

Baptist and Reflector

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Heritage, hope messages of Evangelism Conference

By Connie Davis and Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE — An enthusiastic and receptive, but smaller than usual, crowd gathered for the State Evangelism Conference last week in Nashville.

State Evangelism Director Jerry King cited the forecast of bad weather and the crisis in the Middle East for the lower attendance, down 25 to 35 percent in sessions held Jan. 21-23. Newly-offered special interest groups extended the conference through Wednesday morning.

From 800-900 attended laypersons night on Tuesday, the largest session of the conference held at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

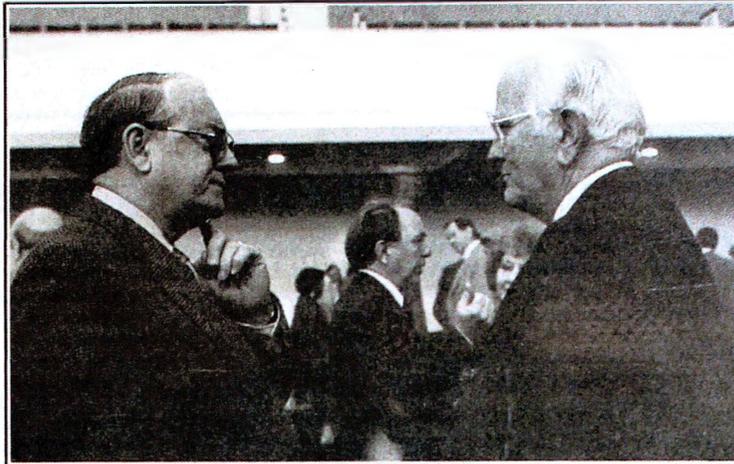
Share Heritage and Hope

Robert Hamblin of Tupelo, Miss., interpreted the theme, "Share Heritage and Hope: Extend Christ's Mission," in four presentations.

Hamblin, former evangelism director at the Atlanta, Ga., based Home Mission Board, reminded the crowd of mostly clergy that God still directs the future. "Will military might cause us to survive?"

Referring to Revelation 5, Hamblin pointed out Gospel writer John foresees the need for a conqueror and he is Jesus Christ.

The Scripture also says believers are kings and priests, "Southern Baptist



SPEAKERS — Carl Duck, left, executive director, Nashville Association, and Landrum Leavell, president, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, visit.

— Photo by Connie Davis

Convention resolution not withstanding. "It doesn't mean you can believe anything you want to believe. ... It means you can communicate with God and talk with God and hear from God."

God wants our riches, wisdom, power, and strength, Hamblin said, pointing out verse 12. "Exercise. ... Get some of that fat off your bodies so

you can live longer for the glory of God," said the director of the L. D. Hancock Foundation in Tupelo. "Control your lust."

He also urged pastors and church leaders to stay tuned to God in their evangelism efforts. "If you turn your face away from the Heavenly Father, you can talk about evangelism all you want to, but He won't use you. He will

be silent."

Session for laypeople

Two laymen gave testimonies during the Tuesday evening service — Greg Nelson, Nashville Christian music artist, and Graydon Kitchens of Minden, La.

Nelson, who has produced most of Sandi Patti's recordings and is a song writer, described his Christian experience as dumbfounding, adding he doesn't sing or play the piano very well. "The Lord said, 'Come over here,' and I just kind of came along."

He confessed that he tries to "hang onto what I've got so people will like me, so I can be a men-pleaser. If the Lord is teaching me anything it's what I'm not and I have far less to say than ever."

Nelson, a member of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, noted the song, "People Need the Lord," was the creation of God rather than himself.

"We have no earthly idea how important we, the laymen, are in the ministry," concluded Nelson.

Graydon, a district judge, reported how God led him to witness to juveniles and criminals.

He began giving juveniles who came through his court marked New Testaments. But after beginning a daily quiet time, Graydon began seeking (Heritage, hope, page 5)

Home Missions offering increases by eight percent

ATLANTA (BP) — National gifts to the 1990 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions totaled \$35.68 million, an increase of 8.14 percent over the previous year.

The unaudited final report shows the offering's largest percentage increase in three years and the sixth largest increase in the past ten years.

However, the offering still fell short of the \$41 million goal. Although the annual goal has not been met since 1981, the 1990 offering came closer to its goal than the last four offerings.

The \$35.68 million received in 1990 is a \$2.69 million increase over the \$32.99 million given the previous year. That is the largest dollar-amount increase on record.

Percentage increases for the annual offering have taken a roller coaster ride in recent years after a period of consecutive double-digit increases from 1976 to 1982.

"All of us here at the Home Mission Board are elated by the strong support of Southern Baptists across the nation," HMB President Larry Lewis said of the 1990 offering.

"The increase indicates that even though Southern Baptists are divided on many issues, they are united in

their concern for missions and are not going to allow controversy in the convention to deter their strong support for our missionaries and our missions cause."

Brotherhood Commission President James Smith said: "The 1990 Annie Armstrong offering is another sign of Southern Baptists' continuing commitment to missions. It shows that Southern Baptists are committed to winning America to Christ."

Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said: "Because men and women, boys and girls in the missions organizations in the churches have recognized the need to give priority to this offering, many will be touched by Christ."

Nationwide, 34 state conventions and fellowships increased their gifts to the offering in 1990 while six conventions and fellowships decreased their gifts.

Here is a state-by-state breakdown of gifts to the 1990 offering: Alabama, \$3.02 million; Alaska, \$58,844; Arizona, \$227,254; Arkansas, \$916,122; California, \$627,008; Canada, \$23,799; Colorado, \$132,628; Dakotas, \$16,762; District of Columbia, \$51,370; Florida, \$2.05 million;

Georgia, \$3.25 million; Hawaii,

\$75,822; Illinois, \$451,983; Indiana, \$137,218; Iowa, \$29,270; Kansas/Nebraska, \$163,585; Kentucky, \$1.23 million; Louisiana, \$1.17 million; Maryland/Delaware, \$280,721; Michigan, \$128,439; Minnesota/Wisconsin, \$40,423; Mississippi, \$2 million; Missouri, \$1.22 million;

Montana, \$23,066; Nevada, \$47,893; New England, \$54,792; New Mexico,

\$252,792; New York, \$89,213; North Carolina, \$4.19 million; Northwest, \$134,861; Ohio, \$186,798; Oklahoma, \$1.07 million; Pennsylvania/South Jersey, \$68,550; Puerto Rico, \$7,705; South Carolina, \$2.48 million; Tennessee, \$2.43 million; Texas, \$5.33 million; Utah/Idaho, \$30,771; Virginia, \$1.85 million; West Virginia, \$66,786; Wyoming, \$28,217; foreign countries, \$40,462.



BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR HONORED — Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, presented a plaque to the Baptist and Reflector Jan. 17 at chapel in the Baptist Center. In the first days of the publishing house, E. E. Folk, editor of the paper, gave space in his office to J. M. Frost, corresponding secretary of the board at its founding in 1891. In the BSSB centennial year, awards are being made to friends and supporters of special note. Above, Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, left, accepts the plaque from Elder for the paper.

— Photo by Jim Veneman

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Editorials**Picking up the challenge: Hollinger to Baptist Press**

It was not an ordinary coincidence, the editorial of January 9 concerning the welfare of Baptist Press and the hiring of Herb Hollinger only a few days later. He was needed.

When the editorial was being written, Southern Baptist Convention officers and President Harold Bennett were in the last stage of naming Hollinger as vice president for Baptist Press. We didn't know that.

We asked questions about the welfare of Baptist Press, and now we are assured that the vital signs will improve dramatically March 1.

Herb Hollinger is a longtime colleague of this and other Baptist state paper editors. But that fact alone does not make him capable of BP responsibilities.

His background is sound, and his experience with

state papers is significant. The news article in last week's Baptist and Reflector tells his story well.

As vice president of Baptist Press, Hollinger will fill the position that has been empty since July 17. He will give Baptist Press a bonafide journalist for the first time in six months.

We express sincere thanks to BP staff members in the Nashville office and to the bureau chiefs who have worked through a difficult situation. They have performed admirably. State paper editors have helped.

In his new role as Baptist Press vice president, Hollinger's first priority will be to bring on board a qualified feature editor, a journalist to fill the post vacated by Marv Knox last May. Secular media will find Hollinger to be capable, reliable, and cooperative.

We express appreciation to Harold Bennett and the officers of the SBC Executive Committee. After sifting and evaluating many candidates for the BP vacancy, they have come up with a Baptist journalist well known with news agencies and state papers and who is well-qualified.

We believe Hollinger will continue the long tradition of journalistic excellence on which the Baptist Press reputation has been based.

Baptist Press has been able to distribute information sent by agencies, institutions, boards, and seminaries. Journalists who cover events of importance and write accordingly have been needed, but only now available again.

Welcome, Herb Hollinger, to the East. In your responsible new position, you will need — and get — cooperation. Blessings on you. — WFA

Fellowship links Baptists around the world

Did you know that Tennessee Baptists are part of a global Baptist family? Formed in 1905, the Baptist World Alliance is a fellowship of 152 Baptist conventions and unions serving 36 million Baptists at work in more than 150 countries.

We don't have to pay dues or vote on programs. Because we are Baptists and relate to the Southern Baptist Convention, we can fellowship with our Baptist brothers and sisters worldwide — through the BWA.

"Together in Christ" is the theme for observance of Baptist World Alliance Day, February 3.

The BWA is called an alliance, a good word to amplify "fellowship." This is not a worldwide

church, not an ecumenical movement. What does the BWA accomplish in the name of Jesus Christ?

Last year, for example, the Baptist World Alliance:

- Helped feed hungry people in Jordan, Liberia, Romania, Nicaragua, and the Philippines.

- Established the Seoul Covenant of evangelism for Baptists.

- Held an international writers' conference to train Baptists around the world in writing Sunday School curriculum.

- Set in place a response to needs of Baptists in Eastern Europe.

- Distributed thousands of Bibles to Eastern Europe and Cuba.

- Met with government representatives in Bangladesh seeking to lift a ban on the New Testament.

The BWA's Baptist World Aid division helps Baptists where there is an emergency or disaster.

Baptist World Alliance Day gives Tennessee Baptists opportunity to band with Baptists worldwide to support one another in prayer. Many Tennesseans were among the 10,000 Baptists who attended the 16th Baptist World Congress last August in Seoul, Korea. They can testify of the fellowship as Baptists celebrated Christ. — WFA

Ousted by civil strife**Missionaries to return to Liberian capital**

By Donald D. Martin

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries plan to reopen mission work in Liberia's battle-scarred capital, Monrovia, by early February.

Civil war and the chaos, terror, and hunger it caused in Liberia claimed thousands of lives last year. It also drove most missionaries out of the country. But the two main Liberian rebel factions and the west African peacekeeping force sent to Liberia several months ago have staked out separate territories in Liberia and a cease-fire now is in effect.

"I'm optimistic about this new beginning," said missionary Bradley Brown, executive director of the Liberia mission organization, who has made several short trips to Monrovia from the neighboring country of Sierra Leone. "My great hope for our continuing Southern Baptist mission work in Liberia is that we will have unprecedented evangelistic and church-planting opportunities."

Brown, of Marietta, Ga., and his wife, Carol, of East Point, Ga., plan to begin the rebuilding by opening church-based medical clinics in Monrovia. Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, Ky., will join the Browns within weeks.

"We're going to have to start small and grow gradually, working through a holistic ministry," he said. The Browns and the Parks will dispense medical care and distribute food through the

church clinics and help local pastors hold church services and Bible studies.

When the Browns return, four Southern Baptist missionary couples will be working in Liberia. Earl and Jane Williams of West Monroe, La., and Knoxville, Tenn., have worked for several months with Lawrence and Alice Hardy of Savannah, Ga., in Yekepa, a small town in northern Liberia. The Hardys hope to join the Browns in Monrovia in late February. In the northwest at Mano River, Ed and Fran Laughridge of Rock Hill and Great Fall, S.C., have set up a food distribution center and are conducting worship services.

All Liberian Baptist pastors and convention leaders, many of whom were feared dead, have been accounted for in the last few months, Brown said. Angelique Jones, president of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention, was thought dead when others found her home destroyed. However, Brown learned that she is well and living in northern Liberia.

Jeremiah Walker, pastor of Zion Grove Church in Brewerville and superintendent of Lott Cary Baptist Mission School, also was believed dead. But Brown learned that Walker recently spoke at a church in Monrovia.

Other denominational leaders whose safety was once questioned but who now have been heard from include: Henry Hoff, former president, Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention; Moses Rhoulac, pastor of Zion Praise Church; Theo Allen, pastor of Effort Church in Paynesville; Joseph and Beatrice Hall, Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary teachers; Victoria Dukuly, former president of the WMU of the Liberia Baptist Mis-

sionary and Education Convention; and Johnetta Minor, president of Ricks Institute. Ricks Institute is a private Baptist school that was started by Southern Baptist missionaries and now is administered by Liberian Baptists.

Although Liberian Baptist leaders escaped death in the months of fighting, many lost family members and friends. Others witnessed horrible killings that will never be forgotten, Brown said.

When Brown met with Ezekiel Bambo, vice president for Ricks Institute, he found Bambo a changed man. "You could see the terror in his eyes," Brown said. "He has been through horrible experiences and it has changed his visage from a very bright, smiling man to one with terror written all over his face."

Several Baptist churches in the Monrovia area have begun ministering to the needs of the community. Prov-

idence Church, the oldest Baptist church in Liberia, began holding church services in early December. The church held a Christmas service attended by more than 700 people. Effort Church in Paynesville has reopened and Oldest Church in Congo-town is holding services.

At first the missionaries will have to make frequent trips to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to resupply the clinic and their homes. Food and clean drinking water are still scarce in Monrovia. Electrical and water service have returned to only a few parts of the capital.

"We will have to bring in everything — food, water, even a bed to sleep on," Brown said. The mission compound, where they will live, is in fair condition. There are some holes in the roof and the compound was completely looted, but it is in better shape than they had expected, he said.

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Muslim anger over Gulf war spills into south Asia

By Michael Chute

HONG KONG (BP)— Pro-Saddam Hussein mobs threatened to attack Baptist buildings in Bangladesh and burned the homes of 13 Christian families as Muslim anger over the Gulf war spilled into south Asia.

Police dispersed a mob bent on destroying a Baptist church in Magura, Bangladesh, Jan. 18 after Chinese engineers constructing an adjacent building reported the impending attack to authorities. Police later stationed five armed officers outside the Magura home of Southern Baptist missionaries David and Barbie McKinley of Oklahoma City as a precaution.

Heavily armed police reinforcements took up positions around the Lindsey house Jan. 19 to repel a mob reportedly on its way. But another group of police stopped the group before it could reach the Lindsey house.

Another mob converged on the Baptist Building in Dhaka but left before police arrived. The building houses Southern Baptist mission offices, a guest house, and the residence of missionaries Jim and Betty McKinley of Albany, Ky., and Louisville, Ky.

Two Japanese women missionaries at the guest house apparently drew the crowd's attention. The two ran into the house after seeing them, said McKinley.

The houses of 13 Bangladeshi Christian families reportedly were looted and burned by pro-Saddam Muslims the nights of Jan. 21 and 22. The Baptist and Catholic families were forced out of their houses before attacks began.

Seven Southern Baptist missionary families work in Bangladesh — three families in Dhaka and four in outlying areas. Missionaries are maintaining contact with each other every day during the crisis. They continue to curtail their activities, even shunning church services "so we wouldn't draw attention," explained McKinley.

He added that missionaries have remained in their homes since the outbreak of the war. McKinley and fellow missionary James Young of Thomastown, Miss., first ventured out only during the early-morning hours of Jan. 23.

McKinley and Young got a call Jan. 23 from the Development Service Center, a Baptist farm on Dhaka's outskirts, warning that another mob reportedly was on its way to attack the center. They went to a nearby police station to get an armed police escort before driving 21 miles to the farm. McKinley said local people had discouraged action against the farm and the mob did not come.

"All of us are in our own places," McKinley said. "Each one wants to remain in their home because of the neighbors. If we start moving about, that looks like it's worse than (the Bangladeshis) think it is. . . . But the situation is very tense. It's just so unpredictable."

In Thailand, the International Baptist Church in Bangkok joined other international congregations in calling off services Jan. 20 as a precaution against possible terrorist strikes.

Thai officials reportedly have identified a terrorist group operating in the country and have issued a warning of possible attacks on unnamed targets over a 48-hour period. No incidents were reported, but authorities extended the alert until Jan. 28. Also, a Japanese Red Army terrorist cell reportedly is using the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai as a base for possible attacks on Western airlines or embassies.

Airports throughout Asia have tightened security and American airliners are under guard. Western embassies are guarded heavily throughout the region. U.S. embassies in many Asian countries have advised Americans to maintain a low profile and avoid public places, particularly those places frequented by Americans. However, many international schools in the region — closed when allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait began — are resuming classes.

"We've not seen any evidence of missionaries or the mission office being threatened," said Tom Williams, Thailand Baptist Mission administrator. "Missionaries are going about normal schedules and routines. There's been no threat at all to our Thai Baptist churches."

A similar situation exists in the Philippines, even though an Iraqi national was killed Jan. 19 when a bomb he apparently attempted to plant exploded in front of the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center, a U.S.-run library in Manila. Philippines missionary administrator Sam Waldron expressed surprise at the failed bomb attack, but attributed it mainly to close ties between the United States and the Philippines.

"We've not heard of any threat to a missionary or mission institution; we're not doing anything abnormal," Waldron added. "No one in Manila is changing their schedule very much. And no worship services have been disrupted."

However, a mission school in Manila only returned to classes Jan. 23 after closing its doors when the Gulf bombing started. Elementary school children will remain out until the end of January; school officials don't want to use buses displaying the school name.

Mission administrators said no missionaries in south Asia have elected to leave their posts at this time. Even though 1800 Westerners had evacuated Pakistan by Jan. 20, Southern Baptists' three missionaries there — Hubert and Bettie Addeleton of Macon, Ga., and Linda Pegram of Dothan, W. Va. — have decided to stay. The U.S. State Department ordered nonessential consulate personnel at Karachi International School to leave Pakistan.

Missions volunteers head overseas despite terrorism threats

By Mary E. Speidel

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — As Americans abroad face growing terrorism threats, "life must go on" is the attitude of most Southern Baptist volunteers headed overseas.

Since the Persian Gulf war erupted Jan. 17, Iraq has continued to call for "holy war" against the West and threaten terrorist acts against Americans. The U.S. State Department has issued a travel advisory warning 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.

Team leaders and individual volunteers are making their own decisions about travel, said Ron Boswell, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's volunteer department. Some have pulled out, but others kept their plans to participate in various projects around the world.

"We've also promised volunteers we would inform them if there were any late-breaking situations they should know about," said Boswell. Most have shown an attitude of "life must go on," he added.

Because of the Gulf war, volunteer projects in the Middle East remain on hold, according to Foreign Mission Board officials. They have notified volunteers of the travel advisory and have highlighted the "war exclusion" as it relates to terrorism in insurance policies volunteers are required to buy. Volunteers normally pay \$1.60 per

day for substantial accidental death and disability benefits. But under a "war exclusion" they or their families might receive nothing if they fall victim to Iraqi-sponsored terrorism. An unofficial interpretation from A.I. Global insurance company stated that if it can be proven a terrorist act was performed by a government which is at war, it would be considered an act of war under the war exclusion.

Accidental death insurance benefits for career missionaries also are excluded in acts of war, but the Foreign Mission Board self-insures each career missionary for \$100,000 in life insurance benefits through its own risk-management funds. This insurance would be unaffected under the circumstances, said Gerald Burch, associate vice president for overseas financial services.

One Oklahoma volunteer said he felt he was more likely to be hit by a car in his own hometown than to be harmed by terrorist activity abroad. "I have to go ahead with my life," the volunteer told Boswell. "I have to do what the Lord wants me to do."

After learning about potential terrorism, volunteer Greg McKeever said he reconsidered his decision to spend six months as a volunteer in Western Europe. "It really tested me," admitted McKeever, of Waxahachie, Texas. But as he prayed about the matter, McKeever said he felt God wanted him to stick with his original decision.

McKeever admitted terrorism concerned him but planned to leave on schedule Jan. 25. "We're all human," he said. "We may worry and fret on the outside, but down inside you have a peace and you know what you're supposed to do."

Another volunteer team from Texas and Oklahoma plans to go ahead with a European project in February.

Some volunteers have decided to postpone projects to a later date, board officials said.

Medical volunteers from North Carolina postponed a January project in Poland, said Dewey Merritt, associate in the volunteer department. The team of six was to have surveyed possibilities for a medical exchange with North Carolina Baptist medical volunteers and Polish physicians. Because of travel advisories, they felt it would be better to go later, Merritt said. North Carolina Baptists have a partnership evangelism project with Poland.

European Baptists appeal to Gorbachev

HAMBURG, Germany (BP) — European Baptist Federation leaders have sent a telegram to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev appealing for "a policy of peaceful negotiation" with the breakaway republic of Lithuania.

The telegram followed the death of 13 Lithuanians in an earlier clash with Soviet troops, who were backing Communist Party loyalists attempting to take control of the republic. Lithuania's legislature declared the republic's independence from Moscow last March.

Baptist leaders depicted the action against "an unarmed people" as "a backward step in the path of democratization which you have been so courageously following and which has won the admiration of the nations of the world."

They urged Gorbachev "to exercise patience and to pursue a policy of peaceful negotiation, however difficult this may be." Such actions, they added, "would send a signal to all involved in the Gulf crisis that justice and peace can be established and maintained without resort to armed force."

The telegram, signed by European Baptist Federation President Peter Barber and General Secretary Karl-Heinz Walter, also assured Gorbachev of Baptists' prayers.

The EBF also sent a telegram to Baptist leaders in the other two independence-seeking Baltic republics, Estonia and Latvia, to assure them of "our love and prayers in these difficult days." Pro-Soviet commandos killed five people Jan. 20 in Latvia.

Former editors' photos sought

The Baptist and Reflector has had 15 editors in its 156 years.

We are establishing in the paper's office a gallery of former editors. Most of the photographs needed will be supplied by the SBC Historical Commission.

Photos of four former editors are needed from other sources: Albert R. Bond, 1917; M. R. Cooper, 1921; and O. E. Bryan and James A. Lester, both of whom served after 1921.

Church historical committees or archives could possibly have these photos. The Baptist and Reflector would like to have or make copies of them.

Please contact us at the office, 371-2003, or P. O. Box 728, Brentwood 37024. — Editor

Christian workers in Middle East concerned about future ministry

By Mike Creswell

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — Even before the bombs have stopped bursting or missiles finished flying in the Gulf war, Christian workers in the Middle East are concerned about future prospects for ministry in the region.

The Middle East has long been one of the most difficult places for Christian outreach in the world, and workers fear the new hostilities may make work even harder.

Many Muslims, including the Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, have pinned their hopes for a boost in prestige and living standards on Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The fact that nations such as the United States and Great Britain have led an offensive against Saddam after his invasion of Kuwait has aroused bitter resentment in the minds of many.

Issues are seldom simple in the region, but conflicts include West vs. East, Christians vs. Muslims, rich vs. poor and haves vs. have-nots. Many Christian workers, even as they anxiously eye the conflict, wonder what the future holds in a Middle East that seems to be reshaping itself before them.

Tensions between Christians and Muslims are much higher, said one worker in the region.

"Predictions are that this could hurt Christian-Muslim relationships for 100 years," he said. "A realignment of Arab nations will create a quagmire of relations we (Americans) don't understand. Americans think of it as a police action, but more is involved."

Some say the hard feelings many Muslims already harbor toward Christians are getting mixed up with a hatred of America, like their loathing of Israel.

Describing the general Muslim view held by many, an Arab Christian said, "Missionaries come from America and Americans are thought to be those who started the war. It's not important who started the action last August — the bombardment was started by the Americans. People are upset because of the bloodshed, the torn loyalties."

Some positive signs have emerged during the conflict. Government leaders in Yemen promised to protect Southern Baptist personnel at a hospital in Jibla, telling them they are still wanted and needed. The government even sent extra troops to guard the hospital.

However, many indications point to worsening Muslim-Christian relations.

Many Christian workers forced to evacuate areas near the war zone are disturbed by the swift attitude changes among people to whom they minister — and in some cases Arab Christians with whom they have worked.

One Southern Baptist worker in the West Bank, where Palestinians oppose Israeli occupation, said he fears he will be more quickly fingered as "just an American" now.

"It's a fragile time for us and our presence," another worker said. Arab Christians have told him they fear if there is nobody else to attack, Muslims may decide to attack Christians in the area.

In another Mideast country where Saddam Hussein has wide popular support, local believers told a Christian worker from Europe that if he remained after the Jan. 15 U.N. war deadline, he would have to stay close to home for as long as six months. "If you stray from your block where you are known, you would be seen as just another Westerner and would be in jeopardy," he was told.

"Our ministry would be so limited so as to be virtually nonexistent" under such circumstances, he said. The advice figured heavily in his decision to leave with his family for Cyprus. A Southern Baptist worker in the same city was given the same advice; he also decided to evacuate with his family.

A Southern Baptist worker who evacuated with her family said Arab Christians she knows "are concerned for the future, but aren't afraid." But one Arab believer said, "If they start killing you because you're American, they'll kill us too, because we're associated with you." She also wept.

The conflict also threatens to spill outside the Middle East and weaken Christian work in other Muslim areas.

An administrator of one Christian agency said the conflict has ramifications throughout the Muslim world, including Asia. His agency sponsors more than 400 workers from several

HMB commissions 39 missionaries

DULUTH, Ga. — "Take your life and abandon it completely at the feet of Jesus," Larry Lewis urged 39 missionaries commissioned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Jan. 20.

Lewis, HMB president, delivered the charge to missionaries during a commissioning service at First Baptist Church of Duluth, Ga. The 39 missionaries commissioned will serve in 18 states in a variety of roles, from church starting to Baptist Center ministries.

Speaking from Matthew 26, Lewis charged the missionaries to be like the woman who anointed Jesus with oil. "A good work is not a big church, a big building, or a big budget," he said.

nations, many of them in the Middle East. Muslims appear to be leaning toward more anti-Western and anti-Christian stances, he said.

"The Arab world is like a drum," he said, paraphrasing a French military officer who served in north Africa. "Hit one place and it reverberates throughout the region."

Others familiar with Islam agreed that the current crisis could threaten work with Muslims in many places.

"Certainly, I think Baptist work, if there's any among Muslims, will be weakened, because Baptists are identified with America," said an Arab Christian.

Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist work in the Middle East, agreed with many indicators of worsening conditions, but said God's clear instruction to share the Gospel takes precedence. "We feel that Jesus is the hope for us and for all people," he said, quoting the biblical book of Colossians.

"A good work is when someone is willing to take his life and pour it out at the feet of Jesus."

Two missionaries gave testimonies during the service, representing the diversity of the home missions enterprise.

Steve Hughes, missionary to El Portal, Calif., told about the ministry he and his wife will have in Yosemite National Park. Hughes related how serving as a student missionary at the same location years earlier impacted his call to resort missions.

David Dean, director of missions for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, told the suburban Atlanta congregation about the vast needs of his association, which encompasses 17 million people.

Those commissioned join a home missions force of more than 4,570 personnel serving nationwide and supported by the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. — BP

Bailey Smith given pacemaker

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist evangelist Bailey Smith has received a pacemaker after blacking out during a cruise in the Bahamas.

Smith, 52, reportedly collapsed Jan. 15 while the Starship Atlantic was docked in Nassau. He was taken to a hospital in Nassau, where a temporary pacemaker was installed, according to Debbie Kennedy, a staff member and spokeswoman with Bailey Smith Ministries in Atlanta.

On Jan. 18, Smith was flown by air ambulance to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, where a permanent pacemaker was installed Jan. 20, she said. A few days later, Smith was discharged from the hospital.

Kennedy said Smith's prognosis for recovery is positive. "It was not a heart attack. They don't feel like there was any damage to his heart, but they don't know what caused it."

Smith had preached just hours before the medical emergency, Kennedy said. The Jan. 14-18 "Sailabration Bible Cruise" is an annual event featuring preaching and singing by Smith and other Southern Baptist personalities. — BP

Tennessee seminarian witnesses across miles

This story started with a photo in the Oct. 3, 1990, issue of the Baptist and Reflector. The photo was of Tennessee scholarship recipients at Midwestern Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. I was in the picture, and the caption indicated my hometown was Fairview, Tennessee.

A few weeks later, in a doctor's waiting room in Puerto Rico, an unnamed nurse placed her copy of the Oct. 3 issue of the Reflector on a table for patients to read. A teenager with a terminal illness picked up that copy. He saw the picture indicated above, saw the words "Fairview, Tenn.," and realized he had friends in that small town.

On Dec. 13, I received a letter addressed as follows: "to Mr. Mark Mangrum, Christian student of the Union Baptist University that was congratulated and received scholarship 1990-91 from the President Milton Ferguson of the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Kansas City in Missouri, and native from Fairview, c/o Dept. of Correspondence of Union University."

Somehow, the postal service delivered the letter to Union, and they forwarded it to me.

The letter was from this terminally ill teenager. He was wanting to know about God. He said his parents told him God was dead, and the Bible was a bunch of lies. He wanted to know if there was a God, and why I loved

Jesus. He asked what love is, because he and his family were filled with hate. He ended the letter by asking me to pray for his dying life, and to not hate him for his letter.

My first reaction was astonishment. I reasoned it to be a joke by a friend in the ministry. But I noticed the postmark from Puerto Rico, and the sincerity of the letter, and knew it was for real. I quickly responded to the letter, trying to explain "God," "Jesus," and "love" to a teenager thousands of miles away whom I had never met.

I discovered the "big" words learned at seminary were useless in this case. I thought back to 1975 when I became a Christian at the age of 15 at Old New Hope Baptist Church. I used those thoughts and told this adolescent in the simplest of terms about God, His great sacrifice, His Son, and His willingness to love and forgive.

On New Year's Eve, I received a telephone call from Puerto Rico. It was the teenager, calling from a pay phone (and feeding it coins every three minutes). We talked about an hour. He asked questions I hadn't been asked in years, such as "how do you know God is real?" and "what was your life like before becoming a Christian?" The young man soon asked me how he could become a

Christian. I told him, and led him in a prayer of salvation. He told me how angry his family would be with him, for they were actively opposed to Christianity. We prayed together for his family and his health, then said goodbye.

I have since been in almost weekly contact with my new friend. His health is steadily deteriorating because of a brain tumor. He is meeting constant hatred in his family for his decision to follow Christ. His name and city must remain confidential for these reasons; yet, I seek your prayers for him.

Who would have thought in 1975, a baby being born the same year I was saved, that 16 years later our paths would cross? Thank you Old New Hope Baptist Church, Union University, Midwestern Seminary, Baptist and Reflector, and an unnamed brave teenager.

May all lost persons get such a desire to know God, and may we all be open to the leading of the Spirit as the Spirit leads the lost to us. May we quit bickering and fighting long enough to learn the still small cries of lost souls, gasping for the spiritual breath we can help them find.

Mark Mangrum
5103 N. Oak, Apt. 3
Kansas City, Mo. 64118

Heritage, hope messages of Evangelism Conference . . .

(Continued from page 1)
opportunities to witness.

He witnessed to two teenagers who burglarized his home and saw each accept Christ as Savior. He also has witnessed on death row. His efforts have resulted in changed lives, Graydon said.

Landrum Leavell, president, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, concluded the evening with a message about the layman, John the Baptist.

The prophet of the Messiah was obedient, a servant, humble, brave, and had a zeal for righteousness, said Leavell.

A lack of obedience is "the reason we have so many boys out in the pews today who are trying to do the work of men in the ministry," said the native of Ripley.

Most great Christians in God's sight are not on TV or in the newspapers, do not command fortunes or control banks, said Leavell.

Leavell warned to guard against preachers pressures. "Some subjects if we preach on them will hurt the offering," he said. "How long has it been since you've heard a sermon on alcohol?"

Evading sin and "hating the hell out of the hearts of the members of the Southern Baptist Convention" could be transforming, he said.

"The reason we have the problem of sin and hate in our churches is the members in the churches don't have much of a pattern standing in the pulpit."

In a final message to the conference, Leavell called the crowd to soul winning, contrasting the actions of Jesus toward the Samaritan woman and the apostles toward the Samaritans recorded in John 4.

Leavell noted while the apostles were in town buying food they failed to

Summertown cited among SBC churches

NASHVILLE — Summertown Church, Summertown, was among the top 25 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention earning study course awards for 1989-90, statistics reveal.

The church was 17th in the SBC and first in the state in the number of study awards earned with 875, according to statistics compiled in the church study course records office at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

First Church, Murfreesboro, was second in Tennessee in the number of study awards earned with 699, and First Church, Old Hickory, was third with 664.

Texas led all states in the Southern

New Hope Church calls Joe Hinkle as pastor

Joe Hinkle became pastor of New Hope Church, Hendersonville, Dec. 2, 1990.

Before joining the New Hope staff, Hinkle served as interim pastor of Lakeside Church, Lakeland, Fla., for two years. He was director of family ministries at the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1967 to 1982.

Hinkle earned a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Carol, have two daughters.

share the Gospel with people ready to hear. Just a few hours later revival broke out there because of the witness of the Samaritan woman, he noted.

Blame for inaction cannot be placed on the liberals — "both of them died" — or the fundamentalists — "they're out building churches, minding their own business most of the time," he declared.

To reach Americans, churches must reach people unlike themselves.

"Southern Baptists don't want their churches to grow," he said.

Leavell also told of a conversation with an employee of a Nashville car rental company that concluded in an opportunity for him to share his faith.

Tennessee leaders spoke

Tennessee Baptist Convention President Bill Bates of Jackson observed the "problem with us today is we want to put guidelines on everybody.

"There must be love, concern, and understanding," he challenged.

TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie stated, "We're living in the midst of times in which people are looking for somebody who has a word from God; something that will give them some hope and direction and some assurance in these uncertain and troubling times."

Basing his text on Genesis 19:24-26 and Luke 17:25-33, Lowrie cited the dangers of worldliness.

"Worldliness is a terribly dangerous thing in its ability to desensitize us to what God is doing and to what God is saying. It leads us to the place where we put our will above God's will."

He challenged pastors and church leaders not to let "the stuff" of this world become the priorities of their lives.

Other messages

Two rousing messages were presented by Freddie Haynes, pastor,

Baptist Convention in church study course awards earned for 1989-90 with 88,050. Florida was second with 74,984 awards, and Georgia was third with 62,767. Tennessee ranked sixth with 48,648.

First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., ranked first among the top 25 churches in the SBC in total church study course awards earned for 89-90 with 6371. Second Church of Houston ranked second with 4332, and Iglesia Bautista Horeb of Hialeah, Fla., was third with 3246.

Training activity in churches has shown a decline from last year, according to William R. Cox, church study course coordinator at the board. While the number of persons enrolled in the study course system rose eight percent over last year to 1.4 million, training is down by 13 percent. The 1989-90 awards total was 737,708 compared to 848,110 in 1988-89.

"The decrease is general: 21 out of 24 subject areas are down; 34 out of 41 states showed a decline; and 827 churches that had offered courses the previous year reported no activity," Cox said. "The churches that did report awards averaged nine percent fewer awards than the previous year. Diplomas earned were down 12 percent.

"There is a relationship between training and future growth," Cox added. "Churches that fail to train now will fail to grow later."

Friendship West Church, Dallas, Texas.

Reminding conferees of God's power, Haynes observed Christians at times will face adversity. He compared Christians to tea bags because "neither one is any good until they go through some hot water."

He challenged church leaders to make the best of tough situations. "When God puts you in hot water, he's not trying to burn you. He's trying to bring out the flame in you."

He also noted just as the Apostle Paul was denied missionary work in Asia, Christians will experience "dreams deferred."

The result of Paul's deferred dream is an evangelized western world, claimed Haynes, which includes the United States.

In other messages, Nathan Pillow, director of evangelism for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, cautioned that Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan to share the Gospel with the world by the year 2000, "will not get done the way we're doing it now.

"We're going to have to do something differently and that means everyone of us is going to have to make a fresh commitment to share our faith with everyone we come into contact with every day."

Bobby Sunderland of the evangelism section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board noted "a lack of enthusiasm" is one of the greatest enemies of evangelism.

But if people are willing, Sunderland

said, good things will happen. "It's amazing how God can take our efforts, our commitment, our compassion, just a little of it, and magnify it as many blessings in the lives of other people. It doesn't take much if we'll give it."

Carl Duck, executive director, Nashville Association, predicted the "day of the Baptist association is yet to come" because of its ability to provide opportunities for the work of the local church.

He also called the preachers and others to the faithfulness of the Apostle Paul. He was stoned, whipped, his message was rejected by most, but the apostle didn't quit, pointed out Duck.

"You've heard it said, 'Seeing is believing,' God says, 'Believing is seeing.' I wonder what we can identify in our ministry that can be explained by faith."

Christians should measure life's difficulties by eternity rather than time, he said, citing one encounter with God which left him feeling like God "wrapped a warm blanket around my shoulders."

Benny Jackson, a vocational evangelist from Germantown and past president of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists, discussed the paradox of Judas.

He noted Judas was "a fortunate man" because he heard Jesus teach, he witnessed the miracles of Jesus, and he witnessed for Jesus. But "he had never come to trust Jesus Christ himself as his personal Savior."

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

We got the news of his death last fall. The September days grew short and so did his life. He was almost eighty-five.

He was extolled as a driving force in improving the quality of higher education in South Carolina, well-read, quite literate, calm with a spark of imagination.

I remember him best as a distinguished journalist, learned and participatory historian, friend, and mentor.

I remember him also as the editor who called my father, asking him to "tell that boy of yours when you next write him that there's a job waiting for him at the Florence Morning News."

James A. Rogers was perceptive. He knew that young soldier would need a job when he got out of the army — and he knew that he wanted to be a journalist. He was willing to provide that opportunity.

In the short time I worked for him, I gained a lifetime of journalistic experience — and the same amount of experiential Christianity. He was a former Baptist pastor turned editor, always a faithful teacher.

I remember late night conversations, long after everyone else had gone home. Occasionally he would hang around just to see the paper "put to bed."

I would be there because I loved everything about the building — the newsroom, the offices, the pressroom — and especially the people. It was a newspaper plant, wasn't it?

He taught me that first things come

first. I learned that the ordinary "beats" had to be covered methodically whether or not there was news. I learned that the mundane usually comes before the "scoops" and front page news.

I learned that everything about James Rogers came with some dry wit and calm security of knowing he was the Lord's. That was a good way to begin a lifetime of journalism.

When he was sick once, I acted as courier for his editorial-writing. I had the privilege of going to his home, picking up the drafts, taking them to the office. And then I would take them back for his stringent proof-reading. I read them with care.

He founded a college which continues to expand, authored histories, had time to serve on numerous boards, and was always a spokesman for his Lord.

As we talked late, late one night, I told him how similar his lifestyle to certain other "Southern Christian gentlemen" I had known in college days, his reply was typical James Rogers.

"Ah, if it were true," he said with a nostalgic twinkle in his eyes, "if it were true."

It was true. An admirer said of him after his death, "He was very careful to do the right thing, the moral thing." Yes, and the Christian thing.



Senior adults can impact evangelism, Cox asserts

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
 NASHVILLE— Bill Cox's retirement, if you could call it that, lasted roughly one night.

On July 31, 1990 Cox retired after 29 years of service with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, including the last ten years as manager of the board's conference center section.

One day later he began a new career as national coordinator of volunteers in evangelism with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., an arrangement he had worked out several months in advance. He still will be based in Nashville.

"God called me into the ministry to do my best," Cox declared. "I don't plan to retire, I have just changed directions."

In early January Cox was commissioned for his new assignment by First Church, Donelson, where he and his wife, Catherine, are members. Pastor Roy Fisher led the commissioning service. "It was very meaningful to us," Cox said.

The Texas native, who also stays busy as a music evangelist, called his assignment "a new approach" in that it is designed to involve senior adults "who can be a moving force" in evangelism.

Cox described himself as a "conduit" between churches that want to be of help and those that need it.

While the main goal is to get senior adults involved in evangelism, Cox will be involved in a number of activities.

Already he has been instrumental in getting a group of Tennessee Baptists paired with a small mission church in Ohio that needed an evangelistic team.

Cox contacted Don Owens, pastor of Immanuel Church, Lebanon, who agreed to take a team from his church to Zenia, Ohio, in April. Owens will lead revival services while his church members will visit in the area. Cox is going along as music evangelist.

"We try to hook churches that need help in evangelism with churches that have the strength and desire to do the work," he said.

Cox also is working with several special projects such as "Crossover Atlanta," an evangelistic endeavor

which will be held prior to the upcoming annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta, and "Share Indiana," a project in which 2000 adults are being enlisted to work with 66 churches in Indianapolis to impact the community.

Cox emphasized his desire to get senior adults involved in these various projects.

It only takes about one hour of training, Cox said, adding that "you don't need to do a lot of memorizing or special work." A pamphlet, "Eternal

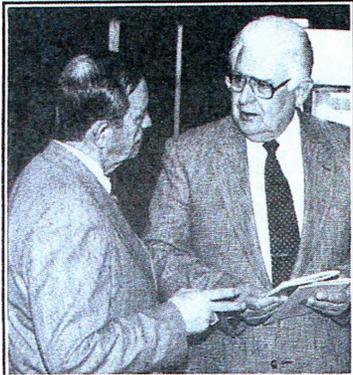
Life," is the primary tool.

Volunteers basically visit homes, conducting a religious opinion survey. For those not comfortable with visiting, there are other ways to serve, Cox added.

All that is needed, Cox insisted, is willing people.

"Senior adults have time to get involved and they can do a good job," Cox said.

Cox can be contacted at (615) 883-7024 for additional information.



DISCUSSING BUSINESS — Bill Cox, right, visited with Johnnie Hall, TBC Discipleship Training director, during the recent state evangelism conference. Cox led one of the workshops held during the conference.

Vacation Bible School clinics scheduled in four TBC churches

The 1991 State Vacation Bible School clinics will be held in four locations across Tennessee Feb. 11-14.

Associational teams are encouraged to attend to receive training and orientation for 1991 curriculum, said Martha Couch of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department.

Conferences will include baby/toddler, 2-3 year-olds, 4-5 year-olds, younger, middle, and older children, youth, adult, general officers, and special education. Also Backyard Bible Club/Mission Vacation Bible School training will be offered.

On Feb. 11 the clinic will be at Manley Church, Morristown; Feb. 12 — First Church, Athens; Feb. 13 — First Church, Franklin; and Feb. 14 — West Jackson Church, Jackson. The schedule is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and

the theme is "Celebrate Jesus."

For more information, people may contact the Sunday School Department at (615) 371-2054.

Leoma church calls Jack Taylor as pastor

Jack H. Taylor recently began his first full-time pastorate at Oak Hill Church, Leoma.

Taylor is the first full-time pastor the church has called.

Before coming to Leoma, Taylor served as bivocational pastor at Viola Church, Columbia; East Hickman Church, Lyles; and Swan Creek Church, Hampshire.

He was ordained in 1980 at Cross Bridges Church, Columbia.

The Weakley County native and his wife, Charlene, have four children, and one grandson.

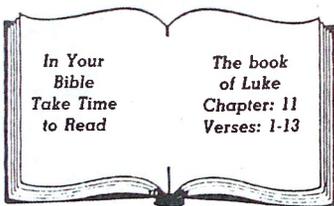


Shoe Strings

'the kid's fun page'

Created by

Rob Sauls Jan. 1991
 Darrell Vandergriff
 Lib McCluskey



In Your Bible
 Take Time
 to Read

The book
 of Luke
 Chapter: 11
 Verses: 1-13

Answer the following questions

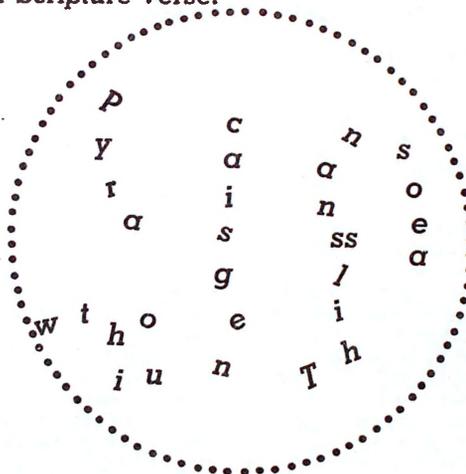
1. What is Jesus teaching us about in these verses:

- a. Prayer
- b. Nature
- c. War

2. Write out the Lord's Prayer.

3. Can you say it from memory?

Unscramble the letters to come up with a Scripture verse.



1

5:17

Answer: Prayer without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Mom, Mom," David excitedly yelled as he burst through the door. "Mom, we're at war!!!"

David's mother coming into the room calmly replied, "Yes, David, I know. Do you know what that means?"

"Well, not really, but I've seen lots of war movies on T.V."

"David," his mother began, "you need to understand that most of what you see on T.V. glamorizes or makes war look neat, but real war means men and women going into battle and fighting and many times dying for what they believe is right."

"Mom," asks David, "will you have to go fight?"

"No, David, I won't but there are many moms and dads who did have to leave their families and go fight."

"Yes, I know," replies David. "Jeremy, my best friend at school, well his dad left to go fight over a month ago and Jeremy really misses him. Mom, is there anything we can do to help?"

"Yes, David. We can pray!!!"

We pray for God's Blessing on every soldier and their Families!!!

1991 State Evangelism Conference



CUMBERLAND PLATEAU ASSOCIATION pastors at the conference were, from left, Eugene "Butch" Stapleton, Charlie Ivey, Ron Dyer, and Bill Beck.



ROBERTSON COUNTY Director of Missions Frank Evans, left, visited with Greenbrier pastor Fred Baldwin.

Interest groups new offering of conference

NASHVILLE — "Total Church Life," a special interest group of the 1991 State Evangelism Conference, was one of ten groups held for the first time as a part of the program.

Led by Ron Barker of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., the session included some strategies for church evangelism and an introduction to a day-long course.

Barker indicated the church's purpose should not be for benevolence, to provide a moral conscience to the community, or to maintain the status quo.

It should be in the "redemption business," he said.

Churches must seek God's plan, said Barker. "Most of us Baptists believe the Bible because most of us haven't read it," said Barker.

One form of evangelism, mass evangelism "is still going to see its best day," he declared. However, more people attended revivals several decades ago "because there wasn't anything else to do then."

Sunday School and Discipleship Training programs are still a church's best tools for evangelism, Barker stated. Some resistance to this strategy will come from church members who dislike the inclusion of non-Christians in the church because they are different, noted Barker.

Today people respond to relationships rather than instruction. He characterized visitation programs by recalling an experience while a soldier in the Vietnam War. He would cross the demilitarized zone for a "visitation," hoping nobody would be "home."

"When you win people to Christ you do it because you're a believer, not because you're a preacher. But you train them because you're a minister."

The day-long conference, "Total Church Evangelism," will be June 17-18 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, Barker announced. — *Connie Davis*



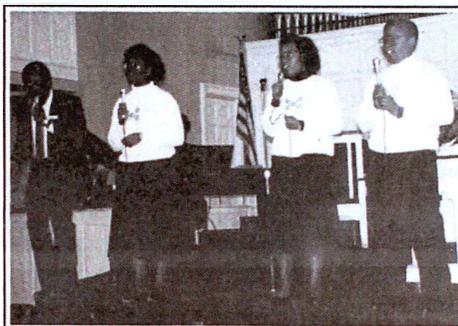
REPORTING ON PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS were Richard Poe, left, missionary to Chile, and Charles Pratt, director of missions, Haywood Association, and volunteer to Philippines.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP entitled "Total Church Life" is led by Ron Barker of the Home Mission Board.



PROGRAM PERSONALITIES Roberta Kitchens and Graydon Kitchens Jr., of Louisiana, are greeted by J. B. Miller, pastor in Columbia, and Jim Dykes, layman from Cleveland.



MUSIC EVANGELIST Bud Lee, left, of Missouri and his children perform.

Speakers comment on society's ills, war, faith

Like marriage, morality is until death. I don't understand these Christians starting churches for homosexuals and lesbians. What book are they reading? The Bible says no sex outside marriage. — *Landrum Leavell*

I am proud to be a Southern Baptist. I am proud to be an American. I'm not impressed with Saddam Hussein because he is a defeated foe. I am not impressed with Satan for he is the fallen angel. I'm not impressed with myself for I know in this stinking flesh there is no good thing. I know that God can work through me. — *Roberta Kitchens*

Jesus interrupted His sermon because one of the guiding principles of His life is that people are more important than sermons. — *Bobby Sunderland*

Humility is tied to your attitude toward Jesus and is not measured in a yellow stripe a mile wide down your back. — *Landrum Leavell*

If you were to remove Jesus Christ from the universe, the place would blow up — all things were created by Him. — *Robert Hamblin*

It is impossible to do the work of God if you do not love the Lord. — *Benny Jackson*

Do you preach about hell as if you're happy everybody's going there? — *Bill Bates*

Someday our convention is going to get straightened out, back on the right track. And then we will realize it will be because the association kept us going on mission during

troubled times. — *Carl Duck*

The greatest need in the Southern Baptist Convention is not to solve the controversy. The greatest need is that we might get busy and lead people to Jesus Christ. — *Nathan Pillow*

God is not interested in your bargain, form, plan, or doing it your way. He's only interested in doing it His way. — *Robert Hamblin*

We cannot have a Brill Cream religion where a little dab will do you. — *Freddie Haynes*

Christians and tea bags have a lot in common because neither one of us is any good until we go through some hot water. — *Freddie Haynes*

It's harder to hear God while you're listening to the noise of the world about you. It's hard to see God while you're captivated by the glitter of the world about you. — *D. L. Lowrie*

The devil always tries to throw up some kind of barrier to discourage us and to defeat us, and to distract us. — *Bobby Sunderland*

God wants everything we have because all belongs to Him. It's not an option, but it is a command to be filled with the Spirit. Therefore, in faith, we need to ask the Holy Spirit who always lives within us to take complete control of us, filling us to the fullness of His power. — *Nathan Pillow*

Prayers of the saints are held before God until the right time. — *Robert Hamblin*

Number of adult CSC volunteers increases 36 percent

ATLANTA (BP)— The number of adult volunteers serving through the Home Mission Board's Christian Service Corps increased 36 percent in 1990. That growth contributes to a 7.9 percent overall increase in the number of volunteers serving in short-term and long-term home mission projects.

Christian Service Corps is a program for adults who serve one year or less. In 1990, a total of 25,469 people served in CSC, compared to 18,635 in 1989. The number of people serving in CSC has increased by at least 28 percent annually since 1986.

The total home missions volunteer force reached 52,545 in 1990, up from 48,681 in 1989. The 1990 figures do not include 1200 volunteers who served in language church extension and 9897 volunteers who served in evangelism. Those categories of volunteers were

not recorded in the past, but will be in the future.

Don Hammonds, HMB volunteer division director, attributes the increase in adult volunteers to a better reporting system and to increased awareness of the need for volunteers. "Given the opportunity, adults want to serve and make a difference," Hammonds said.

Several states now have a volunteer coordinator on their convention staff. The coordinators' work in recruiting and placing volunteers has impacted the number of people serving in missions, Hammonds said.

Elmer Goble, director of Christian Service Corps, said that even with the increase in volunteers, some needs are still not met. He said there is a demand for construction work throughout the country and for teams to do Vaca-

tion Bible Schools in pioneer mission areas.

Mike Robertson, director of the short-term volunteer department, added volunteers are needed for door-to-door visitation to start churches and work in inner city mission centers.

There is a constant need, Robertson said, for college students to serve as summer or student missionaries. He said students do not have to be part of a Baptist Student Union to be a missions volunteer.

Mission Service Corps, the program for volunteers who serve more than

one year, grew from 1230 in 1989 to 1301 in 1990.

Bob Mills, MSC director, said "the sky's the limit" for the type of volunteers needed. He said he continuously looks for volunteer secretaries to work in state convention and associational offices, for bivocational pastors, and for volunteers to work as support staff in churches and associations. There is a continual need for teachers in American Samoa.

Information about home missions volunteer needs is available through a toll-free number, 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

BWA leaders call for prayer

McLEAN, Va. (BP)— Deeply saddened by the news of the outbreak of war between the United States and Allied Forces and Iraq, the Baptist World Alliance is calling on Baptists to pray for peace; for all of the people of the Middle East, and that this not become a holy war.

"We want to assure our brothers and sisters living in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and the Middle East that we are joining them in prayer for peace," said Denton Lotz, general secretary and Knud Wumpelman, president of the BWA. "We extend our hand of peace to our Muslim friends and say 'Salaam,' 'Shalom.'"

In a statement of the 70 million Baptists represented in the BWA, Lotz and Wumpelman said, "It is a tragic fact of history that the area of the world where three great religions find their home is also a place of enmity and war."

Because there are Christians, Jews, and Muslims living in all of the countries represented, the BWA leaders say we (Baptists) "must call all men and women of goodwill to prayer."

The BWA leaders call for a quick end to the conflict and a just settlement of all the problems confronting the nations of the Middle East. They

ABS sends Bibles to Saudi Arabia

NEW YORK — The American Bible Society is currently working to fulfill a new request from the Pentagon Chaplains Board for more Scriptures for military personnel in Operation Desert Shield.

Colonel Meredith R. Standley, executive director of the U.S. Armed Forces Chaplains Board, contacted the American Bible Society in early January, requesting that ABS double the number of desert camouflage-covered Scriptures being produced for the military, said James Ray, ABS national field director. The Pentagon, Ray said, has asked for 50,000 Scriptures, in addition to the 50,000 it has already received.

"The ABS has agreed and a new appeal to fund this need is already being planned," Ray said. With this additional appeal, the ABS will have provided 148,000 Bibles and New Testaments for military personnel in Saudi Arabia, to date.

extended their sympathy to those families bereaved by the death of loved ones in this war, whether in the Middle East, Europe, or North America.

An appeal was also made to the government leaders on both sides for "compassion and forgiveness. We pray that the world will be preserved from future tragedies by establishing instruments of peace and justice in the Middle East" the statement said.

"We pray for that day" say the BWA leaders, "when men and women will no longer live by the sword but by the Word of the Lord."

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BWA urges religious freedom in Romania

McLEAN, Va. (BP)— Concerned about the delay of the Romanian government to pass a promised law on religious freedom and forces in Romania who are resisting such a law, the Baptist World Alliance has written Romanian president Ion Iliescu, encouraging him and his government to "approve the new law on religious freedom."

In the letter to Iliescu, BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and President Knud Wumpelman praised the Romanian leader for the progress already made toward a democratic govern-

ment in Romania, but said that "the lack of a law guaranteeing religious freedom is a glaring weakness in the progress toward democratic reform."

"With all our hearts," the Baptist leaders said, "we implore you and your government to pass the new law so that all Romanian people will enjoy the new fruits of freedom so recently won in your country."

Lotz and Wumpelman also wrote United States President George Bush asking him to encourage the Romanian government to pass the law for religious freedom.

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Christiana, on to Kimberlin Heights ...

Churches ...

Members of Cottonwood Church, Ridgely, held a note-burning service in December to celebrate paying the church debt one year early. Former pastors David Bartholomew and Bill Wolfe spoke.

Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, will begin a Sunday School class taught in Spanish on Feb. 3. The class will be taught by Tulip Grove member Roberto Gama, a native of Colombia, South America. For information about the class, contact Gama at (615) 889-3966.

People ...

James and Nellie Thompson, members of Madison Heights Church, Madison, celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary Jan. 1. He is a deacon emeritus at the church.

Ordinations ...

First Church, Cookeville, ordained the following men as deacons Jan. 27: Britt Akers, Neil Alcorn, Eddie Bradley, Bill Branch, Jeff Comer, Kir-

by Hamilton, Burton Putman, and Larry Taylor.

Phillip Smith was ordained to the deacon ministry of First Church, Centerville, Jan. 13.

First Church, Livingston, ordained Tommy Stephens, David Kress, and Keith Emrich as deacons Jan. 27.

George Treadway was ordained to the deacon ministry Jan. 20 at First Church, Rockwood.

Leadership ...

Billy Garner is now serving as pastor of Moore's Chapel Church, Greenfield.

First Church, Hampton, recently called James Archer as full-time pastor. He had been serving as interim pastor.

Antioch Church, Johnson City, called Joe C. Frazier, Orangeburg, S.C., as minister of family life, a newly created position. His duties will include running a full-scale athletic and

recreation program for members of the church and community.

Union Church, Knoxville, recently called John H. Thomerson as pastor. The Nashville native was formerly pastor of Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville. He and his wife, Pattie Sue, have two children. He began his service Jan. 20.



Bob Eubanks joined the staff of Sharon Church, Knoxville, Jan. 16 as music director.

Pine Eden Church, Crossville, called Hank Jones, Harriman, as associate pastor. He began his ministry Dec. 9.

Richard W. Owens was recently called as pastor to White's Chapel Church, Jackson. He was formerly bivocational pastor at Antioch Church, Henderson, for 13 years. During that time, his wife, Jo, served as music director.

Recreation leadership retreats set for Camp Carson, Camp Linden

Church leaders and laypersons interested in starting or strengthening their church's recreation ministry are encouraged to attend the first ever Recreation Leadership Retreat March 8-9.

The retreats will be held in two locations - Camp Linden in Linden and Camp Carson in Newport. Both conferences begin at 6:30 p.m., local time, on Friday and end at 2:30 p.m., the next day.

The weekend meetings are sponsored by the church recreation office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Several conferences will be held during the two-day event. Conference topics include "Training your Christian Coaches," "Programming and Planning for Recreation Ministry," "The Recreation Committee," "Sports Evangelism: A Tool for Reaching the World for Christ," and others.

Program leaders at Camp Linden are: Ken Story and Frank Drinkard, Germantown Church, Germantown; Buddy Holland, Two Rivers Church, Nashville; Raymond Scott, Colonial Church, Memphis; David Holmes, First Church, Lexington; John Bailey, First Church, Memphis; Ken Cox, Bartlett Church, Bartlett; and Don Mattingly, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Leading the program at Camp Carson will be: Richard Emmert and Edie Baker, Manley Church, Mor-

ristown; Archie Fendley, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville; Bob Sessoms, First Church, Concord, Knoxville; Ed Jenkins, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; Terry Fishburn, Crievewood Church, Nashville; and Joe Palmer, Baptist Sunday School Board.

The cost for the weekend retreat is \$30 and includes lodging, two meals, and all conferences. Deadline for registration is March 1.

For more information, contact Eleanor Yarborough at (615) 371-2033.

Clarksville church calls Kim Allen as new pastor

Kim Allen recently became pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

Allen filled the pastorate at Oakdale Church, Harriman, for more than two years before going to Clarksville. He has also been pastor of First Church, Westmoreland; First Church, Monteagle; and a church in Kentucky.

The Estill Springs native was ordained in 1979 at First Church, Manchester. He earned a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro; a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and a doctorate from Trinity Theological Seminary, Newberg, Ind.

He and his wife Brenda, have two sons.

Union conference to deal with stress

JACKSON - Ministers attending Union University's annual bivocational pastors' conference Feb. 22-23 will learn how to deal with stress in their jobs.

"Blooming Where You Have Been Planted" is the theme of the weekend conference, where ministers will explore methods to manage stress and control conflict.

The meeting is sponsored by Union, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood.

Keynote speakers include Robert Campbell, HMB; and Norris Smith and Gary Hardin of the BSSB.

Other program leaders will include bivocational pastors Lamar Ball,

Northside Church, Adamsville; Steve Gallimore, Birds Creek Church, Puryear; and Wilburn Nelson, Chapel Hill Church, Milan. Dwayne Ervin, a bivocational pastor from Weakley County, also will participate in the program.

Registration will begin on Friday, Feb. 22 from 4:30-6 p.m., followed by a banquet in the cafeteria, said John Adams, vice president for religious affairs at Union. The conference will conclude on Saturday around noon.

Registration fee for the conference is \$10 and includes costs of the conference and the banquet. Special room rates are being offered by the Casey Jones Motel and Days Inn, both located near the campus.

For more information, people may contact Adams at (901) 668-1818.



NATIONAL RA AWARD - Stephen Stewart, left, of Nashville, receives the National Pioneer Adventure Award from Karl Bozeman, Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, at Woodmont Church on Jan. 23. Stewart, 14, received the fourth award of the three-year-old recognition for completing 165 missions activities. He is the son of Charles and Diane Stewart. Two Tennessee Royal Ambassador Pioneers have earned the award. - Photo by Connie Davis

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

You can have personal peace in a war-torn world. You may be searching for such peace. Let me suggest something that has helped me across the years.

It came from a helpful book by John Haggai on worry. He offered a formula by which you can overcome worry. He writes that prayer plus praise plus poise equals peace. He bases his formula on Philippians 4:6-7.

Paul surely taught that prayer is the proper response to any anxiety producing situation. "Let your request be known." Have you been honest and

open with our Father God?

It is easy to forget praise, but Paul added "with thanksgiving." You may not feel thankful so thanksgiving may have to be a matter of discipline. You will need simply to make you a thanksgiving list. It will take longer to list all of the blessings that you have received than you think.

"With poise" is a vital part of the formula. This is simply a commitment that you are going to do right regardless of what happens.

The promise is that "the peace of God will keep your heart and mind." The peace of God will be like a company of soldiers surrounding your heart and mind to keep anxiety out.

I want to bear testimony that this will help. So during these troubled days, let's live in God's peace.



LOWRIE

Judge rules NEA anti-obscenity rules unconstitutional

WASHINGTON (BP) — A federal judge in Los Angeles has ruled that the anti-obscenity commitment required of grant recipients by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1989-90 was unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge John G. Davies said in his decision announced on Jan. 9 that the requirement infringed upon freedom of speech.

The ruling's effect is limited to the extent that the anti-obscenity pledge was not included in the latest congressional reauthorization of the NEA. Instead, Congress directed the chairman to make certain that grants are made "taking into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public." Julianne Davis, general counsel for the NEA, said she

is conferring with the Justice Department to determine if the decision will be appealed. She said she would not comment on the court's ruling until a decision on an appeal has been made.

"We urge the administration to appeal the trial judge's decision," said Michael K. Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Although the affidavit requirement is no longer a part of the NEA law, the case raises the important issue of the power of government to oversee the use of public funds.

"Every taxpayer is required to sign an oath on his IRS Form 1040 declaring that the contents are true, correct, and complete. In effect, he must promise not to violate the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of perjury. If the taxpayers who fund NEA grants must

sign an affidavit agreeing to obey the law, why is it unfair to ask the artists who take NEA grants to sign an affidavit simply agreeing not to break the law?"

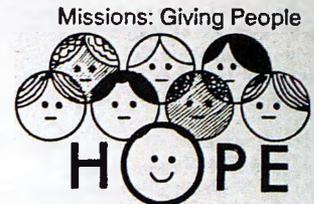
"The NEA affidavit requirement does not, in our view, violate an artist's free speech rights." Whitehead said, "Obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment, according to longstanding Supreme Court precedent. The artist has no legal right to produce obscene art with public funds. Asking for a written declaration of law-abiding intent is a small price to pay for these federal handouts.

"If the courts ultimately adopt Judge Davies' rationale, voiding any and all content restrictions on tax supported grants, then this becomes a compelling argument for abolition of the NEA. If the courts take away the power of government to regulate the use of tax funds for lawful public purposes, then the program is out of control and should be abolished."

Congress' anti-obscenity language was adopted after revelations were made in 1989 of NEA grants for such projects as a crucifix submerged in urine and homoerotic photographs. The legislation required that grant recipients during the 1989-90 budget year

could not produce or exhibit art that was obscene. The NEA included the text of the law in the guidelines it distributed to the grant and fellowship recipients. For 15 years, it has asked artists to sign an agreement to abide by the endowment's guidelines, an NEA spokesman said.

This time, some artists and arts organizations rebelled. About 20 recipients refused to agree and rejected their grants. Three others would not sign and sued the NEA to receive their funding.



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FMB area director asked to resign

RICHMOND (BP) — William L. C. Richardson has been asked to resign as area director for work in Brazil and the Caribbean by administrators of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Richardson, 56, is being asked to consider reappointment for missionary service.

Board officials cited the need for stronger administrative skills to fulfill the responsibilities of an area director. They believe Richardson could use his skills more effectively in teaching, evangelism, and personal witnessing.

In a letter to mission chairmen and administrators of the 470-missionary area, Richardson indicated that while he does not agree with the decision, he would step down because he does not want to "hinder the work of missions."

Before being named as an area ad-

ministrator, he was president of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and professor of New Testament for 14 years. Earlier he led evangelism and mission work for the Minas Gerais State Baptist Convention.

Richardson and his wife, Kathy, were missionaries to Brazil for 23 years before he was elected area director in May 1987. He is a native of Tulsa, Okla., and was pastor of churches in Vinson and Granite, Okla., before their appointment as missionaries.

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A call to faithfulness and humility

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

Jesus compared the motives of a Christian to the lives of the Pharisees. The Christian's motives may be seen in four categories: the sin of tempting others, the obligation to forgive, the power of faith, and the proper basis of service.

Instruction to faithful service (vv. 7-10)

Jesus provided the motive for service. He posed a situation in which each person listening had a servant. When his servant had finished his day's work, would he be honored and served. Rather the master expected the servant to prepare and serve him a meal. The servant would eat afterwards. Would the owner thank the servant for his faithful service for doing what he was



NEWCOMB

commanded? Jesus said, "I think not" (v. 9). Why? Because the servant had only done his duty.

"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things (of which Jesus had spoken) which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable (useless) servants; we have done that which was our duty to do" (v. 10). Until one has done more than is commanded of him, he can expect no merit or rewards.

Insistence in prayer (18:1-7a)

The parable Jesus gave is a lesson on their attitude in their relationship with God. In verse 1, we are given the principle of prayer. On the positive side, He said, "men ought always to pray." On the negative side, He said, "not to faint." H. J. Horn said, "It is only the always that will prevent the fainting." Continuous praying is an absolute necessity for the followers of Christ. "Ought" renders an infinitive which expresses a moral and spiritual obligation.

In verses 2-6, the Lord spoke of the unjust judge as an encouragement for us to be persistent in prayer. The judge "feared not God, neither regarded man." Neither the voice of God, nor the voice of man meant anything to him.

BIBLE BOOK

February 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: Luke 17:1-18:14

Jesus applied this lesson in verse six. If a judge characterized by unrighteousness will finally grant a request, shall not God avenge "His own elect who cry unto Him day and night?" (v. 7).

The Pharisee and the publican (18:10-14)

This parable is designed to impress upon us the true attitude we should take before God when we pray. "And He spoke this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they

were righteous, and despised others" (v. 9). We cannot approach God in our righteousness, but must come because of His righteousness. These two men had gone to the temple God ordained as a house of prayer.

The Pharisee, standing in a prominent place to be seen, "prayed thus with himself" (v. 11). Notice the "I" usage in his prayer. "I" is used five times. "I thank thee 'I am not as other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterous, or public. 'I fast twice in the week; 'I give tithes of all 'I possess." His motive was wrong, his standard false, and his conduct superficial. Spurgeon said of a man he knew, "I always believed he was perfect till he told me so."

But the publican, standing far off, conscious of his unworthiness, "would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." This man cried to God for that which he knew he did not deserve, but which must come to him by grace.

The good Samaritan

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

Ever since I began studying the Bible seriously, I have been impressed with the way Jesus handled questions. For those who were asking just to be argumentative or to stir up trouble, Jesus' answer was often a rebuke or a soul-stirring challenge.

But Jesus never offered rebuff to one who came with a legitimate question.

Many times I have heard devout Christians tell someone we must not question God. I would only reply there is a difference between asking God questions and "questioning" God.

The latter has more to do with doubting God's motives.

The lawyer's questions

The setting for these questions seems to have been the typical teaching situation common with rabbis of that time. Devout men often came to them with a

sticky religious or ethical problem.

The first question concerned inheriting eternal life. Jesus answered the lawyer by asking him to give his own interpretation of it first. Jesus had a way of beginning with people at the level of their understanding.

The man could have answered with a litany of the laws and traditions of the time. Instead, he gave the perfect answer.

But then he asked Jesus for a further clarification of the term "neighbor." As He so often did, Jesus answered by sharing a pointed story which we call the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The story as an answer

The Lord understood the value of a good story or illustration. He knew it was the best way to explain spiritual truths because stories have a way of letting you discover the truth. In other words the truth of a story is powerful because it sneaks up on your blind side.

This story provided the answer to the lawyer's question. Neighbor has

nothing to do with location. Rather being a neighbor is a matter of attitude. This is such an important concept in these days of increasing isolation.

The characters in the story

The priest and the Levite were the religious professionals of the day. The priest, by offering the sacrifices, and the Levite, by attending to his assigned duties in the temple, had completed their tour of duty in Jerusalem.

CONVENTION UNIFORM

February 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: Luke 10:25-37

The priest after a brief look probably believed the man to be dead and he could not touch a dead body or would be defiled. The Levite took time to look more closely, but continued on as well.

Because they had done their duties regarding the spiritual things, they apparently saw no need to become involved in social action.

Like many Baptists over the years who derided the "social Gospel" which paid attention to human needs, they were "too heavenly minded to be any earthly good." Like far too many of us, they seemed to take off their religion

as they went out the door of the meeting house.

But then the Samaritan, the despised outcast, the infidel, came along. He saw the man in dire need of help. He dressed and bound up the man's wounds and took him to a nearby inn to recuperate.

The selflessness of his actions have become a byword in our culture. The term "Good Samaritan" is often applied to persons who take the time to help a total stranger who is in need.

But there is another character who is usually overlooked as we consider the other three. There is the man who was beaten and robbed.

That poor, half-dead Jewish man learned a lesson about the definition of a neighbor. His neighbor was not the person next door. It was not the religious leader from among his own people. Rather, it was a man whom he despised, whom he would have probably allowed to die.

This Samaritan man who was hated did not hate in return. This man who was treated as a "non-person" showed compassion on a man whom others had considered beyond hope. What a lesson for a self-righteous Jew to learn.

Everlasting life

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

If asked to give your personal testimony in Sunday School, what would you say? Do you have a testimony? Write your testimony in order to share it with the class. Some have been saved by trying to write their testimony only to find out they have no salvation testimony to give.

Could it be you are like Martha? She knew about Jesus and did many things for Him, but did not know Him as her personal Savior. Saved or not, there is much to learn from Martha's encounter with Jesus.

First, Martha had regrets about life (v. 21). She said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Her "if" statement was not one of rebuke towards Jesus. It was an ex-



COMPTON

pression of grief and regret. She was grieved Lazarus had died. She regretted not calling for Jesus sooner or going to Him earlier herself. Like Martha, everyone can look at the past and wish to have done some things differently, maybe even try to blame someone else for part of their troubles. But there is one thing none has ever regretted doing. None has ever regretted trusting Christ as Savior and living for Him. Many have regretted not getting saved sooner. Hell is full of persons who regret not coming to Jesus before it was everlastingly too late.

Second, Martha knew a great deal about Jesus (v. 22). He visited in her home, ate her food, and often slept in her house. She had done a great deal for Him and with Him over a period of time. She knew He could heal the sick and resurrect the dead. She knew Jesus was the Son of God who came to deliver the world. She knew Jesus was the Christ. Like Martha, if you only

know about Jesus, no matter how much you do for Him, you are lost. Be certain you know Him as your personal Savior.

LIFE AND WORK

February 3 Lesson

Basic Passage: John 11

Third, Martha was one reason Jesus came to Bethany (v. 26). Quickly Jesus assured her Lazarus would be resurrected. Then He got to the heart of the matter. Did she believe He was the Messiah, Son of God; who could give her everlasting life? The question Jesus asked Martha on that day "Believest thou this?" is the same question that will be asked of every person on judgment day. Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior? There will be no hope for those who regret not believing. There also will be no hope for those who simply knew much about Him. Jesus came into the world to ask you the same question.

Fourth, Martha professed faith in Jesus as her Savior (v. 27). She said, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ." She believed Jesus would do

what He claimed He would do. She believed she had everlasting life. Her assurance grew as she witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus and then of Jesus Himself. Like Martha, you must be certain you have placed your faith in Christ to forgive you of sin and give you everlasting life.

Once saved, you have a testimony to share. You will want to share the good news with others. Martha immediately went to her sister Mary and said, "The Master has come, and He calleth for thee" (v. 28). The first person you should share the good news with is your family, then your co-workers. Share and pray God will do for them what He did for Martha and for you.

There is no better illustration of what happens to a sinner who trusts the Savior than that of Lazarus' resurrection (v. 44). Lazarus was dead; all sinners are dead. Lazarus was decaying; sinners are being destroyed. The same power by which Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead is available to give new life to all who believe in Jesus. Faith in Christ cuts us "loose" from the bondage of sin and lets us enjoy abundant life now and always.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

RTVC installs president and acquires network

FORT WORTH, Texas — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 14-15, heard reports of the financial health of the agency, installed its fourth president, and voted to acquire a second television network.

Under terms of a contract approved at the meeting, the RTVC would acquire FamilyNet, a television network owned by The Old Time Gospel Hour, Inc. and Liberty Broadcasting Network, Inc. both of Lynchburg, Va. Terms of the purchase were not disclosed pending completion of audits, but RTVC officials said it would involve cash and program time on ACTS and FamilyNet. The cash would be from current operating funds according to RTVC President Jack Johnson.

Acquisition of FamilyNet would greatly enhance the RTVC's outreach by adding a new dimension to its ministry, Johnson said. The ACTS television network, launched by the RTVC in 1984, is primarily a cable network, reaching about three-fourths of its ten million households through local cable channels. FamilyNet is primarily carried by television stations. About 740,000 cable households will be added through the acquisition and 13.2 million households will be able to receive the television stations which carry FamilyNet.

The 1989-90 audit of the RTVC was received from Price Waterhouse reflecting improvements in both cash position and debt reduction. The audit reported that indebtedness had been reduced by \$846,000 during the year and contingency reserves were increased from \$199,000 at the end of 1988-89 to \$500,000 on Sept. 30, 1990, the end of the RTVC's fiscal year. RTVC officials said the reserve amount has reached the goal previously set by trustees.

A service of installation for Jack Johnson as the fourth president of the RTVC was conducted Jan. 14 in Fort Worth's Travis Avenue Church. Johnson, former executive director-treasurer for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, took office last July. Two former presidents, Paul M. Stevens and Jimmy R. Allen, participated in the installation.

Annuity Board's fixed fund earnings exceed projected rate for second year

DALLAS — Earnings of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's fixed fund exceeded the projected crediting rate for a second straight year in 1990, according to Senior Vice President John R. Jones, head of the investment division. "Consequently," Jones said, "we have credited earnings at an effective annual rate of 9.1 percent for 1990." The projected crediting rate for 1990 was 8.9 percent.

"When we announce a rate in advance," Jones said, "we are estimating what we will be able to credit. The estimates are based on the earnings being generated from the existing portfolio of investments. But we also have to consider what we will be able to earn on assets that mature during the year. We reinvest those assets and members' continuing contributions at rates prevailing when the investment is made," Jones explained.

Last month the board announced an 8.8 percent projected earnings rate for the fixed fund in 1991. The fixed fund, with more than \$1 billion in assets, has primary objectives of preservation of principal and predictable returns. The Annuity Board announces a fixed fund rate each December for the coming year to help members decide how to allocate contributions and accumulations among retirement plan funds.

Texas paper carries commentary in Cambodian language

DALLAS — The Jan. 2 issue of the Baptist Standard, newjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was a milestone in the development of Cambodian Baptist ministry in the United States. The issue carried for the first time a commentary on the Bible Book Series Sunday School lesson in the Cambodian language.

Mailed to 657 Cambodian Baptists in 42 states and 11 foreign countries, the lesson will be used as Sunday School literature in many of the about 90 Cambodian churches in the United States. The lessons are written by Samuel Nuon, pastor of the Cambodian mission of Derbyshire Church in Richmond, Va. The cost of printing and mailing them — about \$30 a week — is paid by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The lesson is carried each week on the back cover of the Baptist Standard. The front cover is the weekly Cambodian edition of the Standard, which is produced for the Cambodian Baptist Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention by the director of the fellowship, Sok T. Doeung. Doeung has worked with the Baptist Standard, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board since 1985 in producing the weekly newsletter.

Richmond seminary elects first permanent president

RICHMOND — North Carolina pastor Thomas H. Graves has been elected first permanent president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Trustees of the Southern Baptist Alliance-sponsored seminary announced their election of the 43-year-old pastor of St. John's Church in Charlotte at a Jan. 14 news conference in Richmond, Va.

They had elected him unanimously during a board meeting Jan. 7 but delayed the announcement until Graves resigned from his church Jan. 13. He is expected to assume his new duties in mid-February.

The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond was authorized by the Southern Baptist Alliance, an organization of Southern Baptist "moderates," at the Alliance's annual meeting in March 1989.

Parents teach children about God by consistency

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE — A consistent Christian lifestyle may be the most important tool for parents to help children understand God and develop foundations for faith, according to leaders of preschool and children's work at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"When children grow up, they will remember little of what their parents told them, but they will remember more of how their parents made them feel," said Sybil Waldrop, manager of the preschool curriculum section in the Sunday School preschool-children's

department.

"If the parents' action don't match the words children hear from them or from people at church, the actions will be remembered more than the words," she cautioned.

"Your child needs to see you behave as a Christian when you are experiencing different kinds of emotions," Waldrop said.

When a parent tells a child to be honest and then tells him to say the parent is not home when the child answers the phone, he sees the inconsistency, pointed out Margaret McArthur,

consultant for preschool and children's work in the Discipleship Training department.

Leaders from several program areas offered advice on how to help children develop an understanding of God so that at the proper time and with the leadership of the Holy Spirit, they may accept Christ as their personal Savior.

Through unconditional love and by building a child's sense of self-worth, trust, and faith, parents develop the foundations a child will need to trust God and accept His unconditional love later on, McArthur said.

Parents must capture teachable moments as opportunities to talk with children about God in terms the child can understand, said Philip Waugh, editor of *Living with Children* and *Living with Preschoolers* magazines in the family ministry department.

"Trying to convey God to a child takes a lot of creativity and patience. Teachable moments allow the parent to use something the child is asking questions about to show God's involvement," Waugh said.

However, to have teachable moments with their children, parents must spend time with their children, Rob Sanders, editor of children's materials in the Discipleship Training department, pointed out.

McArthur said the best experiences and teachable moments often occur at unexpected times.

For example, children are captivated by the things of nature they can see right in their yard. Their questions are a chance to share the wonder of God's creation, Waugh said.

However, the importance of lifestyle and teachable moments does not diminish the value of planned worship, prayer, and Bible study times. The length and the structure of a family worship time must be tailored to meet the learning abilities and the needs of the children involved, Waugh said.

Waldrop suggested involving young children by asking them to bring the Bible to the group, placing markers so they can turn to the passage, or singing songs they know as ways to encourage involvement.

"Family devotionals are good only if the child feels he can be a part. The time needs to be a warm and loving time, rather than a structured, lengthy Bible study," she explained.

In another area, the leaders said parents, not churches, have the primary responsibility for the spiritual development of their children.

"Spiritual development is a task given to the parents. The church must help parents know how to do it, but parents don't give up their responsibility to the church. The church must supplement what the home does in helping children learn about God," McArthur said.

Bailey accepts pastorate

Jerry Bailey recently became pastor of Sims Chapel Church, Sevierville.

Bailey was formerly pastor of Providence Church, Sevierville; and Red Bank Church, Sevierville.

He was ordained in 1984 at Henderson's Chapel, Pigeon Forge.

The Sevierville native and his wife, Mollie, have three children.

Hymns Baptists sing

"Tell the Good News"

"Tell the Good News" was the theme for the foreign mission service at the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Texas, 1968. Claude H. Rhea Jr., then music consultant for the board, commissioned Gene Bartlett to write a song based on this theme.

In December 1967, Bartlett, state music secretary for Oklahoma Baptists, was attending a planning meeting of state leaders sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. The general meetings were held in downtown Nashville at McKendree Methodist Church.

During one of the plenary sessions the discussion seemed to lag and Bartlett's wandering mind centered upon the recent request for a theme song for Houston. As he sat in the

meeting, oblivious to what was going on, the melody and stanzas began to take shape in his mind. By the time the meeting ended, the song was written down.

Bartlett named the tune RHEA, for the one who had requested it, and words and music were first published in the program for foreign mission night at Houston.

Bartlett was the dearly loved and respected state music leader for Oklahoma Baptists from 1954 until illness forced his retirement in 1980. The affliction he had battled for a decade claimed his life on July 10, 1988. But his song lives on! — *By William J. Reynolds, professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.*