

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

SBC Executive Committee merges PAC with CLC

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Three vice presidents were elected, the Public Affairs Committee was merged with the Christian Life Commission, and staff personnel retirement age was lowered from 60 to age 58, at the Executive Committee's Feb. 18-19 meeting in Nashville.

The Southern Baptist Convention leadership group was challenged by SBC President Morris Chapman to "exalt Christ, preach the Word, and bring the lost to Jesus." Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, urged Southern Baptists to respond to America's spiritual hunger in days of urgency.

The two-day meeting was preceded by a call to spiritual awakening and prayer by Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and other Baptist leaders. (See separate story).

Chapman named the committee headed by Henry, who said plans are underway for a period of confession and prayer on Wednesday evening of the SBC's annual meeting June 4-6 in Atlanta.

The Executive Committee unanimously approved three vice presidents named previously on an interim basis:

Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., Nashville, vice president for business and finance; Mark T. Coppenger, Indianapolis, vice president for public relations; and Herbert V. Hollinger, Fresno, Calif., vice president for Baptist Press.

Rosenbaum succeeds Tim Hedquist, now on the staff of Bellevue Church,

Cordova. Coppenger and Hollinger hold positions that were combined under Al Shackelford who, along with BP news editor Dan Martin, were dismissed last July by the Executive Committee. Lowering the retirement age to 58 assists Shackelford who received his final salary check this month.

Rosenbaum has held leadership positions with the Baptist Sunday School Board since 1985 and in 1990 served as manager, conference center marketing section.

Coppenger has been executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana for two years. Hollinger has been editor of the California Southern Baptist since 1983.

The Executive Committee last September gave its officers and President Harold Bennett authority to fill the three positions on an interim basis until the February meeting. Rosenbaum came last December, Coppenger in early January, and Hollinger's appointment came two weeks ago.

In the Tuesday morning Administrative and Convention Arrangements Subcommittee meeting, Hollinger's nomination met opposition from at least two members. During the discussion, two California Southern Baptist editorials were questioned but Bennett and the three officers stood by their nomination.

In presenting Hollinger to the subcommittee (and later to the entire Executive Committee), Bennett read portions of a resolution of support for Hollinger from the Southern Baptist Press Association (organization of



ELECTED — The SBC Executive Committee approved the appointments of three new vice presidents. From left, Mark Coppenger, public relations; Herb Hollinger, Baptist Press; and Richard Rosenbaum, business and finance.

Baptist state paper editors).

The merging of the Public Affairs Committee with the Christian Life Commission eliminates PAC's status as an SBC standing committee. The PAC budget of \$32,500 also transfers to CLC. At-large members of PAC will become a part of CLC also. CLC trustees will determine which trustees will serve as members of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The PAC previously has represented Southern Baptist interests with the BJCPA.

The recommendation to merge PAC with the Christian Life Commission originally called for at-large PAC members to serve until the completion of his or her present term.

Paul Pressler of Houston amended the recommendation so PAC members eligible for re-election to a second term would have an opportunity to serve again if chosen by SBC messengers. Pressler said only three to five current PAC members would be eligible for a second term.

2000 new churches need sponsors

ATLANTA (BP) — WANTED: Sponsors for 2000 new Southern Baptist churches across America.

That's the message the Home Mission Board hopes 37,000 existing Southern Baptist churches will respond to March 24, to be observed as Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday nationwide.

The call to sponsor 2000 new churches this year is part of the Bold Mission Thrust goal of having 50,000 SBC churches and church-type missions by the year 2000. Bold Mission Thrust is the denomination's plan to present the Gospel to every person on earth before the turn of the century.

To facilitate sponsorship, the HMB is compiling a directory of specific information about places where new churches are needed. Many of the sites already identified are in areas where there are no existing SBC churches to provide sponsorship, said Floyd

Some trustees spoke against the amendment, citing increased costs.

The amendment was approved by a 37-22 vote.

In other actions taken during the two-day meeting, the Executive Committee:

- Adopted a 1991-92 SBC operating budget of \$4,023,121 and recommended it to SBC messengers for adoption at the June annual meeting in Atlanta.

- Received and adopted the 1989-90 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget of \$140,710,282, and recommended the budget to the SBC in June.

- Received information that the SBC Radio Television Commission report reflects a current balance due of \$6,886,444 on its \$10 million loan.

- Adopted on auditors' advice a recommendation allowing the Executive Committee to establish an SBC Operating Budget Line of Credit of \$500,000 (used as required and approved by officers).

- Received information that the (See SBC Executive, page 5)

Tidsworth, HMB director of new church extension.

Tidsworth encourages churches to use Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday as an opportunity to evaluate church starting needs in their communities. Churches located in areas already well represented by SBC congregations could look toward needs in unchurched areas within their state or beyond, he suggested.

Sponsorship can take one of three common forms, Tidsworth explained.

Primary sponsors are nearby churches that start and nurture a mission, holding membership rolls, and assisting in major decisions and financial needs. Co-sponsors are churches that contribute substantial finances for a mission located either nearby or far away, in conjunction with sponsorship by another church. Support sponsors are churches that contribute to a (See 2000 new churches, page 5)



PASTORS' CONFERENCE — Some of the pastors who attended the Feb. 18 Pastors' Conference of the Lawrence County Association of Baptists include, from left: Jack Taylor, Oak Hill Church; Richard de Luna, O.K. Church; Larry Bell, New Prospect; David Lemay, Lakeview; James Bond, Leoma; Standing: Steve Vaughan, Gum Springs, president; W. Paul Hall, interim director of missions; and Jerry Geho, Mars Hill. Wm. Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector editor, spoke. The associational office is near Lawrenceburg.

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Editorials

Nothing but the best — beyond our own reach

Like nominating committees sighing deeply with relief when their work is completed and the church people are at work, budget and finance committees must feel the same way.

But there really is no "down time" for either group. The church or association that lets too much time pass before committees are formed again is "skating on thin ice."

The next issue of the Baptist and Reflector will be published the first Wednesday of March. That means spring is close at hand — and the hot days of summer, believe it or not, are within sight.

It is not too early for budget and finance committees to begin giving consideration to 1991-92 financial challenges.

There are probably 3000 ways to approach the budget-making process, since we have about that many churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Each church chooses the method that fits, and sometimes, no method at all. But right now — even in March, sound planning will begin to influence what committees do this summer and fall.

Some may use zero budgeting — where planners begin with a clean page, from scratch. Some place great emphasis on missions and evangelism. Some determine that the Cooperative Program giving should be increased, and some believe strongly in associational efforts. Some will look inward and see needs at home.

The church finance committee has a monumental task, but it is a challenge with reward when the job is well done with Christian generosity. Finance committees should not flinch from what could be a stimulating method of leading the church. Paying should always be preceded by praying.

The committee will consider local needs —

facilities and utilities, supplies and repairs, necessary new equipment, and priority programs. The committee will hear from departments and organizations within the fellowship.

Reaching out, the committee should also prayerfully consider its fair share in the work of the local association, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

But the first study should consider to whom the money belongs.

Christian stewardship may have many definitions — but "keeping it all at home" is not one that can be backed by Scripture. We are admonished that "to whom much is given, much will be required." We are also told that we are first to give ourselves to Christ's causes.

When we give ourselves completely — without withholding in a stingy manner, we will never want to be provincial.

It has been said that the genius of the Southern Baptist Convention is the people's ability to cooperate in missions and evangelism through a unifying supply line such as the Cooperative Program.

A second tenet, but no less important, is that the CP is founded on solid Biblical stewardship. For example, "Give, and it shall be given you, packed, pressed down, and running over."

As committees perform this task, they will remember local, associational, state, national, and global needs.

When the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee met last week, the representatives from all state conventions could not reach agreement on the meaning of wording referred last June to the committee. The terms "cooperating

Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" have long been a part of Southern Baptist life.

Partly because of long years of controversy which have bred suspicion, the terms could not be clearly defined even after many minutes of debate. So the matter was sent back to the subcommittee for further study.

The Cooperative Program and many other good plans are hostages to such differences. The very plan which was designed to promote better stewardship now is victimized by first one group and then another.

As finance committees work, we all need to keep in mind Bold Mission Thrust, that noble target of sharing the Gospel of Christ with every person by 2000. We also need to give fair and generous compensation to staff members on the local level — who cannot speak for themselves.

We must never be guilty of pinching pennies when considering the pastor and staff. Committees should come to understand annuity plans, medical and hospitalization insurance, travel allowance, self-employment taxes, and salary, plus other needs.

Committees should lead out in teaching and practicing the Christian concepts of servanthood and giving. Giving of self comes first. Recognizing needs beyond our local world is Christlike, reaching beyond Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and where strangers live.

Many Christians, Cecil Ray says, are torn between the desire to live responsibly and the desire to live indulgently. "Like oil and water," he says, "the two do not mix." Invariably we find ways to avoid spending money on our neighbor; but Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." — WFA

Cooperative Program replaces church solicitations

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Almost weekly visits from solicitors for seminaries, colleges, hospitals, and other denominational causes characterized Southern Baptist church life before the establishment of the Cooperative Program unified budget in 1925.

"The preachers hardly had time to preach. Solicitors were there almost every Sunday," recalled James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "But it was difficult to channel any of this to the building of the denomination."

Sullivan and Albert McClellan, retired associate executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, described the influence of Southern Baptists' program of unified giving

during the annual Cooperative Program luncheon Feb. 19 in Nashville. Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, the luncheon was hosted by the Sunday School Board which does not receive Cooperative Program funds but has supported the Cooperative Program through its literature and programs.

The board's greatest contribution to the Cooperative Program has been "keeping the Bible free to teach its own message without imposing ideas foreign to its meaning," McClellan said.

Several board employees noted other ways the board supports the Cooperative Program.

The board in its 100-year history has given almost \$20 million to the SBC operating budget through the Cooperative Program and to other agencies and institutions. More than \$55 million has been funneled to state conventions, said James Williams, executive vice president.

In 1990 Southern Baptists gave \$56,498 in Sunday morning offerings at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers, money that is distributed through the Cooperative Program, said Robert Turner, assistant vice president for church programs and services.

Vacation Bible School materials produced by the board have always urged workers to funnel VBS offerings through the Cooperative Program. More than \$35 million has been given through VBS mission offerings since 1936, Willie Beaty, VBS consultant, said.

Linda Thompson, church curriculum specialist in the direct sales department, said she realizes as she visits Southern Baptist churches "that our literature is supporting the cooperative

ministries of churches all across the convention."

Through a contract with the Stewardship Commission, the board distributed 900,000 pieces of stewardship materials to churches in 1990 and supplied more than 83 million offering envelopes through the Baptist Book Store Envelope Service. More than 50 Broadman books and numerous audio-visual products supporting the Cooperative Program have been published by the board.

Sharing personal experiences, SSB President Lloyd Elder said he learned to value the Cooperative Program before he became a Christian.

"I grew up in a family and a church that believed in the Cooperative Program. Since I held them in high regard as a youngster, I held the Cooperative Program in high regard," said Elder.

He noted that churches in Alaska where he made his profession of faith

and first served as a pastor were partially funded by the Cooperative Program. He also attended Baptist colleges and a Southern Baptist seminary which received Cooperative Program money.

"Trained leadership rooted in the Word of God is one of the best missionary forces we have," said Elder. "The Cooperative Program gives us the opportunity to emphasize the lordship of Christ. The Cooperative Program is one of the best expressions of the convention way of doing missions."

Elder called for a recommitment to the Cooperative Program.

Sullivan, who was chief executive of the board from 1953-1975, said the Cooperative Program has been both a source of financial stability and denominational unity.

"Without a unified budget we could never have a unified denomination," said Sullivan.

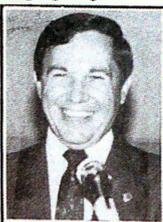
Shiloh calls Pippin

John Pippin is serving as director of missions of Shiloh Association, following Edwin Alexander, who retired.

Formerly, Pippin was pastor of First Church, Savannah. He also led First Church, Medina; Sinking Springs Church, Murray, Ky.; and Crider Church, Princeton, Ky.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Union University, Jackson, and bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The Kentucky native was ordained in 1962 by Providence Church, Bandana, Ky.



PIPPIN

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

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Susie Edwards, Administrative Secretary

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Southern Baptist-related churches increase overseas

RICHMOND (BP) — Baptists overseas related to Southern Baptist missions achieved one of the highest gains ever in new churches in 1990 while baptisms dipped below a record set in 1989.

Overseas churches related to Southern Baptist foreign mission work increased from 21,239 in 1989 to 24,122 in 1990, reflecting a 13.6 percent net gain of 2883 churches. Some of these gains are due to increased attention to reporting from the mission field, said Jim Slack of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's research and planning office. Slack prepares the board's annual statistical report on foreign missions.

The 1990 increase in new churches meets the 12 percent gain required annually to reach Bold Mission Thrust goals, Slack said. Bold Mission Thrust is a plan adopted by Southern Baptists in 1976 for spreading the Gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000 and for achieving a tenfold expansion of overseas Baptist work.

The 1990 statistics indicate that "significant" church growth is occurring on the Southern Baptist foreign mission field, Slack added. During the past three years, the total number of churches has jumped from 17,769 in 1987 to 24,122 in 1990. In 1990, national Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries started a total of 1550 new churches, up from the 1989 total of 1059. Of the 120 countries reporting, 65 countries, about 54 percent, started new churches during 1990.

Starting new Baptist churches overseas is a primary concern of the Foreign Mission Board, Slack said. "We're not exclusively interested in new work, but it is our primary interest because that's what we're about — evangelism that results in churches," he said.

In addition to starting new work, overseas Baptist churches baptized 208,381 new Christians, the second highest total in the history of Southern Baptist foreign missions. That number is down from the 1989 record of 227,437 baptisms.

For Philippines

Medical team leaves Friday

Tennessee Baptists' first medical team to participate in the Tennessee/Philippines partnership will leave March 1 for a two-week stay in the Philippines.

The majority of the 36-member team are from Tennessee Baptist churches.

Dewey Dunn, Nashville physician and member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, heads the team, comprised of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.

Teams will conduct medical clinics in various rural areas in the Philippines. Some Filipinos have never visited a doctor before.

One of the teams also will give lectures at the medical school in Davao City and assist local physicians.

Tennessee Baptists making the trip include:

Dewey, Bobbie, and Cathy Dunn, and Ann Patterson, Woodmont Church, Nashville; Judy French and Dana Smith, First Church, Nashville; Rich Barkley, Parkway Church, Goodlettsville; William and Frances Skinner, Two Rivers Church, Nashville;

Donald and Nancy Palmer, Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville; Ken

Even with a drop in 1990 baptism totals, baptism statistics show "we're much, much stronger overseas," said Slack, comparing overseas results with stateside baptisms. The number of 1990 baptisms reflects a ratio of one baptism for every 12.8 members compared to 1 to 39.1 among Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

Overseas Baptist church membership grew by about nine percent, from 2.5 million in 1989 to about 2.7 million in 1990.

In other report highlights, a record number of 11,650 Southern Baptist volunteers participated in overseas projects. A total of 17 state Baptist conventions were linked with overseas Baptists in partnership projects.

Bold Mission Thrust calls for sending 10,000 Southern Baptist volunteers yearly to work in short-term overseas projects by the year 2000. That goal has been achieved every year since 1988, according to Foreign Mission Board officials.

While the 1990 statistics indicate a need for improvement in some areas, the overall report shows a "very healthy and growing missionary move-

ment," said Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks. The most encouraging area of the report was the number of new church gains, Parks said.

Parks added that he believes the next two to three years will be the "determining years" of Bold Mission Thrust. "I am praying that all of Southern Baptists' energies, resources, and spiritual concern can be focused without distraction ... so that we could create the atmosphere and momentum that would push us over the Bold Mission Thrust goals," he said.

Southern Baptist personnel in 1990 began working with 23 new people groups and entered 176 new cities where no Baptist work existed previously. By year's end, 60 nonresidential missionaries in 14 countries were targeting more than 40 different people groups with a population of 247 million. Nonresidential missionaries seek to evangelize unreached people groups in restricted regions, working from bases outside those regions.

In 1990, Southern Baptists appointed 414 new missionaries with a net in-

crease of 83 for the year. That figure was up from 1989, when appointments were 310 with a net loss of 87.

The year ended with 3863 overseas personnel serving in 121 countries, up from 3780 at the end of 1989. The 414 new personnel included 195 career missionaries, 21 missionary associates, 178 International Service Corps personnel, and 20 people who were reappointed or re-employed.

While the 1990 statistics showed positive results in some areas, Slack said the report also indicated need for improvements. Slack said he was concerned about a 14 percent drop in Sunday School enrollment, down from about 1.9 million in 1989 to 1.6 million in 1990.

Slack also said he was concerned about the low number of mission congregations and preaching points that matured into churches in 1990. Only 7.3 percent of the 21,000 preaching points in 1989 became churches in 1990. At this rate, it takes an average of 13.2 years for a preaching point to mature into a church. A more realistic and healthy annual level of maturity would be 25 percent, Slack said.

ATS expresses concern over 'shared governance' at SEBTS

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Commission on Accreditation has requested three separate reports from the faculty, trustees, and administration of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary regarding the practice of shared governance at the institution.

The commission also has expressed concerns over extension courses offered by the seminary and over the nature of some information released by Southeastern in reference to its standing with ATS.

In a letter to Southeastern President Lewis A. Drummond, Daniel Aleshire of ATS said that a report submitted to the commission by the seminary in January "failed to provide accurate and complete evidence" about the realization of shared governance in the

life, work, and policies of the seminary.

ATS has asked for separate reports to find out "each groups' independent perception of the extent to which shared governance procedures are practiced in the institution's life."

"Shared governance" refers to the decision-making process involving the faculty, trustees, and administration at an educational institution.

In his letter to Drummond, Aleshire said that the seminary's extension courses conducted in Kentucky and South Carolina represented a "failure to endorse and implement principles of shared governance," and that the courses were offered "without full consultation with and approval of the faculty, as disclosed in the seminary report."

In addition, the commission was displeased with a June 1990 news release written by Southeastern. The release was interpreted by ATS as suggesting "that Southeastern has no continuing problems with its accredita-

tion."

Drummond distributed Aleshire's letter to the faculty, trustees, and administration at Southeastern along with a memorandum containing Drummond's response to the letter. "It is rather disappointing, to say the least, that the ATS commission should rather negatively react to our last report," Drummond said in the memo. "We, the formulating committee, felt we gave them a good document. It was approved by the faculty and seemed quite acceptable."

Drummond said that he will be in continual dialogue with ATS to determine the commission's full expectations of Southeastern. "We need to work together to develop a procedure to meet their concerns, because we are committed to the principle of shared governance" Drummond said, referring to the reports ATS has requested.

Although the ATS Commission on Accreditation is considering whether to put Southeastern on probation, the seminary at present is accredited.



PILAND HONORED — Harry Piland, right, was honored recently by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department. Greer Ruble, left, department director, cited Piland for his work at various TBC training conferences throughout the years. Piland and his wife, Pat, look at a scrapbook, containing a letter of thanks from Ruble and photos and articles compiled of Piland at TBC events. Piland is director of the Sunday School division of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Our Readers Write

Cheerful reader

Dear Baptist and Reflector, please let me say

I love your paper in every way. It lets me know and plainly see Business is done as it should be. I am now living in a nursing home. Sometimes I feel so sad and alone; I look forward to your paper each week And it makes me stronger and my heart leaps

When I see a church doing good, Doing the things a good church should. I hope that I have made you see Just what the paper means to me. I am living in a nursing home and enjoy writing. I like to read the paper. I am 78 years old.

Mary Watson
PO Box 446
Humboldt 38343

• Your rhyming letter is a positive note from one who is not a certain number of years old — but "young." — Editor

Scripture lesson

Jesus' words in Matt. 18:15-17 require followers, when offended by another follower, to confront the offender privately and before witnesses prior to airing his complaint publicly.

Nearly all Southern Baptists claim to believe the Bible and to use it as a guide for their conduct. But it appears that most of us routinely ignore the above

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on pertinent subjects are welcomed. Letters should be concise, no more than 250 words. Writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Only one letter from the same writer will be considered for publication per quarter. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published. Writers should send original copy. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Address and phone number must be included. Letters not conforming to these guidelines will be returned.

Scripture reference. It was recently used in a sermon text by my pastor. I don't remember ever hearing any sermon on it before, nor seeing it used in Sunday School or in Discipleship Training literature. I believe that this command is so important that it should appear in sermon texts and in literature annually.

Your guidelines rejecting letters that attack personal character or integrity are appreciated. However I pray that you will become a pioneer and bring Matt. 18:15-16 regularly to the attention of thousands of people by adding this reference. Perhaps something like the following could be added after "... integrity of anyone"; If critical of any person or group, such as a committee or board, etc. you must certify that the procedure set forth by Jesus in Matt. 18:15-16 has been completed.

If Southern Baptists and their news media had practiced and promoted obedience to this command of Jesus during the last 15 years, I believe that God would have solved our controversies before they went public, and that our public image would show much less tarnish.

W. B. (Chip) Reding
4878 Laraine Drive
Millington 38053

Help for AIDS victims

Actions of some Southern Baptist organizations amaze me. Forget all the hard-to-comprehend internal wranglings that do not seem to nurture the purpose of the Gospel. What does one make of the reported effort of the Christian Life Commission to pressure the federal Health and Human Services Dept. into banning HIV-infected aliens from seeking permanent residence in this country?

First, a majority of those aliens who seek permanent residence have lived many years in this country as students, temporary workers, relations of other permanent residents, or even long-term visitors, prior to their seeking to stay permanently. Many others are adoptees or aliens who have emotional or even physical relationship with U.S. citizens.

Some fled their countries of origin many years ago to avoid religious or political persecution. This fact implies that many of these aliens who eventually

became infected with HIV must have contracted the virus in this country. Denying such people residency is morally, maybe legally, but certainly "religious-ly" wrong.

The CLC also finds something wrong in AIDS patients coming to seek medical haven in the U.S. They forget that a few years ago, many AIDS patients from the U.S. went to seek medical help in Mexico, following a report that doctors there were effectively using some methods to help many hopeless cases. Would this have been possible with a Mexican law banning HIV-infected people from coming to their county?

Finally, the CLC position assumes that all AIDS patients are drug abusers and people with unconventional sexual practices. Well-meaning Baptists may want to know that outside the U.S. the major causes of AIDS are: contaminated blood transfusion, heterosexual contact, even mono-sexual contact (happening with people who divorce and remarry), and reuse of contaminated needles in funds-starved hospitals.

If, of all people, Christians cannot show compassion and acceptance of the less fortunate, then God help us.

Preston Augustus
400 Nokes Ct.
Hendersonville 37075

On KJV Bible

I commend very highly Mrs. Sudberry's letter on a new Bible vs. the King James Version. God never wrote but one and He will never write another.

Some people have written another "version." They will not hold up in Heaven. God says His Word is settled in Heaven. That is good enough for me.

There is a difference in a version and a translation. The King James Version is the only Book I trust 100 percent. The author is the only one I trust 100 percent.

Someone wrote his version and changed it four times. When will he ever get it right?

I wrote on my Sunday School chalk board, "Guard your King James Version with a double-barrel shotgun."

John S. Counts
Route 1, Box 73A
Belvidere 37306

Mail Questionnaires

On behalf of the Church Staff Compensation Study Committee let me urge you if you have received a questionnaire from these people to take the time to fill the form out and return it as quickly as possible. As of this date, the committee has received approximately 225 responses. This response is very low. It would be very helpful if you would fill the form out immediately and return in order that the book they prepare be as accurate as possible. The book, "Church/Staff Compensation Study" has been very helpful for committees that deal with staff compensation. Thank you for your help and your response. May God bless your work.

William S. Bates, president
Tennessee Baptist Convention
Jackson, Tenn. 38305

Holman to release Bible dictionary

NASHVILLE — A 1300-page Bible dictionary designed specifically for laypersons is scheduled to be released during the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta, June 4-6.

Six years in the making, the Holman Bible Dictionary "is an attempt to take the latest academic knowledge about the Bible and place it at the fingertips of the church," said Trent Butler, manager of the Bible and textbooks section at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "Every word that appears in the Bible with any significant theological meaning is identified or defined in this dictionary," he noted, adding that more than 500 authors contributed to the publication.

The dictionary, which is keyed to the New American Standard, New Revised Standard, New International, Today's English, and Revised English versions of the Bible, features approximately 600 color illustrations and extensive articles on such subjects as salvation, Christology, redemption, security of the believer, and the nature of God.

Samford dean offers tips on dealing with conflict

By Timothy George

In recent years much has been said about who is "right" and who is "wrong" in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy, but little attention has been given to how Christians should deal with conflict and dissent in the church. How should believers relate to one another in the face of tension, stress, and even schism, within the Body of Christ?

Because Baptists are committed to the process of democracy within the church, we will never be completely free of controversy this side of heaven! However, we can learn how "to speak the truth in love." Indeed, we have a spiritual mandate to do so.

The following guidelines may serve as a helpful check on our own attitudes and responses. They are relevant, I believe, to every level of Baptist polity where conflicts arise — from the local congregation to the national convention.

1. It is sometimes necessary to be polemical for the sake of the Gospel, but it is seldom wise to be partisan in the fight for faith. There is nothing worse for the health of the church than

theological indifferentism and doctrinal apathy. The New Testament admonishes us to "contend for the faith" and Paul places a curse on even angels who pervert the Gospel (Gal. 1:8; Jude 3).

When we take such a stand, however, let us be sure that what is at stake is really the Gospel and not our own petty idiosyncracies or party loyalties. When the disciples rejected the ministry of another follower of Jesus because he was "not one of us," the Master rebuked their cliquish attitude (Luke 9:49-50).

2. It is appropriate to challenge spurious ideas in the light of Scripture, but it is presumptuous to question the motives of our adversaries. There is such a thing as error held in sincerity as well as a blindness which is willful. Only God can read the mind and judge the heart. Our job is to examine ourselves so as to keep a clear conscience before God, even as we set before others the reason for the hope that is within us (I Peter 3:15-16).

3. We can stand unflinchingly for the fundamentals of the faith without succumbing to personal arrogance and pride. For example, we can affirm the

infallibility and inerrancy of Holy Scripture without assuming that we ourselves are infallible and inerrant! Indeed, we must never confuse the perfection of God's revelation with our own feeble efforts to understand and explain it.

The Reformation principle of sola Scriptura means that we must ever subject ourselves, reverently, humbly, and obediently, to the unchanging truth of God's inspired Word.

4. In the family of faith, how we say something is sometimes as important as what we say. Words are weighty. They can hurt and harm as well as edify and uplift. Who among us has not been misquoted or misunderstood because someone else misheard what we intended to say? Every Christian should begin each day and every church should start every business meeting, by praying the words of Psalm 141:3: "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."

5. It is our responsibility to love and pray for those with whom we disagree. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: "I can no longer condemn or hate a brother

for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner." Only as we take this word to heart can we uncover the true spiritual roots of conflict, and so open ourselves to the power of God's transforming work.

6. We can be thankful for the triumph of the Gospel without delighting in the defeat of our opponents. Proverbs 24:17 admonishes us not even to rejoice when our enemy falls. Certainly then, the "fall of a brother" is no occasion for gloating.

7. When others, because they have ignored these guidelines, hurt us, it is our duty not to respond in kind. We are called to defend the Gospel, not ourselves. Peter urges us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus "who, although reviled, did not revile in return and although made to suffer, did not respond with threats" (I Peter 2:21-23). — Timothy George is dean, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, in Birmingham, Ala.

Committee unveils plans for 'most important meeting'

By Robert H. Dilday

NASHVILLE (BP) — A committee hoping to spark spiritual awakening among Southern Baptists unveiled tentative plans Feb. 18 for "the most important meeting" in the denomination's history.

The ten-member spiritual awakening committee, named by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris H. Chapman, will coordinate a two-and-a-half-hour period of prayer and confession on Wednesday evening of the SBC's annual meeting, June 4-6 in Atlanta. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, originally slated to present its report at that time, relinquished the time slot late last year.

"We believe this could be a very special changing time, not only in the life of Southern Baptists but ... to other people as well," said James B. Henry, the committee's chairman. Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlan-

do, Fla., spoke to a gathering of committee members, convention prayer leaders, state convention presidents and executive directors, and state paper editors just prior to the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

The prayer session, to be called "A Fresh Encounter with God," could be "the most important meeting Southern Baptists have ever had," said Henry.

He said the prayer session will feature "lots of Scripture reading" preceded by trumpet blasts, which will signal participants to stand. He noted such practices frequently are recorded in the Old Testament.

In addition, he said, the session will allow time for individual and corporate prayer, confession of sins, testimonies, and "praise" music.

Southern Baptists will be encouraged to contribute lists of sins "we, as a people and as a nation, have commit-

ted," said Henry. Several will be chosen and mentioned as representative examples.

Lists may be sent to committee member Jonya Davis, First Church, P.O. Box 36, Russellville, Ark. 72801.

Avery Willis of the Baptist Sunday School Board, one of the prayer leaders, said sacrifice will be another theme as participants are asked to give to God anything — their bodies, financial resources, time — they have been withholding. Prayer and confession will be followed by celebratory congregational singing and a responsive reading expressing Southern Baptists' "renewal of our covenant" with God, he added.

In preparation for the prayer session, the committee will distribute numerous articles through Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, and directly to state Baptist newspapers. Also, churches will be asked to pray for the event both on May 19, Pentecost Sunday, and on the Wednesday night itself, when most Southern Baptist churches hold regularly scheduled prayer meetings.

Presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries also will be requested to schedule prayer for the endeavor during chapel services and faculty meetings; all pre-convention events, such as the meetings of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, will be asked for prayer; and other denominations are being urged to

pray for the SBC.

"We're asking God to break through in a dynamic way ..." said Henry. "The result will be revival, renewal, and spiritual awakening that will spill over and touch not only Southern Baptists but other Christians."

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, appointed the spiritual awakening committee in the fall of 1990 to provide heightened awareness to renewal within the convention.

Ruling affects free exercise cases

WASHINGTON (BP) — Fears that a 1990 U.S. Supreme Court ruling would drastically alter the nation's free exercise of religion landscape are proving to be well-founded, according to a church-state attorney.

J. Brent Walker, legal counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, recently reviewed 15 free exercise cases decided since the high court ruled that governmental entities no longer need to demonstrate a compelling interest to curb free exercise of religion rights.

The free exercise claimants won only three of the 15 cases Walker reviewed and in two of those cases, the courts in question did an end run around the high court's new free exercise test, deciding the cases on state constitutional grounds, Walker said.

2000 new churches need . . .

(continued from page 1)

package of financial, prayer, and volunteer support that is undergirded by a larger number of similar support sponsors.

Tidsworth cited several examples of requests already received in the HMB database of missions needing sponsors.

- In Santa Teresa, N.M., Bible studies will begin soon in preparation for a church to provide a witness near a new border crossing into Mexico. The town's current population of 2000 is projected to grow to 50,000 in 10 years.

- In Chicof Island, just west of Juneau, Alaska, additional sponsorship is needed for a pastor to develop a field of mission churches in several isolated fishing villages.

- Near Tehachapi, Calif., plans are

being made for a Southern Baptist church to serve a new community being built in an area eight miles from the nearest church.

- In the fastest-growing county in Indiana, a church is needed in the Morse Lake resort community. Because of the affluence of the community, sponsors are needed to support expenses for a meeting place. Also, volunteers are needed to assist with door-to-door visitation.

- In Round Lake, Ill., a church is needed for a rapidly growing suburban population. Now only 17 churches serve a population of 500,000 in Lake County Association.

Free materials for observing Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday are available from the HMB's customer service center: 1-800-634-2462.

England, reflecting membership of 20,919, which grants representation on the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Sunday School Board. The BCNE already has a representative on the Executive Committee SBC.

- Referred back to the Administrative and Convention Arrangements Subcommittee a recommendation concerning definition of the term's "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" (from SBC Constitution).

- Allowed several entities to begin charter amendments, clarified some SBC bylaws into correct language.

SBC stats positive, leaders report

During the Tuesday evening plenary session of the Executive Committee, Ernest Mosley, SBC Executive Committee executive vice president, reported on Bold Mission Thrust.

He reviewed the 1985-90 report, Year

V, and gave a summary of the completed five-year period.

Mosley said that goal one of 1989-90 showed that churches reported 385,031 baptisms, an increase of 9.7 percent over the previous year. This was barely short of the ten percent increase goal.

Pointing to another high mark, Mosley said goal two of "Strengthen Missions" was achieved, citing the 8436 home and foreign missionaries exceeded the goal of 7660 (for 1990).

Discussing 1990 statistical highlights, Martin Bradley, Research Services Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, said 31 state conventions experienced increases in baptisms, compared to 20 a year ago. Tennessee had one of the highest numerical increases with 2752, behind three other states.

Slightly more than 60 percent of Southern Baptist churches have membership of less than 300.

Church membership in the Southern Baptist Convention reached the 15 million mark in 1990 — standing at 15,044,413. The highest increase since 1986 (130,875). Non-resident membership comprises 29.8 percent of the total, some 4.4 million.

Baptist churches gained 64,187 members from non-Baptist churches while losing 46,062 — a net gain of 18,125.

Cooperative Program giving increased by one percent or more in 6119 churches last year — while it dropped by at least one percent in 6708 churches. That percentage has shifted downward since 1988, and other intermittent years.

According to Bradley's statistics, 246 churches reported 100 or more baptisms — and ten reported more than 500. — Wm. Fletcher Allen

SBC Executive Committee merges PAC with . . .

(continued from page 1)

RTVC is negotiating for acquisition of FamilyNet Inc.

- Approved CLC request to publish a quarterly entitled SALT.

- Heard that Golden Gate Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., has paid off an authorized loan of \$1,189,000.

- Received as information the 1985-90 Bold Mission Thrust Report Year V.

- Received a progress report of the SBC Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee.

- Approved an update application from the Baptist Convention of New

Resolution on Baptist Press and Herb Hollinger

WHEREAS, Herb Hollinger has been elected to serve as Vice President for Baptist Press by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Baptist Press needs positive leadership to deal with the loss of credibility sustained in the dismissal of the former staff; and

WHEREAS, Baptist state papers and newsjournals are the primary users of Baptist Press news services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern Baptist Press Association, meeting in annual session Feb. 11-14, 1991, commends the selection of Herb Hollinger to serve as Vice President for Baptist Press; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Southern Baptist Press Association pledges to work cooperatively with, and in support of, Herb Hollinger in the task of providing Baptists a full, free, flow of responsible, balanced, and accurate information about their denomination.

- Requested Southern Seminary trustees to consider amending provisions relating to seminary's power to remove trustees since the Executive Committee is studying the possibility of including in the SBC Constitution or bylaws a method of trustee removal by any SBC entity.

- Voted to recommend to SBC messengers in June Orlando, Fla., as the site for the annual meeting in 2000, on June 13-15.

- Adopted a resolution of appreciation for Don McGregor who retired last November as editor of the Baptist Record, Mississippi, and approved a resolution of appreciation for Jackson Walls who retired in December as editor of the West Virginia Southern Baptist.

- Adopted a resolution of appreciation for Emmanuel Church, McAllen, Texas, and Roland Lopez on grounds they were "unjustly criticized as non-cooperating" during 1990 convention proceedings in New Orleans.

- Approved the Restated Charter of the not-for-profit corporation named Utah Missions Inc. (This corporation seeks to inform people of "the errors of Mormonism", and recently was added as a subsidiary to the Home Mission Board).

The Executive Committee will meet next June 3 prior to the SBC's annual meeting in Atlanta. — Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story.

Labor of Brotherhood volunteers equals \$42 million

By Jim Burton
MEMPHIS (BP)— The time and labor of Southern Baptist Brotherhood missions volunteers equalled an estimated \$42 million in 1990, said Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith.

With 27 state Brotherhood directors reporting volunteer activity, Smith said there were 59,810 missions volunteers recruited through Brotherhood who participated in 4002 national and international projects.

Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood Director Cameron Byler reported Tennessee sent 747 volunteers to 32 projects. The time and labor of the Tennessee volunteers represented an estimated \$197,208, according to the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

"We've always known that Brotherhood was making a significant contribution to missions in the Southern Baptist Convention," Smith said. "When you put a dollar figure to volunteer participation you begin to see how great that contribution is."

An inter-agency Volunteers in Missions Task Force assigns a dollar value to volunteers. The VIM Task Force estimates that each volunteer spends an average of three days on a project and that the average missionary salary is \$88 per day. Applied to the 42,330 Brotherhood missions volunteers reported in non-construction projects, the formula values the volunteer's time and labor at about \$11.2 million.

"The \$11.2 million figure is the equivalent of 509 career missionary an-

nual salaries," said Jim Furgerson, Brotherhood Commission Baptist Men's director. "In effect, Brotherhood volunteers matched the 1990 Annie Armstrong Offering goal with in-kind contributions."

In addition, 17,480 Brotherhood construction volunteers accomplished 612 mission construction projects, 67 outside the continental United States. Furgerson estimates that 306 of those projects were new church buildings.

Volunteer labor typically cuts the cost of new-church construction in half, said M.B. Howard, National Fellowship of Baptist Men's construction coordinator of Covington.

"The minimum cost of a new mission church with sanctuary and age-graded classroom space is between \$200,000 and \$250,000," Howard said.

"A conservative estimate is that Brotherhood volunteers saved about \$100,000 per new church-building project," said Furgerson, who compiled the report.

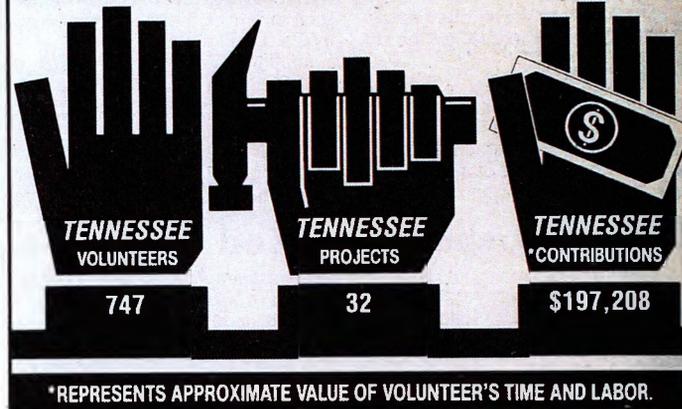
Along with construction volunteers, the categories reported include disaster relief, church renewal, lay-led revivals, criminal justice ministries, nursing home ministries, mission Bible studies, mission Vacation Bible Schools, and Royal Ambassador camps.

State Brotherhood directors also reported projects through their state Baptist Men's fellowships including sports, performing arts, agriculture, business, education, and medical/dental.

1990 BROTHERHOOD VOLUNTARISM

NATIONAL TOTALS
 59,180 VOLUNTEERS
 4,002 PROJECTS
 \$42 MILLION CONTRIBUTIONS*

TENNESSEE



Of the 4002 projects, 134 were overseas and involved 3155 volunteers. "We believe that missions projects result in meaningful missions education," Smith said. The volunteer report comes on the heels of the highest Brotherhood Com-

mission enrollment report in 27 years. Smith said 593,844 men and boys were reported on the annual church uniform letter as involved in missions education through Brotherhood. That is the highest since 603,696 were reported in 1963.

Tennessee, Mississippi Baptists plan ministry to NASA workers

Tennessee Baptists are cooperating with Mississippi Baptists and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to minister to employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plant being built in Iuka, Miss.

About 2000 people will be employed during the three-year construction period, which will be completed in the

summer of 1993, and 1000 permanent employees will be hired. The \$1.5 billion government-owned plant will produce rocket boosters for the Space Shuttle Program, reported Jere Phillips, Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department director.

In a meeting sponsored by Baptists, community leaders and plant officials projected the impact on the

area. Lockheed and Aerojet companies are operators of the NASA plant, which is located north of Iuka and about 25 miles from Savannah, Tenn., in Hardin County.

By 1995 when the plant is fully operational, Tennessee will be impacted by 455 projected jobs; including jobs generated by demands created by the new firm, and 1309 projected newcomers to the state. Earnings of Tennesseans in five surrounding counties will increase by about \$11,400,000 in direct pay and about \$1,500,000 in indirect income, studies forecast.

Phillips noted some ministry opportunities will be similar to those offered employees relocating to the middle Tennessee area to work at the Saturn automobile plant located in Spring Hill. Employees have received help in relocating and in readjustment

through a buddy system and community events, he said.

The convention is also planning a ministry to new employees of the projected Nissan automobile plant in Decherd, Phillips added. Future plans include industrial chaplains for each of the three plants.

Employees of the NASA plant relocating from California will need more help than those from the space center in Huntsville, Ala., because they will not be familiar with this region of the country, he noted.

Phillips, who will work closely with John Pippin, director of missions, Shiloh Association, said current goals are to "help local churches respond and new churches begin in new residential areas being created." — *Connie Davis*

Tennessee pastor Virgil Tallent dies

Retired pastor Virgil Tallent, 77, died Feb. 19 at Sweetwater Hospital, Sweetwater, after a long illness.

The Feb. 21 funeral was led by Murray Jackson, interim pastor in Bluff City, and Gary Baker, pastor, First Church, Sweetwater, where the service was held. About 30 men served as honorary pallbearers.

Tallent, who was minister to senior adults, First Church, Sweetwater, before he became ill, was ordained in 1932. He was pastor of 15 churches in Tennessee and two churches in Georgia. He also held associational leadership positions.

In Tennessee's Sweetwater Association he was pastor of Oakland Church, Sweetwater; Gregory's Chapel Church,

Sweetwater; New Providence Church, Tellico Plains; South Madisonville Church, Madisonville; Holly Springs Church, Tellico Plains; Maple Springs Church, Tellico Plains; First Church, Tellico Plains; Vonore Church, Vonore; Fairview Church, Tellico Plains; and Union Grove Church, Tellico Plains.

In Loudon Association he served Vaughns Chapel Church, Loudon; and Second Church, Lenoir City. He also was pastor of Stephensville Church, Englewood, and Brookhill (formerly Old New Hope) Church, Etowah. In Polk County Association he led Greasy Creek Reliance.

Tallent is survived by his wife, Amy, and four children.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Have you heard the term "trashing?" The term refers to getting rid of unwanted or unneeded things. You can tell a lot about a person by observing what they "trash." A visit to their trash can will be an indicator of their character. The contents may reveal that they are wasteful and careless or that they are frugal and careful in their spending.



LOWRIE

The same thing is true of churches. If you will check the trash cans of some churches, you will find that they have "trashed" their weekly visitation programs. Others have thrown away prayer meeting. Some have discarded Discipleship Training. Still others have put the Cooperative Program in the alley.

I will admit that some things have to be "trashed." You will soon be crowd-

ed out of your own house if you do not discard some things. So it is with the church. No church can make room for everything, but there are some things that you just cannot "trash" and be the church.

Visitation is more essential to a church than furniture is to a home. Prayer must be a part of the life of the church. You cannot really be the church without a plan to disciple the new converts. Generous giving to world missions is not an option. The Cooperative Program is not the only way to give to world missions, but in my judgment it is the best way.

Spring time used to be a big "trash" time at our house. It was the time for spring cleaning. Does your church need to do some spring cleaning? Do we need to "trash" some things so we will have more room for the things that really belong in the church? What needs to be trashed? We must do all that we can to allow the church of God to really be the church of God in our day.

Alpha members see answer to five-year prayer

MORRISTOWN — A five-year prayer was answered Jan. 9.

Eva and Magdalena Popp, daughters of Geza and Margareta Popp of Morristown, landed at Knoxville's McGhee-Tyson Airport on schedule, 9:50 p.m. On schedule, maybe, but five years late and not without incident.

Sixty friends and members of Alpha Church in Morristown, the Popp's American sponsor, waited outside the double doors leading to the gate. They waved banners, wept, and excitedly welcomed the two young women to America. Clay Frazier, church pastor, offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

Getting the Popp's out of Romania has taken years of work by Alpha Church members and Robert P. Coulter, called the genius behind the effort, who has practically taken on Washington to assist the Popp's, according to church members.

Geza Popp is a Romanian refugee who, by February 1986, had endured all of the religious and political persecution he could. At that time, Popp escaped from Romania and fled to a refugee camp in Austria. His hope was to have his family join him within six months.

After he was in the Austrian refugee camp for 16 months, Alpha Church learned of his situation and agreed to sponsor his immigration to the United States. Popp arrived in Morristown Aug. 22, 1987.

After 18 months of diligent efforts, Geza's wife, Margareta, arrived here in March 1989. And, after another

18-month battle, the Popp's two daughters arrived, seeing their father for the first time in five years.

The Popp family has endured unbelievable hardships because of turmoil within the Romanian government. Geza and Margareta are gainfully employed in Morristown and are outstanding and contributing members of the community.

All four Popp's are accomplished musicians. Geza Popp sings bass in the church choir; Margareta Popp sings soprano. The two daughters play the violin and were lucky enough to get their two hand-made instruments, family heirlooms, out of Romania.

Coming to America will be a major shock to the daughters, as it was to their parents. They are accustomed to eight- to 12-hour waits in food lines for bread and a monthly stipend of six eggs and two pounds of meat. Many times they were denied food because, they are Christians.

They have had no hot water nor heat when the temperatures have been as low as -40 degrees and electricity for only a few hours each week.

In addition to the physical hardships, they have become accustomed to the secret police monitoring every breath they have taken in an atmosphere of constant fear.

The two daughters, both in their mid-20s, were scheduled to fly to America before Christmas and again Dec. 31. To get to the plane where they would depart their home country, the women had to take a 12-hour train ride. They took that ride five times in

six days, hoping to join their parents.

The Popp's and members of the media were allowed to watch the plane taxi down the runway. The Popp's looked with anticipation as passengers exited the US Air jet from New York.

Mrs. Popp, from a second floor window, spotted her daughters first. She began waving, jumping, and weeping.

The rest of the family followed suit.

After greeting their parents the women said their goals for America are "to live here, work, and learn."

The parents summed up their feelings simply, "We are so happy." Their faces said much, much more. — *By Teresa Ayers of the Morristown Citizen Tribune. Used with permission.*

FMB appoints Tennessee Baptists

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has appointed three Tennessee Baptists to serve as foreign missionaries.

Tennessee native Jane F. Paysinger, a pharmacist, was appointed to serve in Ghana where she will work in a hospital and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Paysinger is the daughter of Marjorie Lee of Cleveland and the late John Paysinger. Paysinger was born in Oak Ridge, but considers Cleveland her hometown and Valley View Church there as her home church.

She earned the bachelor of science and doctor of pharmacy degrees from University of Tennessee, Memphis. She also has attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Paysinger will go to Rockville, Va., in March for a seven-week orientation.

David and Suzanne Adams of Chattanooga have been appointed to Germany where he will start and develop churches and together they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

A native Texan, Adams has been



ADAMSES

associate pastor and minister of music at East Ridge Church, Chattanooga, since 1982.

The Adamses have two children: Julie and Emily. The family will go to Rockville in May for orientation.

The FMB also appointed Danny W. Caldwell and his wife to serve in Brazil. Caldwell was born in Chattanooga but considers Lantana, Fla., as his hometown.



PAYSINGER

MISSIONS
TENNESSEE April 26-28, 1991
Carson-Newman College and First Baptist Church, Jefferson City



Shoe Strings

"the kid's fun page"



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Rob Sauls Feb. 1991
Darrell Vandergriff
Lib McCluskey

Locate Hebrews 13:6 in your Bible. Use your Bible to help you unscramble the words. As you learn the verse, write what the verse means to you.

"The oLrd is my elhper; I will not be dafari."

Hebrews 13:6 (NIV)

Write the correct verse here.

Hebrews 13:6 (NIV)

Write what the verse means to you here.

Women in the New Testament

G I S R T U B E Q O E T
M H E R O D I A S Q L H
L O T K S U W R A X I I
E N A N N A S Y L P S F
N Z I Q H V T U O V A A
E P G W R I Z B M O B L
L H J E U N I C E C E L
A Y G X C F A C N D T I
D O R C A S E D B S H C
G T U G R L S C M A J S
A V Q Z M R L B A P I I
M E J C D A R D A P H R
Y A F B M A R Y K H G P
R X W A U V T T T I E L
A C B O V R P T H R D O
M K N Q R S S L T A B V

Anna
Dorcas
Elisabeth
Eunice
Priscilla
Sapphira

Herodias
Martha
Mary
Mary Magdalene
Salome

Think About Stories

What would you do in each of the following situations?

What should you do if this happens to you?

1. You are very tired. You stayed up late watching T.V. and playing Nintendo. It is Sunday morning and you told your Sunday School teacher you were coming this week. But you're tired, and the bed feels so good. What do you do?

2. You have studied hard for the big test. You are ready. You enter the classroom and your best friend has obviously not even studied. The test begins. Your best friend sitting beside you whispers to you to please let him copy some of your answers. What do you do?

3. Mom and Dad have gone shopping. They said you could go next door to play with Jan, but only after you have finished cleaning your room. Jan comes to the door and invites you over to her house to help her and her mom make brownies. You haven't even started on your room, and you love brownies. What do you do?

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome temptation: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."
1 John 4:4

Centennial Celebration

Children's Homes' story shared across Tennessee

When 15-year-old Michelle stood to tell her story, the fellowship hall at Macedonia Baptist Church in Ripley became very quiet. She was a little nervous about speaking in front of so many people — all Baptists from churches in the Dyer Association — but she wanted to tell her story about how her life had been changed.

Michelle was 11 years old when she came to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. She had been abused by her parents, and had been removed from her home by the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

"I was mixed up and hurt, and I didn't know what true love really was," she recalled. Michelle told of how she came to know comfort and security at the Children's Homes. More importantly, she said, she came to know the Lord.

"My life has a future now, and I'm thankful for that," she said. "I know that I wouldn't have received the help I did at the Children's Homes without the support of Baptist churches."

Michelle's testimony ended with a standing ovation. It was one of many touching moments shared by Baptists who have attended local events in support of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Across the state, each Baptist association is hosting a Children's Centennial Campaign banquet. Members of area churches attend to learn more about the TBCH ministries and the current campaign to raise funds for the second century of ministry to hurting children.

"I've heard several comments from people about how they were not aware that children are suffering so much today. They just didn't know of the level of abuse that goes on," said Burl McMillan, regional director of the Chattanooga TBCH campus. "People are proud to be a part of a Baptist agency that brings the love of Christ and spiritual healing to hurting



children."

TBCH was founded as an orphanage in 1891. Today, very few of the boys and girls in the ministry's care are orphans. Instead, many are considered to be "orphaned by the living" because they are unable to live with their parents. There may have been physical or sexual abuse, or neglect because of parental drug or alcohol use.

"These associational events have been so educational for our Baptist constituency," said Jim Henry, Northeast TBCH regional director. "One attorney told me that this was one of the best programs he had ever attended. He said this ministry is meeting one of the greatest needs in our convention — by helping the children who have been abused and have nowhere to turn."

At each event, testimony is given by someone whose life has been personally touched by the Children's Homes. At some, a teenage resident — such as Michelle — will tell a personal story. An unwed mother told one group about how she considered abortion before a friend led her to the

Children's Homes. Adoptive parents have also shared how their prayers for a child were answered through TBCH.

"At one event I attended, we had a man stand up and tell of a boy and girl he knew who had been helped by the Children's Homes," said Dr. Gene Gafford, regional director of the Memphis TBCH campus. "Then another person stood and told of her experience. We had several spontaneous testimonies, and it was wonderful to hear these stories of how lives were touched."

After each associational meeting, individual churches are being asked to schedule their own events to support the Children's Homes. From each church, it is hoped that at least 10 families will each make a commitment of \$10 to \$30 a month for three years.

At one rural church — Macedonia Baptist in Ripley — Dr. Gafford was heartened to hear that 33 families have made such a commitment.

"These events have been so spirit-filled and uplifting," he said. "People want to hear about the good work that is being done, and they want to help if we just provide the opportunity."

In fact, many church members have gone beyond monetary pledges. Many more Sunday School and WMU groups are visiting the TBCH campuses to see the ministry first-hand. Several inquiries have been made recently about the programs for visiting families, and about work projects needed on each campus.

If your church is interested in participating in the Children's Centennial Campaign, please contact Bill Betts at the TBCH Central Office. The toll-free line is 1-800-624-8591. Brochures and videotapes are available; in addition, a TBCH staff representative will be glad to assist in a local meeting in any way possible.

Support of churches important in ministry to children

Children lost a good friend recently when comedian Danny Thomas died. But he left behind a legacy and ministry to children that will never be forgotten. His efforts in establishing and raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital — a leading institution in the

fight against leukemia — is known worldwide.

Before he died, Thomas said, "Give people problems they can identify with and they will care." Most of us do not have first-hand experience with the tragic problems many children are

dealing with today. The physical and emotional scars caused as a result of abuse, neglect, and abandonment are something we haven't personally experienced.

This is why it is so vital that our pastors and lay persons rally to help our Children's Homes in the Children's Centennial Campaign. People will care — especially our Baptist people — when they know and are given an opportunity to respond.

This week, we are placing three precious infants in adoptive homes. Your support of our ministry to unwed mothers provided support, counseling, and Christian love for the birth mothers so these babies could be given life. We're also thankful for two brothers, Jim and David, who will be adopted by their foster parents this week.

One of our teenagers on the Franklin TBCH campus, Kim, is becoming excited about attending one of our fine Christian colleges. Kim will graduate with honors from Brentwood High School this spring.

Over in Millington, Jeff and Gariel and the other residents of our new Boys Ranch are learning responsibility and skills as they work with the cattle. They are being motivated to develop the different talents that God has given to

them.

Such great ministries deserve the best we can give them now and in the years ahead. Let's continue to remember our motto, "A Century of Care, A Lifetime of Love."

Remember our Lord's words in Mark 14:8 — "She hath done what she could." Our work has been sustained for 100 years through the generous and loving support of Tennessee Baptists. We ask that you do what you can to help this ministry to children in need — now and beyond these times.

THE TBCH centennial was recently recognized with the placement of a historical marker at the site of the original Orphans' Home, at 4200 Delaware Avenue in Nashville. The marker reads: "On July 6, 1891, the Tennessee Baptist Orphans' Home was established at this site. The orphanage was housed in the Hotel Delaware. With the encouragement of Mrs. Roger Eastman, the Tennessee Baptist Convention endorsed the home in 1894 as its official child caring institution, the forerunner of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes." Pictured left to right are Stephanie Marie Neal, currently a resident at the Franklin TBCH campus; Dr. Gerald L. Stow, TBCH executive director, and I. D. Poston, a TBCH resident from 1927 to 1937.



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TenneScene

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Leadership ...

Mickey Hanks recently became pastor of Reelfoot Church, Troy.

Mark Donnell has recently resigned as minister of music and education at First Church, Sparta, to accept a similar position with Columbia Avenue Church, Pontiac, Mich.

Springfield Church, Springfield, called Brian Jones as minister of youth. He is the first full-time minister of youth at the church. He graduated from Belmont College, Nashville, in December, 1990.

Kevin Jenkins, Durant Okla., will join the staff of First Church, Maryville, as minister of youth, March 11.

First Church, Paris, recently called Robert L. Orr, Dyersburg, as interim pastor.

Ordinations ...

Steve Potts and Doris Thweatt were

ordained as deacons Feb. 10 at Hillcrest Church, Clarksville.

Third Church, Murfreesboro, ordained Brian Cole and Tom Effler as deacons Jan. 13.

Revivals ...

Three churches in Hardeman County Association have March revivals scheduled. Randy Wheeler will lead Porter's Creek Church, Middleton, March 3-8. New Bethel Church, Middleton, will hold revival March 17-22, and Hickory Valley Church, Hickory Valley, will be led by Denny Burchett of Hopkinsville, Ky., March 24-29.

Steve Hale, Evansville, Ind., will lead revival March 3-6 at Hilldale Church, Clarksville. He will speak regarding the needs of teenagers and how to improve home life. Bucky Phillips will lead music.

Danny O'Guinn, pastor of Calvary

Church, Union City, will lead revival March 3-8 at Macedonia Church, Kenton. Russell Cook, Martin, will lead music.

Churches ...

Members of Bethlehem Church, Lewisburg, celebrated the church's fifth anniversary Feb. 17. Bob Mizell was guest speaker.

The 30th anniversary celebration of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma will be held at 10 p.m., March 11 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, following opening night of PraiSing II at the Opry House. The Singing Churchmen was directed from its inception in 1960 by James D. Woodward until his death in January in a plane crash. Don Blackley, minister of music at First Church, Norman, Okla., is interim director. Those interested in attending the celebration should write to the Church Music Department, 3800 North

May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK, 73112-6506.

Association ...

Nearly 450 people from preschoolers to adults attended the 14th annual Watauga Association music school in early February, which featured visiting conductor Joe Parks. The school concluded with a worship service, during which the adults sang "The Wonder of It All," an Easter composition by Parks.

Mark Terry, professor of missions at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky., spoke Feb. 18-19 at the Sweetwater Association evangelism conference.

Please note: News items about upcoming events must be received at the Baptist and Reflector office four weeks before the event for advance notice to appear in TenneScene.

New Salem Association burns note

New Salem Association's annual evangelism conference was topped off with a note-burning celebration.

During the conference Feb. 11 at New Middleton Church, Gordonsville,

representatives of the association burned the note on the association's office building in Carthage.

The association's nine churches pulled together to pay the debt on the building two years early, said Director of Missions Emery O. Farmer. The three-story building was purchased in 1985.

Farmer praised the churches for their efforts. "We're now looking to move to do more things program-wise," he said.

Farmer noted the celebration was just a small part of an excellent evangelism conference.

Billy Hines of the TBC's Evangelism Department was the guest speaker. Richard Jenkins, pastor of Hickman Church and associational evangelism director, presided over the conference.

Program participants included Mrs. Richard Jackson and Deona Lee Thomas, Hickman; Reverend and Mrs. Kim North, New Middleton Church; Tim Miles, Peyton Creek Church; Ron Ralph, First Church, Carthage; and Mike Clower, Brush Creek Church and moderator of the association.

Trustees present for the note-burning were Leslie Armistead and Bill Adams of Hickman Church; Larry Hall, Brush Creek Church; and Russell Nixon, Peyton Creek Church.

Student directors elect Harrison as president

Ircel Harrison, director of Student Ministries Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, has been elected president of the State Baptist Student Directors Association.

Harrison succeeds Chip Lockwood of New York. The group met in Baltimore, Md., earlier this month. State student directors heard presentations by Ken Lyle, Maryland/Delaware Baptist Convention executive director; Ralph Winders, Mississippi; and Bob Dale, Virginia.

Theme of the 32nd annual meeting was "Celebrating Our Heritage ... Renewing Our Vision."

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EDUCATION DIRECTORS — Tennessee's five metropolitan directors of education met together recently at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. From left, Gary Williams, Madison-Chester and Crockett Associations; David Pittman, Hamilton County Association; Joe Chandler, Knox County Association; Charles McMinn, Nashville Association; and David Sparrow, Shelby County Association.

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HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

To draw 700,000 youth to missions

Brotherhood Commission approves co-ed youth program

MEMPHIS (BP) — After hearing a detailed progress report on the development of World Changers, a Sunday School Brotherhood Commission co-educational missions education and involvement program for youth, the executive committee of the commission voted unanimously for the program to be implemented and in place no later than October 1992.

In his review of World Changers, Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith said, "This may be the most significant thing I have presented to you in my years as president."

The commission began research in 1982 that pointed to the need for co-educational missions education in local churches, especially among youth groups, Smith said.

Research revealed that more than 700,000 Southern Baptist youth enrolled in Sunday School are involved in neither the Brotherhood Commission's High School Baptist Young Men's pro-

gram nor Acteens, a mission education program for young women that is part of Woman's Missionary Union.

"This is the group we are targeting," Smith said. "We have no interest in simply moving young people from one program to another. We want to involve in missions that energetic force of young people that presently have no involvement."

During the commission's October 1990 board meeting in Memphis, the trustees endorsed the World Changers concept and instructed the commission to proceed with implementation pending availability of resources and after working through appropriate denominational channels, Smith said.

"We have done all that and more," Smith told the executive committee. "We received approval from the Southern Baptist Convention to change our program statement to permit involvement in co-ed missions education. We made staff changes to provide

resources, and we secured endorsement of the concept from state Brotherhood leaders and the national leadership of Woman's Missionary Union.

"We have asked WMU to be partners in World Changers and work with us in this exciting missions venture. WMU has scheduled a meeting with us in Nashville, April 1-2, to explore options for co-educational missions education."

Trustees also learned that volunteers from First Church, Collierville, have been clearing a portion of 12 acres of land in Memphis donated to the Brotherhood Commission by the Judge John McCall family. Experimental farming techniques will be conducted in an effort to find ways to combat hunger domestically and in foreign

countries. Dedication of the McCall Center for Global Study is scheduled in April 1991.

Wendell Reed, a layman from Salem, Va., and chairman of the committee assigned to find the successor to Smith, told the executive committee his group expects to recommend the person to be the next president at the April board meeting. Smith will retire June 30, 1991. Reed also reminded the committee that resumes for the presidential position will continue to be received until March 1.

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Jesus warns about the future

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

After Jesus commended the widow for her sacrificial gift. He and the disciples left the city. Perhaps they sat down to rest as they ascended the mount. The evening sun would have been glistening off the beautiful white marble of the temple which had columns of marble slabs more than 40 feet high.

One of the disciples called Jesus' attention to the magnificence of the temple. The temple was all that the Jews had left to show for their once proud nation. It was the pledge of God's future restoration of Israel, the nation of chosen people. However, while God had chosen the Israelites, they had never really chosen God as He had intended them to do.

A preparation message for us
(vv. 6-24)

Jesus shocked the 12 by telling them the day would come when every stone of the temple would be thrown down. They asked Jesus, "Master when shall these things be, and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?"

A warning was given about being deceived. Jesus warned against three distinct things which could lead them astray. One was false Christs. The reference is to individuals who will appear claiming to be Christ. Another false sign will be disturbances in the social order. Jesus' followers should not be terrified when they hear of wars and unsettled conditions. Jesus said such things would happen as a part of history. "But the end is not immediately." Still another false sign would be disturbances in nature — earthquakes, famines, pestilences, and disturbances in the sky.

Persecution will come "before all these." But they could count on God's presence during the hardships and persecution of those days.

Desolation will come to Jerusalem. When they see Jerusalem "being encompassed" by armies, her desolation is near. When they see the city being surrounded, they are to flee before the maneuver is complete, else it will be too late. This will be a terrible time of vengeance upon Jerusalem. The Gen-

tiles will tread down Jerusalem. From the day Titus entered the city, about 1900 years ago, the Jews have never been able to get the Gentiles out.

The prophetic message for us
(vv. 25-33)

Then Jesus turned to answer the latter question: "What sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?" There will be great apprehension on earth. Men's hearts will faint from fear and expectation.

BIBLE BOOK
March 3 Lesson
Basic Passage: Luke 21:5-38

A revelation is given by Jesus in v. 27, "and there shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." The fact that Jesus used the future third person plural instead of the second person suggests that the 12 will not live to see this. We know Jesus taught that His return is always imminent.

When all these things happen, our redemption is near. God's word stands

forever and we can trust His prophecy and promises.

A personal message for us
(vv. 34-36)

We see three personal messages. First, we are to be careful. Take heed lest at any time your hearts are overcharged with surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of life. Surfeiting means to be over full or gorging. Alcoholic beverages are deceptive; the Christian cause is total abstinence (Proverbs 20:1; 23:39-35). Material "cares of this life" are not to take our attention away from the Savior. Sinful living and earthly cares dim the sense of hope and expectancy with respect to the Lord's return.

Second, we are to be watchful, not taken unaware.

The third message is to be prayerful. Jesus told His disciples to pray continuously for strength to flee and to be ready when He comes. If one is ready, there will be no dread to stand before the Lord when He returns.

For those outside of Christ, His return will be a time of irrepressible horror. For those in Christ it will be one of unutterable joy. Which will it be for you?

Interpersonal relations

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

This week's lesson begins a three-month unit covering both of Paul's letters to the church at Corinth. These lessons will be instructive to churches in America because Corinth was also a highly secular society.

Other similarities to modern churches were also present in the Corinthian church. They had serious internal discord which threatened the existence of the church and its Christian witness. And, unlike most of the churches to which Paul wrote, the Corinthian church was not suffering persecution.

Over these next weeks it would be helpful to you to read both 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians. You will be able to identify many situations which seem like your own church or those you know about.

Paul's appeal

Divisions within the church are always disastrous. The Lord called us to unity in His body. Yet many church-

es are rendered almost ineffective because of divisiveness within the church.

Let's not get Paul wrong when he exhorts them to be unified. He is not asking that every church member be exactly alike. That would be boring and would not help to get the Lord's work done.

Paul understood we are all different. He stated we all have different gifts, and there will be differences in our methods of serving the Lord.

But if we have all been made new by the power of God's Spirit at work within us, we will have the same Spirit. Because we are indwelt by the Spirit of God, we can have a harmony of spirit which will enable us to work together, even though we work differently.

This exhortation was necessary since the church in Corinth was divided by personality cults. There was the

"Paul" group who were probably the old guard whom Paul had led to the Lord. There was the "Apollo" party who were enamored by his great preaching, since Paul was not a good speaker.

There was also the "Cephas" party, probably made up of Jewish converts. Then there was the "Christ" party who thought of themselves as being above it all. They were not part of any denomination and considered themselves superior in faith to others.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
March 3 Lesson
Basic Passage: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3:23

Paul's reproof

Paul identified their problem simply as "spiritual immaturity." He would have liked to discuss weightier matters with them, but they were still babes in the faith.

He used two different terms to refer to these babes. Before they came to faith in Christ, they were "natural"

men. By this he meant they were in sin and apart from the grace of God. After they came to Christ, many were "carnal" persons whose lifestyle was more like the pagan world than like Christ.

Paul's remedy

The best remedy for such divisions in the church, according to Paul, was to realize that each person is a part of God's family, God's program, and God's place of work.

No matter who is used as God's instrument, it is God who gets the glory. It is God who created us, who recreated us in Christ Jesus, who is perfecting us each day, and who is working alongside us for the kingdom.

There is no room for hero worship in the church. There is only one hero of the faith — Jesus Christ. All who serve in the body of Christ, for the body of Christ, and through the body of Christ are merely laborers, God's hands working as a team, not as competitors. In God's sight we are all laity. We are all ministers together for Him.

Guided by the Holy Spirit

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

The Holy Spirit is essential to everything God is doing in our lives. He has come to convict us, save us, teach us, guide us, sanctify us, and seal us until we go or the Lord comes again. If there were no Holy Spirit, there would be no Christians. Jesus explained what the Holy Spirit does for us in John 16.

First, the Holy Spirit will come into the world (v. 7). Jesus told the disciples it is "expedient for you that I go away" that the Holy Spirit might come. To the 12 the departure of Jesus seemed disastrous. Only later did they understand Jesus had to go in order for men to be saved. Salvation is possible only when the Holy Spirit draws a man to the Father. Men cannot talk men into getting saved. The whole world would still be lost if the Holy Spirit had not come to do His saving work. At last, the Trinity was manifested completely. God the Father

manifested to Israel. God the Son manifested in the fullness of time. God the Holy Spirit manifested at Pentecost.

Second, the Holy Spirit will convict the world (v. 8). Until then, Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter, the Advocate, and Defender of God's people from harm or persecution. The Holy Spirit was presented in the role of a defense attorney in a court of law. But Jesus then spoke of the Holy Spirit as a prosecuting attorney, the one who goes after a guilty verdict. He seeks a threefold indictment. The conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment sums up the total process necessary for winning a man to Christ.

The Holy Spirit convicts man of sin (v. 9). Man is convicted of sin in general, but of unbelief specifically. Unbelief is the root of all sin. Faith in the saving work of Christ is the solu-

tion to the problem of sin. If a man has an awareness of sin and a desire to trust Christ as his Savior, it is because the Holy Spirit has been working in his life.

The Holy Spirit convicts man of righteousness (v. 10). To convict man of sin is understandable, but what does it mean to convict man of righteousness? The Bible says, "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). Once a man has been convicted that he is a sinner, he needs to be convinced only Jesus is righteous and able to take him to the heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit convinces a man Jesus is his only hope for getting right with God.

LIFE AND WORK
March 3 Lesson
Basic Passage: John 16:5-15

The Holy Spirit convicts man of judgment (v. 11). Satan and all evil men will face an angry and just God on judgment day. The Holy Spirit makes a lost man aware of the

impending doom. After this life comes the judgment in which all men will be condemned unless they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

The degree may vary, but all three elements are a part of the process of bringing a man to a conviction that he needs Christ as his Savior.

Third, the Holy Spirit will guide the believer (vv. 12-13). The disciples were not ready to hear all Jesus had to tell them. They did not even understand why He had to leave. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would "guide" them. The word guide suggests a gradual, progressive work. A man is saved immediately, but he has a great deal to learn and many lifestyle changes to make. It is the Holy Spirit who works with the believer to become more like Christ. We may stop following the Spirit, but He does not stop guiding us.

Fourth, the Holy Spirit will glorify the Son (v. 14). The Holy Spirit reveals, magnifies, and exalts Jesus. Any theology which exalts the Holy Spirit above Jesus is wrong.

Climate of hope surrounds Haiti, missionary says

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (BP) — A climate of hope and "absolute euphoria" surrounded the Feb. 7 inauguration of Haiti's first democratically-elected president, according to a Southern Baptist missionary.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a leftist Roman Catholic priest, was inaugurated as president of Haiti on the fifth anniversary of the fall of dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

Haitians were "completely ecstatic," said Virgil Suttles, a missionary from Haiti visiting the Dominican Republic. "There's probably as much hope in the minds of the people now as I've ever seen in Haiti. They really have hope that things are going to change" and that the country will "come out from under some of the oppression it's suffered in the last three decades," he said.

Suttles spoke to Baptist Press Feb. 7 after he and his family traveled to the Dominican Republic the day before the inauguration. They decided to take a vacation there because they anticipated possible tensions and violence surrounding the event.

They did not feel they were in a life-threatening situation, Suttles said, "but there was enough tension there that we felt like it would be a good time to be

In West Africa

'Lost' church building houses new ministry

COTONOU, Benin (BP) — Most churches are known for reaching out to the lost, but one of the newest churches in Benin is known because it was itself lost.

For more than ten years a church building stood abandoned in the middle of the southern village of Doguia in the west African nation. Villagers came to the empty shell every day, but paid little attention to it. Rather, they drew water from the church well, their only source of fresh water.

"It looked like an abandoned warehouse," said Southern Baptist missionary Asa Greear. "We found it with its windows and doors wide open.

out for a few days." The Suttleses are from Elberton, Ga.

Southern Baptist volunteer Bobby Edwards, from Greenville, S.C. traveled with the Suttleses to the Dominican Republic. Southern Baptist missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge remain in Haiti. The Rutledges are from Murfreesboro, and Glendale, Calif., respectively.

Haitians were out in "droves" sweeping the streets, preparing rock gardens, planting trees, building signs, and painting pictures on walls before the inauguration, Suttles said.

Those activities contrasted sharply with the previous month of violence in Haiti, which erupted following a Jan. 6 coup attempt by Roger Lafontant, a member of the former Duvalier regime. Lafontant is the former head of the Tontons Macoutes, the security force under Duvalier. He and 15 others were seized during the attempted coup at the National Palace.

Former members of the Tontons Macoutes have been blamed for some recent violence in Haiti, including burning a shelter for orphans and street children run by President-elect Aristide. Also, poor Haitians opposed to the Macoutes have attacked people suspected of belonging to the former security force.

No one in the village owned it, so no one used it." Greear, of Ashland, Ky., learned of the abandoned church last May while visiting Bible correspondence students. Greear's Beninese co-worker, Raphael Kouton, said he had heard of a church building in a village not far from where they were. He said Southern Baptist missionaries had built it in the mid-1970s, but he did not know whether it was still there.

Less than an hour later, the two men stood in an echoing church building that could easily hold 200 people. A few days later, Greear and his wife, Lydia, also from Ashland, returned to the village.

"We were so surprised," she said. "Our first thoughts were, 'How are we going to open this up? Why aren't people worshipping the Lord in this place?'"

Doguia villagers said government officials confiscated the church in 1976 following Benin's adoption of a Marxist-Leninist political system. Officials turned the church into a school, but closed the school a few years later.

A week later, Greear and three Beninese Baptists received permission from village officials to hold worship services in the building. About 50 of the village's 450 people arrived for the first service in 14 years. The empty building had no pews, so Greear asked the group to find something to sit on.

"They all left and returned in about an hour carrying 30 benches with 'Mission Baptiste' engraved on them," Greear said.

By the end of the service more than 150 people sat in the church listening to Greear and Beninese Baptists tell of God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Forty-six people made public professions of faith in Jesus.

Since then the Baptists have held weekly services there, and about 80

The word "Macoute" sometimes becomes a "catch-all phrase for a person who really isn't a Macoute but somebody that someone has a grudge against," Suttles said.

In that context, several Haitian Baptist pastors recently have been targets of violence and have received threats from a group of poor Haitians, Suttles said. One pastor's home was burned. Another pastor's car was burned. Another has received continuous threats, Suttles said.

Suttles said the violence and threats are not directed toward the Baptist Convention of Haiti or Southern Baptist missionaries there.

Tensions ran high in early February in Limbe, near the city of Cap Haitien, Suttles said. Two institutions related to the Baptist Convention of Haiti are located in Limbe. They are The Good Samaritan Hospital and the Baptist

BHC explores magazine for military

MEMPHIS (BP) — The development of a Southern Baptist military magazine designed to meet the spiritual and personal needs of military personnel received overwhelming endorsement from state Brotherhood leadership.

During their annual meeting with the

Theological Seminary of Haiti, both begun by American Baptist Churches U.S.A. A number of American Baptist missionaries and volunteers work at those institutions.

Because of the tensions, the wives and children of some American Baptist missionaries and volunteers evacuated for two days to Cap Haitien, said Lindland. They have returned to their homes.

In light of such incidents, Suttles asked for prayer for missionaries in Haiti from all denominations. He also called for prayer "that the new government might be able to stem some of the corruption that has stifled or strangled the country in the past so that the country might have a season of calm and of economic stability. The people need that badly."

Haiti is undergoing "very drastic, convulsive change," he said.

Brotherhood Commission staff, David Langford, director of North Carolina Baptist Men, read the following statement from state Brotherhood leaders: "We affirm the concept. It is right. God has opened the window of opportunity at this time."

In a demonstration of their support, state Brotherhood leaders pledged \$21,000 to produce a pilot issue.

This is the first time that state Brotherhood leaders have taken this kind of action.

The Brotherhood Commission's adult division began working on a formal magazine development proposal in December. On Jan. 14, an advisory group of military chaplains, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union representatives met and affirmed the need for a publication for military personnel.

The magazine will be previewed at the Southern Baptist Convention which meets June 4-6 in Atlanta. Based upon the response there and the results of additional surveys, the commission should make a final decision by June 15 on a permanent monthly publication, Smith said.

new Christians meet weekly in a new members' class.

The government, which abandoned its Marxist-Leninist ideology in 1989, has returned legal ownership of the church property to the missionaries.

In December, the new congregation publicly dedicated the well, which missionaries helped repair and modernize. Greear said the dedication calmed fears that Baptists would restrict use of the well.

"We told them the well is for the village; it's theirs," Mrs. Greear said. "At the well dedication more than 150 people came. They heard a message that God loves them and wants to offer them living water."

Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

Predestination

"In love having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself." — Ephesians 1:5

To many, "predestination" means that all things are predestined to happen when, where, and how they do. However, this is more fatalism than faith. Unfortunately, this interprets the English word, not the Greek word it translates.



HOBBS

The Greek word is *proorisas*. *Horizo* means to set a boundary or limit. From it comes "horizon," the limit of our vision from where we stand. The prefix *pro* means to set the boundary beforehand. God did this from eternity. And note that He did it "in love." In

the Greek text this is the beginning of verse 5.

In a sense, in eternity God set a boundary beforehand or before He created the universe and man. The all-wise God knew that man would sin and need a Savior. So forgiveness was in God's heart before sin was in man's heart.

So let us say that God built a fence around an area. The fence is Christ. He said that all inside the fence or "in Christ" would be saved. All outside the fence or not "in Christ" would be lost. In 11 verses (Ephesians 1:3-13) Paul uses "in Christ" or its equivalent ten times. As one endowed with the right of choice, each person is free to choose whether to be in or outside Christ.

Thus we are not puppets whose eternal destiny is arbitrarily set by God before we are born. In love God has provided a Savior. Whether or not He is your personal Savior depends upon you.



Jesus tops opinion poll

MOSCOW — Jesus Christ is a name that will be "of great importance to the peoples of the U.S.S.R. in the year 2000," according to 58 percent of the 1361 people responding to a recent national poll in the Soviet Union. The late scientist and human-rights champion Andrei Sakharov was picked by 48 percent of respondents, Lenin by 36 percent, Mikhail Gorbachev by 26 percent, and Joseph Stalin by nine percent, Keston News Service reported.

Spanish Baptists open Olympic office

BARCELONA, Spain — Spanish Baptists already are preparing for the 1992 Summer Olympics to be held in Barcelona, Spain. They have opened an office in the city and are planning ministries including hospitality centers and evangelistic outreach.