effective Jan. 1, 1992, or 30 days after the appointment of a successor, whichever is earlier.

Elder would serve as a consultant until April 1, 1993, during which he would receive full salary and benefits. His current salary is \$135,800 (BSSB does not receive Cooperative Program funds). After that point he would receive retirement income and a supplement from the board up to 50 percent of his present salary. Elder's wife would receive half of those benefits if Elder precedes her in death.

Elder also would receive his board automobile after serving as consultant and office furniture when he leaves as president. The board would pay certain expenses in post-employment. He would agree to a non-competition clause.

In addition to the McBeth publication, Collins cited the failure of three business ventures with losses of about \$20-\$25 million as another cause for concern. Collins noted the president had been warned by the business and

finance committee of trends in declining sales.

Another point discussed by Collins involved "ethical issues." It later developed that the committee felt telephone calls with Elder had been taped. Members of the committee agreed, including Chairman Anderson, who acknowledged there was a signed affidavit to that effect.

The issue was discussed but not brought to conclusive agreement.

Board attorney Robert Thomas said, "I was taped without my knowledge. However, I do not think this board needs to make that big of an issue out of this. There are a lot more things to discuss tonight. It is not that big of an issue."

Elder refuted all the charges of taping. "Telephone calls coming into my office are not taped. They never are. Employees do not tape telephone conversations." He said only conversations in a conference call were taped, "and then with permission. On occasion these conference calls have been taped, but always with knowledge. Your personal calls into and from my office have not been, are not taped. There is no need to. That's the best I know how to answer this concern."

After Collins' presentation, the motion to accept Elder's retirement was placed before the trustees.

Memphis layman Roland Maddox amended the recommendation so that Elder would retire as president "immediately."

Citing the reports of Elder and the GAC and their differences, Maddox said, "It is not in the board's best interests for him to remain. I recommend that Dr. Elder retire immediately."

Maddox added that as a business practice "it is not good for a president to stay. He has made his decision to retire."

Several trustees spoke for and against the amendment. Frank Zamora of New Mexico noted the agreement reached between the president and the committee should be honored.

An attempt was made to call for the question. Trustee Bill Wilson of Brentwood, however, on personal privilege, appealed that debate should not be cut off. "We should all be given the opportunity to speak. This is an important issue," he said.

Debate continued for about an hour. Trustee Robert York of Nashville spoke against the amendment. "The committee said they can work with Dr. Elder for another year. We ought to listen to them. It is a big step to let him go. We ought to accept the proposal."

Trustee Joe Knott of North Carolina disagreed. "We are in no way being unkind. It is a generous package. It is not in the best interest of the board to have potential for further conflict. A clean break is in everyone's best interest."

During the amendment debate, SBC President Morris Chapman, a trustee by virtue of his position, spoke against the amendment.

"I believe in the best interests of the board and of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said, "this amendment should be defeated. We should accept the recommendation of the committee. I appeal for cooperation with the committee. Dr. Elder has agreed to bring no dissension to the board or the con-

vention. I am willing to trust him."

In a roll call vote, trustees defeated the amendment by a 41-31 vote, with one abstention. Tennesseans against the amendment were Leon Bolton Memphis; Judy Beeler, Knoxville; Billie Friel, Mt. Juliet; Burgess Guinn, Cornersville; Roy Miller, Lexington; Robert Pitman, Memphis; Bill Wilson, Brentwood; and Robert York, Nashville. Voting for the amendment were Raymond Davis, Dunlap; Dennis Lunsford, Humboldt; Roland Maddox, Memphis; and Jerry Sutton, Nashville.

Trustees then voted to accept Elder's retirement with two dissenting votes.

SBC President Chapman asked to speak to the board and audience at the conclusion of the meeting. "I am grateful for the chairman and the GAC chairman, and for the decency and order and spirit in which the business tonight has been transacted.



**AFTERWARDS** — Sue and Lloyd Elder shared a private moment after adjournment of the called trustees meeting in which an agreement was adopted by which he will take early retirement.

"Operating by the will of the majority is the way we as Baptists do things. My challenge to all of us is to express thanks to God that He has led. Our vote is on record. As trustees we must support our chairman and be sure we are enhancing the work of the board."

After the meeting, Collins said the committee was always interested in truth and mercy. "The matter was crucial," he said.

"Southern Baptists must know the concern of the General Administration Committee was to present the situation fairly. There were good and valid reasons to accept Dr. Elder's proposal.

"There were concerns about mismanagement of the centennial manuscript. He acknowledged some mistakes. There also has been a loss of confidence in leadership, a crisis of trust.

"Dr. Elder and his attorney brought the proposal to us and it was thoroughly discussed and reviewed — as late as this afternoon (Thursday)."

Answering speculation that the board had pressured Elder to resign or retire so a "conservative" could be placed at the Sunday School Board position, Collins said, "There is absolutely no agenda on my part — nor on the committee's actions. In fact, we were concerned about what would happen if we were left suddenly without a president," he said, in referring to the amendment that was proposed

## Elder — 'for orderly transition'

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — The conviction that his best available option was to facilitate an orderly transition of administrations led Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder to propose his own early retirement.

Trustees of the board adopted an agreement with Elder, 57, during a called meeting Jan. 17 in which he will retire Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after his successor is named, whichever comes first. He will then continue employment as a consultant until April 1, 1993.

"I serve at the will of the board (of trustees)," Elder told Baptist Press Jan. 18. "I serve effectively at the good will of the board. When that's gone, what you have is a position, not leadership."

Reiterating comments he made to trustees prior to their adoption of the agreement, Elder said he and the General Administration Committee explored many options in the final days and hours before the Jan. 17 meeting. The committee and Elder reached agreement only about two hours before the full trustee board convened.

"As far as I'm concerned, we

came down to two options — rebuild trust and stability or provide for an orderly transition," said Elder. "It had been my hope we would re-establish our trust. That was an option we worked on.

"Failing that, the priority became providing for an orderly transition for the board," he said.

Elder said he chose not to resign prior to the called meeting because "the board (of trustees) needed to have an opportunity to determine if I stayed."

Elder declined to outline details of negotiations with the General Administration Committee.

"I am continuing to honor the executive session of the committee regarding material which did not become public information" during the called meeting, he said.

His upcoming retirement has not dimmed his commitment to the Sunday School Board or its mission, Elder emphasized. "I'm committed to working with the board of trustees in every way possible toward an orderly transition. My next assignment is getting ready for a regularly scheduled board meeting Feb. 4-6."

# Four Oklahoma Baptists die in a plane crash

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Four Oklahoma Baptists, including two employees of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and one Oklahoma Baptist University professor, were killed Jan. 14 when their small plane crashed just south of Oklahoma City.

Killed in the crash were Paul Magar, BGCO director of church music and his wife, Judy; Mary June Tabor, BGCO assistant director of church music; and James D. Woodward, artist-in-residence and former dean of the college of fine arts at OBU. Woodward was also serving as church music consultant for the BGCO.

The four had been in Woodward, a city in northwestern Oklahoma, for a concert with the Singing Church

Women, a choral group organized in October 1989. They took off from Woodward after the concert and were on final approach to Will Rogers World Airport when the plane went down northeast of Newcastle, Okla. No cause was immediately determined for the crash.

Magar, 46, had worked with the BGCO church music department since 1978, serving as an associate until 1989 when he was chosen to lead the department. Born in Kansas, he attended OBU and Central State University. He received his bachelor's degree from Northeastern Oklahoma State University and did graduate work at Oklahoma University.

Magar and his wife, Judy, sang at a number of state conferences and

retreats. They are survived by one daughter, Melissa Vines, 22.

Tabor, 60, had worked for the convention since 1951. She started in the business manager's office, but moved to church music in 1954. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, she worked with Gene Bartlett until he retired in 1980.

Tabor also was secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference for 20 years. She had no immediate family.

Woodward, 58, was born in Lexington, Ky., and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1954. He received a masters in church music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1956.

He was minister of music at churches in Macon, Ga.; Vineville, Okla.; and Tulsa, Okla., before becoming chairman of the church music department at OBU in 1966. In 1973, he was named dean of the college of fine arts at OBU. In 1986 he became artist-in-residence.

In 1962, Woodward also became conductor of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma, and recorded eight Gospel albums with the group. He also directed the Singing Church Women. In addition, he co-organized and was first conductor of the Centurymen, a nationwide choral organization made up of Baptist ministers of music.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Shaw; daughter Julia, 32, and son James David Jr., 30.

## CLC's Land travels to Europe to lobby against abortion pill

WASHINGTON (BP) — Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, recently participated in a series of meetings in Europe that could prove crucial in the ongoing effort to prevent RU-486, the French abortion pill, from being introduced in the United States.

Land was among 11 persons who traveled to Germany and France Dec. 10-14 to inform officials of the companies involved with RU-486 of the opposition to it in this country. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved the importation of RU-486 for personal use. RU-486 is legal in France and is distributed widely by the French medical community.

Land said he was greatly encouraged by the response of the companies' officials.

"I came away with a clear impression that they understood the situation in the United States was very different from the situation in France and that abortion was not 'widely accepted' in this country," he said. "They are now very much more aware of the difficulties that would arise and the controversy that would inevitably follow attempts to market RU-486 in this country."

The participants included Jack Wilke, president of the National Right to Life Committee; Phyllis Schlafly, president of Eagle Forum; Tom Minnery, vice president of Focus on the Family, and representatives from Concerned Women for America, Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod, American Academy of Medical Ethics, International Right to Life Federation, Knights of Columbus as well as others

from National Right to Life, which planned the trip.

The group met with officials of Roussel Uclaf, the French company that manufactures RU-486; Rhone-Poulenc, which holds 35 percent interest in Roussel Uclaf; and Hoechst, A.G., which possesses a majority share in Roussel. Hoechst is located in Frankfurt, Germany. Roussel and Rhone-Poulenc are in Paris.

"Our message was loud and clear, and I believe got through..." Wilke said. "What we can say for sure is that the myth of 'limited opposition' to RU-486 has been completely shattered."

The trip was planned to offset the lobbying efforts of pro-abortion groups from the United States that already had visited the companies' officials, Land said. Its purpose also was to make certain the corporate executives understood that this country did not meet some of the guidelines that their own corporations had drawn up in determining in which countries to seek to introduce the abortion pill, he said.

Land said the protocol established by the corporations included the following limitations: (1) abortion should be legal in any country in which RU-486 is introduced, (2) abortion should be widely accepted, and (3) a sophisticat-

ed health-care system should exist to ensure proper usage of the abortion drug.

The group stressed to the officials that the United States fails these tests because abortion is "an extremely divisive issue" in this country and because many of the women and girls who would use RU-486 would not have satisfactory medical supervision, Land said.

"The reason this was laid down as one of the protocols by the companies involved is that they know that if RU-486 is not used in conjunction with a highly developed and sophisticated health-care delivery system it will result in large numbers of deaths of women who will have complications from the use of this drug," Land said.

He said the group made it clear that marketing the abortion pill in the United States "would create a fire-storm of controversy."

The group also expressed its opposition to the distribution of RU-486 in Third World countries, which definitely would not have "any semblance or form of a well-developed health-care system," Land said.

He said the trip "shows that the pro-life movement can accomplish a great deal when it is pro-active rather than reactive."

## Nepal Christians openly stage first Christmas celebrations

KATMANDU, Nepal (BP) — For the first time ever, Christians in Nepal openly celebrated Christmas.

Christians in the capital city of Katmandu staged open-air meetings, organized public carol singing, and pasted Christmas greetings on walls.

Observers said a large crowd gathered in Katmandu for an evangelistic rally in mid-December sponsored by the Nepal Bible Society. Nepali church leaders preached and sold thousands of Christian books and New Testaments.

"We need to take our opportunity now to show that we as Christians are part of Nepalese society," said Nepal Bible Society Director Loknath Maena. "If we're silent now, we may not

## Registration planned for SBC childcare

ATLANTA (BP) — Registration for on-site childcare for preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention is now being accepted.

Registration material is available by writing to SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o WRBC, 3626 Peachtree Road, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30326.

The material will include information about childcare policies, hours of operation, fees, and registration forms.

Childcare registration will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents are urged to write for registration materials immediately.

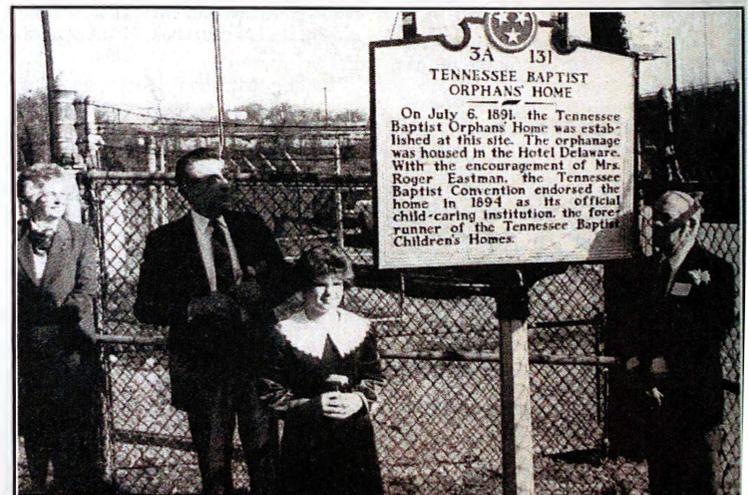
be recognized after the election" in April to select a new legislature to govern the country.

On Christmas Eve the Nepal Christian Fellowship organized a program in Katmandu's largest auditorium. Nepali Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai sent Christmas greetings to the gathering. Christians at the meeting petitioned the government to recognize Christmas Day as a national holiday.

"I hope when people see that Christians are respected by the leaders of the country that the general attitude towards us will slowly change," said Tirtha Thapa, Nepal Christian Fellowship general secretary. He recalled the persecution the Christian minority has faced in recent years.

Until mass demonstrations toppled King Birendra's absolute monarchy last April, Christians were persecuted for their faith in Nepal, the world's only Hindu state. Previously, Christians convicted of proselytizing received six-year prison terms; religious conversion brought a one-year sentence.

Church leaders acknowledged during the Christmas celebrations that such Christian activities would have been impossible just a year ago under the previous government. Since pro-democracy demonstrations ended a ban on political parties and established a multiparty system, Bhattarai's interim government has been tolerant toward all segments of society.



**MARKER UNVEILED** — The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes recently placed a historical marker at the site of the Tennessee Baptist Orphans' Home in west Nashville, the forerunner of today's children's homes. Participating in the service were, from left, Katharine Bryan, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union; TBCH Executive Director Gerald Stow; Stephanie Marie Neal, a current resident at the Franklin campus; and Larry Poston, of Nashville, who was a resident of TBCH from 1927-37.

# Soviet Baptist family finds freedom from persecution

By *Connie Davis, assistant editor*  
 KNOXVILLE — "Gorbachev, one man — communists no help Gorbachev. . . . Communist government, one day OK, other day. I don't know," said Ivan Tanasov about his homeland, the Soviet Union.

"I am Baptist . . . no OK people . . . no college, no good job," explained Tanasov when asked why he and his family left home and family as religious refugees. They may have known little more about their future than they were coming to Tennessee, said Alan Hull of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, the family's sponsor.

Ivan, 32, Liya, 31, and daughters Olga, five, and Mariya, four, speak very little English — they have been in the United States for only two months — but their friendliness marked by ready smiles and their commitment to God is clear.

To communicate, Liya shared photographs taken of her baptism with about 20 others. The photograph included 50 or more gathered near a body of water for the ceremony. Both Liya and Ivan knew the exact dates of their baptisms. They are the third generation of Baptists in their families.

Baptists are a small minority in this area. In the U.S.S.R. school students are taught "capitalism-bad, God — no, people, Christian — crazy," Tanasov explained.

Even before increased religious freedom made the possibility more viable, Tanasov dreamt of coming to the United States, he said. His dream began when he had completed his military service, but the move was difficult. In addition to several years of delay before acceptance of his application, the family was limited to bringing \$600 to the U.S. A lack of information forced them to arrive at the Moscow airport for their flight to the U.S. 15 days early. They stayed at the airport for fear of missing their flight even though they discovered it was difficult to buy food without the proper documentation.

The couple seem content with their decision. "Moldavia — very bad food, shoes, clothes, religion — little bit," reporting on news from home. The Tanasovs especially like the fact their children are attending day care at Central Church. "My children, don't speak English, don't understand, still like," said Tanasov.

To report on Baptists in the U.S.S.R., the couple shared magazines produced by a Soviet Baptist union. "Government people no like this magazine," said Tanasov.

The couple had brought from the Soviet Union ten or 15 of the publications, which are produced quarterly, noted Ivan Tanasov. He pointed out pictures of Baptist men who had been in prison up to 20 years including some who died while imprisoned.

Tanasov pointed out one man pictured in the magazine who was speaking to hundreds of people. He was the music director of the Baptist Soviet union who had been imprisoned, said Tanasov. Asked if he was beaten, Tanasov said, "Yes, yes, every day . . . eat no."

One photograph was of a baptism held in the Black Sea, he noted. Many outdoor meetings were also pictured before religious freedom was allowed in the U.S.S.R. in 1990. "No church, no building," said Tanasov.

He reported meetings held in homes prior to Gorbachev's reforms were broken up by policemen. They also would arrest individuals with a quantity of the Baptist magazines and those producing them. Christians worked in "secret" at night to publish it, he said.

Two Baptist churches existed in the city where they lived, which had a population of 150,000. About 200 people attended each, he explained. Although the churches had few differences, only one was registered by the government



**SPONSORED FAMILY** — The Tanasovs, from left, Ivan, who is playing a dombra, an instrument from the Soviet Union similar to the mandolin, Mariya, Liya, and Olga, relax in their new home. — Photo by Connie Davis

because the other was restricted from teaching the children and appointing leadership, Tanasov said.

Tanasov, a welder in Moldavia, is working as a carpenter and enjoying his job. "American boss — no angry," he said.

Central Church members, including those on the international assistance committee and international budget committee, have arranged for the family to be housed in a home owned by Smithwood Church. Members provided furniture for the home, and arrange for transportation and English

lessons for the family. They are tutored by a member and also attend English as a Second Language classes at a local church.

The church also has sponsored Seang Poeng and his wife and six children from Cambodia. Both families were sponsored through Bridge Refugee and Sponsor Services, which works with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The church's involvement has led to good experiences and plans to sponsor another family, said Jerry Trivette, a church member.

## Memphis church gives campus to black church

By *Tom Bailey Jr.*

MEMPHIS — Cherry Road Church, Memphis, is giving a \$2 million church campus to Monument of Love Church, providing the new black church proves itself as a Southern Baptist congregation.

Cherry Road is among the Southern Baptist churches earnest about cultivating black congregations. The predominantly white denomination — whose founding in 1845 was tied to support for slavery — launched a campaign in 1989 to increase black Southern Baptist congregations from 1300 to 5000 by the year 2000.

Shelby County Association has five black churches and two black missions among its 120 churches. Monument of Love, a congregation of about 155 members, came into the fold in Oc-

tober and last month moved into the old Lamar Heights Church facilities. Dedication for the new black church was held Jan. 20.

"The time has come," said Lawrence O. Hudson, pastor of Monument of Love. He led his church away from the predominantly black National Baptist Convention, USA. "This is 1991. Jesus died on the cross to tear those kinds of walls and separation down."

The predominantly white Lamar Heights congregation left the site last year after failing to attract adult blacks from the nearly all-black surrounding neighborhood. Lamar Heights members merged into the Cherry Road congregation and deeded its property to Cherry Road, which now has about 1200 members.

Monument has experienced changes

of its own. Until recently it was the Fitzgerald Community Church in Whitehaven and affiliated with National Baptists.

Why switch allegiances? "One word would sum it all up: resources," Mr. Hudson said. "The demographics of our congregation dictated making a switch. Seventy-five percent of our congregation are from infant to young-adult age. . . . There are certain resources you need when you have a congregation like that."

Cherry Road and former Lamar Heights members were more interested in retaining a Southern Baptist presence in the Lamar Heights neighborhood than in selling the building, said Cherry Road Pastor Reuben Trussell.

The seven-year agreement between Cherry Road and Monument is a lease-to-own contract under which the deal could fall through or Monument could end up owning the facility free.

Monument will pay Cherry Road \$1000 a month for seven years, as well as for any maintenance. But Cherry Road will put the payments in a savings account, making the money available to Monument if there are repair expenses beyond Monument's ability to pay. Meanwhile, Cherry Road will observe Monument to see if the church is ministering within the Southern Baptist framework, Trussell said.

If so, Cherry Road will deed the property and give the savings from the monthly payments to Monument. One stipulation: if the building ever ceases to be used for Southern Baptist worship and ministry, it would revert to Cherry Road. — *Bailey writes for The Commercial Appeal in Memphis. Reprinted with permission of The Commercial Appeal.*

## BSSB reports problems with new ordering service

NASHVILLE (BP) — Shipment of Southern Baptist dated church literature fell "considerably short" of a new distribution system goal to streamline order fulfillment to churches, a Sunday School Board official said.

Problems in filling 145,750 church literature orders for the January, February, and March quarter had resulted in late and incorrect orders to church customers, "some of whom did not get their materials in time for the first Sunday in January," Andy Dodson, director of the board's distribution services division, said.

"We apologize to our customers for this disappointing level of service," Dodson said. "We miscalculated the time needed to retrain personnel to a completely new system, and a number of related start-up problems compounded our inability to deliver the im-

proved service we had anticipated. We are committed to solving these problems so we can fill orders accurately and get them delivered on time."

The total order volume for the quarter included 62,318 mail orders and 83,432 telephone orders, Dodson said, adding, 53,545 of the telephone calls came in December, causing all 51 incoming lines to be busy.

"We understand many customers did not succeed in getting through to place orders or discuss order problems. We share their frustration and ask that they accept our sincere regret," Dodson continued.

More than 14,000 of the December telephone calls were related to order adjustments and complaints, he said.

When difficulties with the new system became evident, Dodson said a second shift of temporary workers was

employed and that many persons worked long hours, Saturdays, and even New Year's Day to help meet churches' needs. All orders entered into the computer system by Dec. 31 were filled and shipped by Jan. 3, he said.

As efforts are made to smooth the system for the future, Dodson said churches can help by honoring the order date printed at the top of the undated literature order form. For the April, May, June quarter, the suggested order date is Jan. 18. April 18 is the suggested date by which churches should order July, August, and September materials.

For recent quarters, including January, February, and March, slightly more than 20 percent of orders for materials arrived by the suggested order date, Dodson said.

# Tennessee Baptist churches call new pastors

## First Church, Cumberland City

First Church, Cumberland City, recently called James Webb as pastor.

Webb formerly served as pastor of New Haven Church, Dover; Kirkwood Church, Clarksville; and Faith Church, Mechanicsburg, Ohio. He was ordained in 1953 in Georgia.

The Indian Mound native earned a bachelor's degree from Florida Bible College, which was located in Miami when he attended.

## Cohulla Church

Sam Brooks re-entered the full time pastorate from retirement when Cohulla Church, Cleveland, called him as pastor after his service as interim.

The Old Hickory native retired from Candies Creek Church, Cleveland, in June 1990. During his 35 years in the ministry, he also served Washington Avenue Church, Cookeville, for 17 years; Big Spring Church, Cleveland; and Rocky Valley and Hurricane churches in Lebanon.

He was ordained in 1955 at Madison Heights Church, Madison.

He and his wife, Mildred, have four children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

## Smith Fork Church

Smith Fork Church, Watertown, recently called Tim Buford as pastor.

While attending New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, Buford served at Grays Creek Church, Denham Springs, La., as associate pastor and music and youth minister. In addition he has served as youth minister at Oak Grove Missionary Church, Livingston, his home church.

The Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, graduate, is now attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., working toward a master of divinity degree.

## Main Street Church

John Hazlewood returned to Main Street Church, Martin, as pastor after he resigned earlier last year.

Hazlewood first came to the church in 1985, when it was still a mission. The church was accepted into Weakley County Association in 1989.

The Martin native has also served as pastor of Bible Union Church, Martin; Sand Hill Church, Gleason; and Davis

## Occult conference set for Lenoir City

A conference on the occult will be held Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at First Church, Lenoir City.

An Interfaith Witness Associate Training Workshop, led by Jimmy Furr of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be conducted to train a corps of church and associational leaders.

The workshop will begin at 2 p.m. on Jan. 31 and conclude at 3 p.m. the following day. Participants are requested to plan to complete the two-day workshop by attending both day sessions.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department will assist participants with expenses. The workshop is limited to 25 people.

Those interested in registering may send a check for \$10, payable to the Home Mission Board, to Jere Phillips, TBC Missions Department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

Memorial Church, Dresden. He was minister of outreach at First Church, Martin.

Ordained in 1972 at Pleasant View Church, Fulton, Hazlewood earned a bachelor's degree from Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky.

He and his wife, Judy Ann, have two daughters and one son.

## Eastwood Church

Gregory C. Bowers recently accepted the pastorate of Eastwood Church, Memphis.

Bowers, a native of Memphis, has served as pastor of Porter's Creek Church, Middleton; First Church, Bogota, Texas; and Midway Church, Pernell, Okla.

He graduated from Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Bowers and his wife, Donna, have one son.



BOWERS

## East View Church

Charles Armour recently joined the staff of East View Church, Georgetown, as pastor.

Armour formerly served as pastor of Pennine Church, Spring City, and Walnut Grove Church, Decatur.

He was ordained at Union Grove Church, Decatur.

The Meigs County native and his wife, Valery, have three sons.

## Skyline Heights Church

Ken Kyker has accepted the pastorate at Skyline Heights Church, Johnson City, where he was licensed to preach and ordained 25 years ago.

Kyker most recently served as pastor of Fairview Church, Watauga. In addition, he has been pastor of Antioch Church, Johnson City; Bethel Springs Church, Mountain City; Big Springs Church, Elizabethton; and Reservoir Road and Beulah churches, both in Kingsport.

He earned an associate's degree from Steed College of Technology in Johnson City, and a diploma in pastoral ministry through the seminary extension department of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The Tennessee native and his wife, Carol, have two daughters.

## First Church, Roan Mountain

Joel Wilson began his pastoral ministry at First Church, Roan Mountain, Dec. 30.

The Maryville native most recently served as minister of evangelism at First Church, Grapevine, Texas. He has also served as youth minister at West Conroe Church, Conroe, Texas; and as interim pastor, music director, and youth minister at Carter's Valley Church, which is now Oak Grove Mission in Church Hill.

He was ordained Dec. 23, 1990, at First Church, Church Hill. He holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

## Ramble Creek Church

Doug Brown, former minister of music and youth, Arlington Church, Arlington, is serving Ramble Creek Church, Big Sandy, as pastor.

Brown also was pastor of Holladay Church, Holladay, Mifflin Church, Mifflin; and chaplain's assistant, Tennessee Army National Guard, Henderson. He was ordained in 1985 at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

The native of Illinois is married to Anita Zike and they have two sons.

## McCullough's Chapel

Donald Williams has returned to serve his home church, McCullough's Chapel in Dyersburg. He was ordained there in 1967.

Williams was pastor of Emmaus Church, Newbern. He also served Calvary Hill Church, Ripley; Cottonwood Church, Ridgely; Lenox Church, Lenox, and churches in Kentucky.

The native of Dyersburg is a bivocational pastor and construction worker. Williams has two children and two grandchildren.

## First Church, Hornsby

First Church, Hornsby, has called Tim West, pastor, Faith Church, Buckner, Mo., as pastor effective Dec. 30.

West also served as pastor of Hebron Church, Middleton, and Silerton Church, Silerton. He was ordained in 1983 at Westover Church, Jackson.

The native of Jackson is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Midwestern Baptist Theological

## Handbell festivals set across state

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Music Department will sponsor four two-day handbell festivals in February across the state.

On Feb. 15-16 the festivals will be held at First Church, Chattanooga, and First Church, Mt. Juliet. On Feb. 22-23, the festivals will be hosted by Englewood Church, Jackson, and Manley Church, Morristown.

Clinicians will be Christine Anderson of Houston, Texas, and Jim Whitmire of Bellevue Church, Cordova. Anderson will serve at Chattanooga and Jackson while Whitmire will be in Mt. Juliet and Morristown.

For registration information, contact the TBC Church Music Department at (615) 371-2040.

Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

He and his wife, Doris, have three daughters.

## Aldridge Church

On Dec. 2 Dave Council was ordained by Calvary Hill Church, Dyersburg, where he was minister of music, to serve Aldridge Church, Obion, as pastor effective that day.

Council also served Harvest Church and Hawthorne Church, Dyersburg, and Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes, as minister of music.

The native of Newbern and his wife, Joan, have two children.

## Mount Zion Church

Mount Zion Church, Decaturville, has called Greg Stanford as pastor. He was pastor of Twin Oaks Church, Cedar Grove.

Stanford also was pastor of Sardis Church, Sardis, and he and his wife, Patricia, were relief houseparents for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Franklin campus. The native of Lexington was ordained in 1980 at Mount Gilead Church, Cedar Grove.

A bivocational pastor, Stanford also works for a Jackson oil distributor.

## Congregational worship conferences scheduled

Two conferences on congregational worship will be held at Tennessee Baptist churches in February.

The conferences are for staff members or laypersons who have responsibilities for planning worship services. The conferences are sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Big Emory Association, and Shelby County Association.

The Shelby County meeting will be held Feb. 12 at Ardmore Church in Memphis. On Feb. 14 in Big Emory Association, the conference will be held at Trenton Street Church in Harri-man. Both conferences begin at 10:30 a.m. local time and conclude at 9:15 p.m.

The morning sessions are for full-time staff while the evening sessions are geared toward bivocational and volunteer staffs.

The registration fee is \$5 for either conference. Fees should be mailed to J. W. Bargiol, Big Emory Association, P. O. Box 444, Harri-man, Tenn. 37748 or David Sparrow, Shelby County Association, 3415 Millbranch, Memphis, Tenn. 38116.



## Funnyside up

The Sunday School teacher explained to the little boys in the class that "Lot was warned to take his wife and flee from the city, but his wife turned to salt."

"What happened to the flea?" one little boy asked.

\*\*\*  
Once while I was preaching a man in the back row shouted, "I can't hear you!"

Another man seated down front got up and shouted back, "I can! Come up here and I'll gladly change places with you!"

Tal D. Bonham and Jack Gullede, The Treasury of Clean Senior Adult Jokes. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# TenneScene

... Starting at Yuma, east to  
Christiana, on to Kimberlin Heights ...

## Churches ...

Members of Third Church, Murfreesboro, have voted to build new educational space and a new sanctuary with a seating capacity of 926. Construction will begin in the spring of 1991.

The congregation of First Church, Roan Mountain, recently held a special dinner honoring Frank McCarter for serving as interim pastor during 1990. A note-burning ceremony was also held commemorating payment of the debt on the fellowship hall.

A new children's building is being constructed at First Church, Dyersburg. The auditorium and church offices are also being remodeled.

## Leadership ...

Manilla Chapel Church, Englewood, recently called Clifton Coleman as pastor.

First Church, Clarksville, called Tom Holland as minister of education. He began Jan. 1.

Billy Turner is now serving as pastor of Wheelerton Church, Prospect.

Gene Elliott began serving as youth minister at Central Church, Johnson City, Jan. 15.

Ken Keaton recently became pastor of Calvary Missionary Church, Decatur. He was ordained Nov. 25, 1990, at Parkway Church, Athens. This is his first pastorate.

Roy Helton was recently elected pastor emeritus by the membership of Glenwood Church, Nashville.

Riley Jones began serving as pastor of Tar Pine Valley Church, Rogersville, Dec. 2, 1990. He was ordained Jan. 13.

First Church, Dyersburg, recently called Walley Jeffers, Fort Worth, Texas, as minister of youth. He will begin his duties Feb. 25.

Truman Spurgin is now serving as interim pastor at Roellen Church, Dyersburg.

James Harvey of the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been called as interim pastor of Little Hope Church, Clarksville.

## Missions ...

Donny and Billie Dixon, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived on the field to begin language study. Both are natives of Knoxville. They can be addressed at Caixa Postal 1635, 13.100 Campinas, SP, Brazil.

Ray and Helen Reynolds, representatives to Belgium, have arrived in the United States for furlough. They may be addressed at Lucerne Towers, 20 W. Lucerne, Apt. 816, Orlando, Fla.,

## In Philippines

## Tennesseans prepare for missions

Two missions trips in conjunction with the Tennessee/Philippines partnership will take place in late February and early March.

On Feb. 20-March 5, 13 volunteers from West Tennessee will travel to Villasis and Pangarap to do evangelism and build churches.

The first medical missions trip to the Philippines is scheduled for March 1-15. Approximately 35 people from various medical backgrounds have signed up for the trip, but other volunteers are needed, especially dentists, said Dewey Dunn, a Nashville physician and member of Woodmont

32801. Reynolds grew up in Johnson City.

## Ordinations ...

Glenwood Church, Nashville, recently ordained Richard F. Dutton Sr., to the deacon ministry.

Ben Beach and Robert Blevins were recently ordained as deacons at First Church, Bluff City.

Church, who is leading the medical team.

The medical teams will serve in South Cotabato, Lake Sebu, Davao City, and near Manila. Projects will involve academic physicians at medical schools, specialists at hospitals, health care teams in church clinics, and field teams going to the villages.

There will be teaching and clinic work — including physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health, Dunn said.

An orientation for health care volunteers will be held Feb. 2 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Tennessee Baptists interested in the health care project should contact Clarence Stewart at the Tennessee Baptist Convention (615) 371-2064.

The evangelism and construction team from West Tennessee will be led by Charles Pratt, director of missions, Haywood Association.

Other team members include: Elizabeth Tinsley, Woodland Church, Brownsville; Lonnie Robinson Jr., Allen Church, Brownsville; Edward Mallonee, Billy Castellaw, and Milton Black, Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville; Jerry Foster and Ray Ellington, Zion Church, Brownsville; Velma Faye Nelson, Cross Roads Church, Bells; Michael Hopper and Terry Brown, Holly Grove Church, Bells; Bill Cobb, First Church, Bells; and James Presley, Brownsville Church, Brownsville.

## Tennessee teenager named to national Acteens panel

Ellen Edens Richardson, Memphis, was named to the 1991 Acteens National Advisory Panel at the Woman's Missionary Union executive board meeting Jan. 7-9.

The 16-year-old was selected from 95 Acteens nationwide who applied to serve on the six-member panel. Selections were based on scholastic achievement; school and church activities; and accomplishments in Stuediact, the individual achievement plan for Acteens.

Candidates were required to submit written testimonies and be recommended by their pastors and Acteens leaders.

Richardson's duties will include writing for *Accent*, the Acteens magazine; participating in state and associational WMU-related meetings; and serving as a page at the WMU annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention to be held in June in Atlanta, Ga.

She is a member of First Church, Memphis.

## First long-term workers to Mongolia are Tennesseans

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (BP) — Southern Baptists' first long-term workers in Mongolia arrived Jan. 13 in the capital city of Ulan Bator to begin full-time teaching assignments at the medical college there.

Stan and Laura Kirk of Memphis are under contract with Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. Over the past two years CSI has placed some English-teaching teams in Mongolia for one- and two-week stints. The Kirks are the first Southern Baptists assigned to Mongolia on a long-term basis.

Mongolia, a nation of about two million people, is surrounded by China and the Soviet Union. It is closely

allied with the Soviets but established diplomatic relations with the United States in early 1987.

"The Kirks' CSI contract is for two years but they're interested in staying longer," said Jack Shelby, CSI's Hong Kong-based administrator. "Their teaching contract with the Mongolian government is for one year since such contracts are normally given on a year-by-year basis. But we have every confidence and hope that this will turn into a much longer arrangement."

The Kirks, members of Bellevue Church, Cordova, have prepared to work in Mongolia for three years. They will teach English at the medical college. Kirk, a pharmacist, also may teach some pharmacy courses in

English.

"Ours is a long-term commitment in Mongolia," Kirk said. "That means doing our jobs well enough to be invited to stay longer than two years. If we go with the attitude of helping them as people every way we can as much as we can, it won't take them long to pick up on that. People pick up on an attitude even if they don't understand the language."

But the Kirks' first priority is to "survive," he said in Hong Kong en route to Mongolia. "After that we should learn the language (Khalkha) and do more heart-to-heart ministry. We also hope to get other Southern Baptists into Mongolia. There are needs in agriculture, business, education, and medicine. All are possibilities for Southern Baptists to come and live in Mongolia."

Kirk most recently taught English to Russian immigrants in Memphis. He recently completed two years of Russian language study. He also worked at LeMoyné-Owen College in Memphis, teaching developmental English to students who speak English as a second language. Earlier, he held several positions in the medical-pharmaceutical field working for the University of Tennessee Hospital and for Walgreens Corporation.

A native of Selmer, Kirk received a master's degree in teaching English as a foreign language from Memphis State University, and a pharmacy degree from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in Memphis.

Mrs. Kirk, the former Laura Polk of Union City, worked in sales with the Nabisco Corporation and as a home interior designer in Memphis. She received a bachelor's degree in home economics and interior design from the University of Tennessee-Martin. The Kirks have a one-year-old daughter, Merry.



HARDY

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## Missions volunteers' meeting set for Memphis

The annual statewide Tennessee Volunteer Missions Conference will be held Feb. 1-2 at Raleigh Church in Memphis.

Missions awareness workshops, a chautauqua or meeting for senior adults, a volunteer banquet, and a state missions rally highlight the two-day event.

Topics included in the workshops include long- and short-term missions opportunities, construction projects, resources for volunteers, partnership missions, and more.

Program leaders include Clarence

Stewart and J. C. Carpenter of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff; John McBride, John Budlong, and Deborah Harrell of Shelby County Association; M. B. Howard, layman from Covington representing the SBC Brotherhood Commission; Michael D. Robertson, Valerie J. Hardy, Ralph Bobo, Dale Holloway, and other personnel from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

For more information about the meeting contact Deborah Harrell at (901) 756-4012 or Charles Hill at (901) 373-0191.

# Senior adults can be key to reaching young families

*Editor's note: Following is the last in a series on plateaued and declining churches.*

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Churches desiring to reach young families — considered essential to church growth — do not have to send older church members packing.

In fact, graying members can actually help a church grow, contended B. J. Dier, a recently retired home missionary who specialized in senior adult ministries. "The greatest asset most churches have is the senior adults, if they will get them in the harness and give them a place of service."

Research confirms that plateaued and declining churches have a higher-than-average concentration of older adults in their membership.

In a study of churches in Memphis, John Vaughan discovered that churches with more than 18 percent of enrollment age 60 and above were plateaued. Churches composed of more than 20 percent senior adults were declining, the professor at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., found.

"The message is you've got to continue to attract and reach young families, and that means teenagers," Vaughan said. "A mark of a growing church is that it will have 12 to 15 per-

cent youth. Youth don't stay around a church that's dying."

An often-repeated principle of church growth is that a church can either grow younger and larger or older and smaller. The problem commonly faced by pastors of plateaued and declining churches is how to retain the senior adults and attract younger families at the same time.

How it turns out depends upon the attitude of the senior adults and on the attitude of the pastor, experts say:

- If senior adults are willing to accept change for the sake of growth, the church will succeed. But if senior adults insist on running a church in the 1990s the way it was done 30 years ago, the church will decline.

- On the other hand, if a pastor embraces older adults as partners in growth, he will be successful. But if he disregards older members in an all-out effort to recruit younger members, he faces an uphill battle.

"To keep the older people worshiping and satisfied, you have to have things different from what the newer and younger people are going to want," explained Ebbie Smith, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "It is a dilemma. But we must be very careful not to forget the old

people and set them aside in order to meet the new people. We've got to reach the new but we've got to care for the old."

The solution is challenging older adults with meaningful ministry instead of just forming social groups, Dier believes. "Instead of putting senior adults to work in ministry and missions, most churches organize them into something different. It becomes a go-go club, and they're not really involved in what the church is."

Pastors with a vision to reclaim a plateaued or declining church can harness the power of senior adults by making them part of the "dream team," added Jay Johnston, a senior adult consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Senior adults are open to reaching younger families, if the pastor will equip them for the task, Johnston said. "The senior adults can be challenged to go out and reach that high school student or that young adult. They just have to regroup and find out how to do it."

Pastors must spend time with their senior adults and "find out what gifts and talents they have to offer instead of just writing them off," he suggested. Rather than being the wall that keeps a church from growth, senior adults could be the walkway that leads to growth, he says.

Bringing young families into a church with a concentration of older adults can benefit both groups, Johnston said. The senior adults like to be around children, and the young parents want their children to be around older adults.

With an increasingly mobile society, young families often live thousands of miles away from grandparents, and senior adults live far away from their own grandchildren.

For too long Southern Baptists have looked at senior adults as saints who shouldn't be disturbed, Johnston contended. "If we make the senior adults aware of what potential is out there and equip them, they can make a difference. They can go claim that mountain."

## Belmont offers seminary studies, seminary extension classes this spring

Belmont College will offer two courses during the spring semester through the Nashville seminary studies program. "The Worshipping Church" and "Introduction to Church History II" will meet on Mondays beginning Feb. 11.

Taught by Joel Snider, pastor of Crieewood Church, Nashville, The Worshipping Church will meet from 1 to 4 p.m. each week. The church history course will be taught by Southern Baptist Historical Commission retiree Ronald Tonks and will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. each week.

Both classes meet in Room 340 of the Bunch Building on Belmont's campus. The courses continue through May 13 and provide the opportunity to work on a professional degree program through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Two seminary extension classes — "General Epistles" and "Leadership Development" — also are offered during spring semester. Registration for the 13-week courses is on Feb. 12, the first night of class.

Meeting on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., "General Epistles" will be taught by Marvin P. Nail, pastor of Whitsitt Chapel Church, Nashville. The "Leadership Development" class will meet on Tuesdays from 7:15 to 8:45

p.m. This class will be taught by Ralph Lee, minister of education at Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville. For more information on these two courses and the Seminary Studies Program at Belmont, contact the office of church relations/planned giving, (615) 385-6435.

## Amason accepts call from Crossville church

Robert Earl Amason began his ministry as pastor of Emmanuel Church, Crossville, Dec. 9

Amason has served as pastor of churches in Tennessee and Alabama since 1968. He was ordained at Flintville Church, Flintville.

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## The repentance of Judas

By Herschel Hobbs

"Then Judas, which had betrayed Jesus, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself." — Matthew 27:3.

Judas repented and committed suicide. Peter repented, was forgiven, and rendered a life of service for Jesus. (While the word "repent" does not appear in Matthew 26:75, the fact is evident here and in his future life.) What is the difference? It is in the Greek verbs used for repent.



HOBBS

The word used of Judas is *metamelomai*. It simply means regret. But it involves no change of heart, mind, or conduct.

The New Testament word for true

repentance is *metanoeo*. It is formed out of *meta*, about, and *nous*, mind. To the Greek mind denoted the total person. So *metanoeo* denotes a change of heart, mind, attitude, and the total direction of one's life. It is an about-face of one's total life.

One becomes a Christian through repentance and faith which are inseparable graces. If you truly repent you will believe in Jesus as your Savior. Throughout his life the Christian repents of sins and is forgiven (1 John 1:9; 2:1).

In 2 Corinthians 7:10 Paul used both verbs. Literally, "For the according to God sorrow (Godly sorrow) works repentance unto salvation not to be regretted. But the sorrow of the world works death." Judas experienced only worldly sorrow unto death. Peter experienced Godly sorrow unto life.

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# Wealth and one's relationship to God

By A. Ray Newcomb, pastor; First Church, Millington

## Right view of wealth (10-13)

Stewardship is an issue that affects everyone. In Jesus' parable, a rich man called on his steward to give an account concerning finances. The steward had been wasteful, but became wise when confronted by his employer. He devised a plan to protect himself and please his boss. Jesus used this parable to teach a great principle. Those who are faithful in little things can be trusted with larger things.



NEWCOMB

Jesus mentioned "unrighteous mammon," or money, in verse 11. Money itself is not unrighteous but when it becomes the master of one's life, it is "unrighteous mammon." The rich young ruler (Luke 18:23-24) wanted to do all things except give up his wealth. He decided to resist the Messiah rather

than release his money. The love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

Jesus said in verse 13, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Many people today want to do this. They hold the world with one hand and try to hold God with the other. One striving to serve two deities will be pulled in two directions. One loyal to God will be liberal in giving, and will not allow materialistic possessions to have first place. Man can only serve one master.

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for insincerity (14-18)

The Pharisees were covetous, and desired more possessions. They believed their outward appearance and wealth proved God's blessing on them. They tried to justify themselves before men, but God knew their hearts (Luke 6:15). Jesus knew they offered loud and long prayers for people to hear, and made broad their garments for people to see. Outwardly they impressed people, but inwardly they lacked purity, passion for souls, and

personal communion with God. When deeds are done to be seen of men, there is no reward in heaven (Matthew 6:1). Only those things that are done for His glory will have lasting value and reward in heaven.

## BIBLE BOOK

January 27 Lesson

Basic Passage: Luke 16:1-31

### Parable of the rich man and Lazarus (16:19-26)

A rich man died and went to hell, while a poor man died and went to heaven. The rich man did not go to hell because he was rich and the poor man did not go to heaven because he was poor. The rich man served mammon and the poor man served God. The rich man lived a life of luxury and pleasure, while Lazarus lived a life of poverty and despair. It is better to live in poverty and have a right relationship with God, than to be wealthy to the neglect of God. Before death the rich man had treasure; after death he had torment. Before death Lazarus had poverty; after death he had

pleasures. The key is not found in how much a man possesses, but what master he serves.

The rich man called Abraham his father in verse 24 and Abraham acknowledged this in verse 25. Lazarus also had been accepted as a son of Abraham (v. 22). The rich man's earthly treasures did not guarantee him eternal blessings in heaven.

This parable was an object lesson to the Pharisees who interpreted material blessings as evidence of a right relationship with God. Man's motivation should not be for the praise of men, but for the praise of God (John 12:43). Being rich is not wrong, but placing wealth above the worship of God is sin. Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Luke 16:13).

Man's value of wealth should never rise above his view of God. Riches to some are more important than the Redeemer (Luke 18:22-23) but man must serve one true master (Luke 16:13) and seek God first (Matthew 6:33) in order to have treasure in heaven.

# The pounds

By Marvin P. Nail, pastor; Whitsitt Chapel Church, Nashville

You will quickly notice in the passage this week that you have heard a similar story. The parable of the talents of Matthew's Gospel has many similarities to this story. But the differences in this story make it unique to its purpose.

History illustrates the truth

Close parallels exist in this parable

to a historical event with which the hearers were familiar. When Herod the Great died more than one person tried to claim his throne.

One of them, Archelaus, went to Rome to get the emperor to back his bid. A delegation of Jews also went to Rome to persuade the emperor to let them govern themselves. When Archelaus was given the throne, he



NAIL

returned home to punish the rebels.

Departing master leaves responsibility

In this aspect the Luke story differs greatly from the parable in Matthew. In Matthew, each servant was given a different amount "according to his ability." In Luke there were ten servants and each was given an equal amount.

In Matthew, we normally interpret the differing amounts as representing different levels of ability, and therefore differing levels of responsibility.

But in Luke each was entrusted with the same amount. This leads me to conclude there is something given to all the servants of Christ which is the same. That one thing is our witness to our Christian faith.

Servants called to an accounting Paul, in his letter to the church at Rome, reminded that "each of us shall give account of himself to God." In this parable, Jesus gave a similarly

solemn reminder.

When the master returns, each servant is called to report on his stewardship of the master's affairs. Each comes with a different report.

One increased his by ten times, another by five times. We are not told what each of the others were able to accomplish for their master. Only one other is reported in the story. He merely kept his in a safe place for fear of losing it.

## CONVENTION UNIFORM

January 27 Lesson

Basic Passage: Luke 19:11-27

Judgment begins with the household The master passed judgment on each of his servants first. To the ones who had increased the master's holdings, he gave greater responsibility. The master took what the third servant had and gave it to others because he was a poor steward.

Notice that the reward for faithfulness in service is greater opportunity for service. Notice also that the punishment for lack of service is the removal of future opportunities for service.

Unlike the world in which we live, God's reward for a job well done is not more pay or more honor, but more jobs to do. God's greatest punishment for refusal to serve is the removal of opportunities to serve.

The greatest honor God can bestow on any of His children is to give us more to do. This is not the world's way, but it is God's way.

Judgment comes to those who rebel The latter part of the parable is probably one of the most cruel sounding parts of any of Jesus' parables. He used it to remind His hearers of the horrible consequences of rejection of Christ.

In the historical accounts of the return of Archelaus, he showed no mercy to those who sought to undermine his reign.

In this parable there are three groups of persons. There are the faithful children who are honored by being given more responsibility, not a greater title. There was the one (at least) unfaithful child who was condemned for his lack of service. Then there were those who refused to be His children. In which group will you be?

# Abundant life

By John C. Compton, pastor; Oak Grove, Mount Carmel

There are 1300 different religious groups in America. Many of them are non-Christian. Their false shepherds are leading people farther from salvation by faith in Christ and stealing from mainline Christianity. Christians need to become more like sheep, alert and leary of strangers. We must be quick to flee from unbiblical teachings lest we too be led astray. We must know what is true to recognize what is false.

Our Lord Jesus knew every generation would have to struggle with false prophets. Therefore, He gave us the parable of the good shepherd. He tells us of evil shepherds, the good shepherd, and the security of



COMPTON

belonging to the good shepherd.

The evil shepherds are compared to thieves and hirelings (vv. 12-13). They are thieves because they climb over the fence. The sheep do not know them nor follow them; they flee. The thief may hurt or maim the sheep he takes by force. After all, he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

When a sheep stealer comes into the church, church members, like sheep, are wary of strangers. We keep our distance and keep our eye on him. We may even avoid deliberately; but after a while a stranger does not seem like a stranger. His ideas were not so different. We begin to relax and become comfortable. He continues to deceive and strengthen his strangle hold on the church. The process goes this way in 200 Southern Baptist churches every year. More tragic than the loss of 200 churches is the member by member

loss, here and there from all the churches. The damage done to individuals spiritually by evil shepherds is unspeakable.

## LIFE AND WORK

January 27 Lesson

Basic Passage: John 10

The good shepherd protects the sheep (v. 9). How is it possible to be both shepherd and door? At night the shepherd literally layed down at the entrance, the doorway, to keep sheep from wandering out and any danger from coming into the sheep pen. Sheep came and went under the watchcare of the good shepherd. The only way into the sheepfold was through the good shepherd. Likewise, the only way to the safety of the Father's house is through the Son.

The good shepherd leads the sheep (v. 14). He is not violent like the robber. The sheep follow Him because they hear their name and recognize the good shepherd's call. They know they are being led to still waters, green

pastures, and safe places.

The good shepherd loves the sheep (v. 15). The evil shepherd comes to kill the sheep. The good shepherd is willing to die for his sheep to live. In the Old Testament sheep were sacrificed for the shepherd, but in the New Testament the shepherd was sacrificed for the sheep. There is no greater love for us than the love of Jesus. We can follow the good shepherd who loves and protects us.

The good shepherd's sheep are secure (vv. 27-28). Jesus said, "I give them eternal life." If Jesus had meant part-time life, He would not have promised to the believer eternal life. Jesus is no liar. He also said, "they shall never perish." Do you believe in Him? There will never come a time when a believer will perish in hell. Jesus said, "neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." No devil, power, or person is strong enough to take a believer from His strong hands. Trust the good shepherd. Enjoy life free from the fear of death now and forevermore.

## Define success by your relationship with God, athlete says

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "People are making millions of dollars in football and baseball, but if they are lost," Garry Harper said, they are missing out on the best things of life.

A former star quarterback from Miami, who is now a student in the master of divinity degree program at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, Harper tells aspiring athletes, "Don't define your own personal success in life by what you do or do not do on the athletic field, or ... by what others do or do not say about you; but define success by what you feel in your heart about your relationship with God. ... We can accept God or we can reject him, and our success hinges on that question."

It took some difficult circumstances, however, for Harper to discover that for himself. Recognized in high school for his athletic skills, he was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds to play baseball. Harper turned down the offer and accepted a football scholarship to attend the University of South Carolina.

His first semester in college, however, the 18-year-old failed four out of five classes, and his parents went through a divorce. Then, as a third string quarterback, Harper fumbled the ball on an important play; by the spring semester, he was sixth string.

Harper's 265-pound, Christian roommate/teammate found him alone in his dorm room, crying in desperation.

"I told him I was ready to quit," Harper said. "He picked me up by the collar over his head, then threw me down. ... Then he told me he loved me and God loved me. He shared Jeremiah 33:3 and Romans 8:28 with me. I got on my knees and asked Jesus to come into my heart."

Using Matthew 5:16 as his theme, "I humbled myself and told God, no matter what, I'd give him the glory," Harper said.

That spring of 1978, he moved from sixth string to second string, and by the fall of his sophomore year, he was USC's starting quarterback.

In September of that year, however, another tragedy occurred. His football team was preparing to play against the Georgia Bulldogs in Athens, when one of Harper's teammates, Scott Sinclair, dropped to the ground. The 220-pound 19-year-old died of a deteriorated heart valve there in the locker room.

Scott's brother, who also played football for USC, told his team "not to feel sorry for his brother, Scott, because he's a lot happier than we are today because he's in heaven," Harper said. "Seven of my teammates got saved that year because of that."

Harper said he learned "life is filled with ups and downs, and regardless of whether you're in the peaks or the valleys, you need to rely on God, and not rely on your own talents and strengths."

Harper completed his college career

third in career passing and sixth in career total offense. He played in the 1979 Hall of Fame Bowl against Missouri; and in the 1980 Gator Bowl against Pittsburgh. He played against Michigan in front of 104,000 people, and against the University of Southern California in Los Angeles' coliseum.

On the football field, he met such players as Dan Marino, Hugh Green, Ricky Jackson, Herschell Walker, Ronnie Lott, and Marcus Allen. For three years, he was the quarterback for the 1980 Heisman Trophy winner, George Rogers.

"But with all of this, the greatest thing that ever happened to me was in 1978, when I asked Jesus to come into my life," Harper said.

"I thought I had arrived, that those 'great and mighty things' (Jeremiah 33:3) had already happened." However, five days after he graduated, he took a job with IBM in Greenville, S.C., and saw "the most beautiful girl I had ever seen in my whole life."

As he got to know her, however, he discovered she "hated football," and seemed disinterested that Harper had been a star quarterback. She was not a Christian, had never owned a Bible, and had never gone to church.

But Harper was determined. He shared the Gospel with her, and two months later, Karen accepted Christ. In eight months, they were married.

"When we had our first son," Harper said, "my life really changed because

for three years of my life, there were 200-300 kids outside a locker room looking up to me saying, 'When I grow up, I want to be just like you.'

"Before, I had a concern about lost people," Harper said, but when his children — Shane, 7; Daniel, 5; and Kara, 3 — arrived, "I became more intense in evangelism (because) I thought, one day, they are going to grow up looking up to someone and saying, 'I want to be just like you.'"

In April of 1990, during a revival at his church, Harper listened to the words of Don Wilton, assistant professor of preaching at the New Orleans seminary and knew God was calling him into the Gospel ministry. In July, he resigned from his job as advisory marketing representative for IBM, and moved to New Orleans for seminary. He now does supplemental work for IBM in the city; and Karen teaches aerobics, health, and fitness to nursing students at William Carey College.

Harper has had many opportunities to speak to civic clubs, athletes, and other functions. In New Orleans, he has shared his testimony with the Tulane football team, the Phoenix Cardinals, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and high school football teams in the area.

"It all boils down to obedience," Harper said. "I haven't lost anything by following God; I've gained so much more."

## 'School of hard knocks' prepared WMU leader for missions

By Susan Todd

MINNEAPOLIS (BP) — Karen Edwards didn't go to school to learn what she does.

"It's been 'learn by doing,'" she said of her roles as wife, mother, missions leader, van driver, Sunday School teacher, counselor, and friend.

Edwards has learned to fine-tune her skills through the ranks of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"When I moved to Wisconsin 14 years ago, I had always been a member or officer of some WMU missions organization," she said.

That tradition has continued. Today, Edwards is serving her third term as state WMU president for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention. By virtue of her state position, Edwards also is on the national WMU executive board. But she hasn't

let her state and national responsibilities overshadow opportunities for service at home.

Bob Edwards, her husband, is pastor of New Hope Neighborhood Church in Minneapolis. The Edwardses moved to Minneapolis four years ago specifically to start a church within the city.

After studying the area, talking with associational and state Baptist leaders, and visiting existing churches of all denominations within the area, they became convicted that God wanted them to start a church in the middle-class southern part of Minneapolis.

"Over three years, we surveyed 1400 homes and got one person to church," Bob said.

The low response wasn't because all the people weren't interested in church.

"It's a church area," Karen said, referring to the predominant Lutheran and Catholic neighborhoods.

In the beginning, the people who were interested in the new church were from an area a little north of the neighborhood they had targeted.

They weren't the residents of the middle-class neighborhood. They were residents of a poorer neighborhood a few blocks north — including many people who had no church background.

"We finally said, 'We've got these people, let's reach them,'" Karen said.

The one effort that reaped the most rewards for the young church was establishing missions organizations — particularly Girls in Action, the WMU missions organization for girls in grades one through six.

Less than two years ago, Karen started GAs with only two girls. Today, the group has grown to include almost 20 — most of whom attend Sunday School and worship services at New Hope on Sundays. The membership of

the church now equals the membership of GAs.

"The missions organizations really picked us up as a church," Bob said.

The club atmosphere of the group and the girls' interest in other cultures are two of the reasons the girls have become so devoted to GAs, Karen said.

The girls list their leaders' genuine interest and love for them as another reason.

"I have a love for missions and always have," Karen said. "I want to pass that along. Also, I have searched for a handle to help these kids personally and to help them to come to know the Lord.

"This (GAs) gives me the opportunity to hang onto them long enough to minister to them and work with them."

## Baptist teachers sought for China, Mongolia

RICHMOND — Educational institutions in China and Mongolia are asking for 39 Southern Baptist teachers next fall.

Cooperatives Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization that sponsors teachers and other workers in nations where missionaries do not work, has an "urgent need" for one- and two-year teachers in China and Mongolia for the fall term beginning Sept. 1, said James Hampton, CSI assistant vice president.

"We prefer the two-year option, but some have gone for only one year and have been received by the schools," Hampton said. CSI relates to numerous colleges and universities in China and has been building contacts with education officials in Mongolia for several years.

CSI has received requests from

Karen has found she doesn't have to be blatant in her presentation of the Gospel message in order to be heard. Teaching about missionaries and what they do gives her a perfect opportunity to witness to the girls every week.

Her efforts have not gone without rewards. Within the last year, four members of GAs and two of their moms have made professions of faith as a direct result of Karen's work.

There is no school where she could have learned all the things she needed to know to do what she's doing now, she said. Karen credits God as her best resource possible.

"I am thoroughly convinced that it is God, and He is doing this. I don't know where you'd go to study this kind of thing.

"School of hard knocks? You bet!"

China for 34 teachers and two language students, and positions are open for two elementary school teachers and one language student in Mongolia.

Those interested should contact Judy Brummett by telephone at (804) 353-0151, Ext. 356.

CSI also has "a rather large number" of requests for summer teachers who will teach English as a second language in various colleges and universities in China from July 4-Aug. 19, Hampton said. Those interested should contact Anita Mahoney at (804) 353-0151, Ext. 501.

Because of the student demonstrations in China in 1989, the number of people who volunteered for teaching in China decreased last year. But CSI teachers experienced no security or safety problems in 1990 related to the demonstrations or their aftermath, Hampton stressed.



**RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOP** — Karen Edwards has found that genuine interest in teenagers and children combined with their interest in other countries and cultures can be a winning combination for a church. Edwards, center, is the Girls in Action and Acteens leader for New Hope Neighborhood Church in Minneapolis, Minn.