

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

TBC board votes to continue negotiations with hospital

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

In a called meeting Friday, the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, voted to continue discussions with Baptist Hospital officials about the hospital board's Dec. 19 decision to elect its own trustees.

Also in the recommendation that came from the Christian Services Committee and Executive Committee of the board was a hint about prepara-

tion for a potential lawsuit. The five-hour session was held at the Baptist Center.

The Executive Board overwhelmingly affirmed the current negotiating team consisting of D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director; Bill Bates, TBC president; Paul Durham, board president; Jerry Oakley, Executive Committee chairman; Raymond Boston, CSC chairman; and Dean Haun, CSC

vice chairman — plus Nashville attorneys Bob Taylor and James Guenther.

The strongest part of the approved recommendation says: "That if negotiation of the issue of the right to elect the trustees for Baptist Hospital Inc., has not been resolved by May 6, 1991, the Executive Board, in its meeting May 7, 1991, consider for adoption a finding of facts in preparation for the filing of a lawsuit against the trustees of Baptist Hospital Inc."

There has been a whirlwind of meetings of committees, boards, and negotiating teams since December when TBC leaders were informed about the hospital board's decision. A proposal for a financial settlement was declined by hospital officials.

The heart of the situation is that Baptist Health Care System's board of trustees approved amendments in the charter of Nashville's Baptist Hospital authorizing the hospital to elect its own trustees.

Complicating the issue of election is the fact that notice was given to TBC officials after the action was taken. However, in a statement written by hospital board chairman Guy Bates (who was hospitalized) and read to the TBC Executive Board Friday, Bates said hospital administration did not know about the decision beforehand.

He also said that the action was not scheduled to reach a decision that day.

The Dec. 19 action permits an increase in number for the hospital board and allows the board to elect its own successors when vacancies occur.

TBC bylaws and procedures are such that the committee on nominations annually presents a slate for convention messengers to approve.

The unanimous Dec. 19 vote for corporate reorganization was necessary and part of the board's plan "to prepare the hospital for the challenges of the 1990s." Chairman Bates said.

Under the new plan, Baptist Hospital Inc., trustees direct Baptist Hospital Baptist Women's Pavilion East Inc., Baptist Hospital Foundation of Nashville Inc., and Baptist Hospital Care Affiliates Inc. Those trustees would be elected by the hospital board.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention would elect trustees for a "paper" corporation. Baptist Health Care System Inc. These trustees could give advice to Baptist Hospital and its entities — but would have no official authority.

Hospital spokesman, David Stringfield, president, and Willie Davis, board treasurer, Friday said the TBC could make suggestions for board nominees.

Stringfield and Davis reminded Executive Board members of the many services provided by the hospital's chaplaincy program, many of which they said benefit Tennessee Baptists.

(See TBC, page 5)



CALLED BOARD MEETING — Paul Durham, president, TBC Executive Board, and pastor, Radnor Church, Nashville, addresses April 12 called meeting of board which met at the Baptist Center. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Southern trustees approve 'historic' covenant

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved April 8 a "covenant" agreement with faculty that will guide the seminary's efforts to fill faculty vacancies with "conservative evangelical scholars."

The covenant, approved by a 49-7 margin following more than two hours of debate, effectively will replace controversial new guidelines for faculty employment adopted last September by trustees. The six-page covenant was hammered out in a series of meetings over the past four months between two seven-member trustee and faculty ad hoc committees. The faculty approved the document March 28 by a vote of 38-5.

The covenant pledges the seminary will seek "balanced representation" on the faculty through "intentional employment of conservative evangelical scholars for future openings." Under the covenant's terms, the seminary will hire only professors who "reflect a clear evangelical orientation" in their view of the Bible's authority and inspiration. The covenant contains a seven-paragraph statement on Biblical authority which new

faculty members and those seeking tenure must affirm.

In its statement on Scripture, the covenant maintains that divine inspiration is "guaranteed true and trustworthy utterances on all matters on which the Biblical authors were moved to speak and write." It describes the Bible as "true and reliable in all the matters it addresses, whatever the subject matter." The Bible, it adds, serves as the "ultimate standard of authority for God's people, transcending both temporal and cultural contexts."

The covenant states it will remain an employment guideline until trustees

WMU team trains Filipino leaders

A Woman's Missionary Union team of eight Tennessee volunteers left for three weeks of WMU training in the Philippines last Saturday.

The team will assist in the ongoing WMU training program set up to train Filipino WMU leaders. The eight women will work closely with Priscilla Compher, longtime missionary in Pasay City, Metro Manila.

The team will lead seven workshops regarding several phases of WMU work, including:

"in consultation with the administration and faculty determine that the seminary has achieved faculty balance."

Adoption of the covenant served to amend action taken last September which added the 1987 Southern Baptist Peace Committee Report as a guideline for employment, promotion and tenure of all faculty. The action stipulated the entire report — "both findings and recommendations" — be used as a guideline in addition to existing academic personnel policies and the Abstract of Principles, the confessional statement that has governed the

(See Southern, page 5)

Bates appreciates CP

In recognition of Tennessee Baptist churches' observation of Cooperative Program Day on Sunday, April 21, the Baptist and Reflector asked TBC President Bill Bates for his thoughts. — Editor

For more than 50 years of my life I have supported, loved, and promoted the Cooperative Program without reservation.

It is the channel for funds for all that we Tennessee Baptists believe in and do.

Hundreds of stories can be told about the benefits of gifts through the Cooperative Program. Churches have been built and missionaries appointed for service at home, in our state, and on foreign fields.

Without Cooperative Program support, our colleges, seminaries, and benevolent institutions would not exist. All of our work would be severely impaired.

Let me urge Tennessee Baptists to fully support and increase where possible gifts to the Cooperative Program.

God has so richly blessed us in this nation, and in our state. Let us not neglect to give generously through the Cooperative Program so that we can continue to show our love for our Lord and His work. — Bill Bates, Jackson

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Editorials

Call to Commitment - Cooperative Program Day

The parent often says to the resisting child something such as, "We'd both be better off if you would only cooperate."

Well, Southern Baptists learned long ago that cooperation is the key to good relationships and success in performing missions. Sometimes we do it the hard way, but we can't work as well without it.

Historically the Cooperative Program is a proven force in regular, systematic, missions giving by churches all across the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Where there is not a concerted effort to give sacrificially and cooperatively, individual churches may resort to gimmicks, which in the medical profession would be called quackery.

In 1922, only three years before the birth and implementation of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists sent missionaries into nineteen nations. Now God's Word and saving grace is preached and taught in almost 120 nations — because of CP giving and sacrificial missions gifts. In the formation of the CP plan, Baptists were instrumental — and "first gave themselves."

A little booklet written that year, called "Southern Baptist Handbook" and published by the Sunday School Board, devoted a long chapter to the stewardship task of Southern Baptists:

"The stewardship task of Southern Baptists," wrote E.P. Aldredge, "comprehends three immediate and pressing duties and privileges: recognition of our special obligations as stewards, the discovery of our actual ability as stewards, and the rectification of our mistakes as stewards." All still

are valid.

Aldredge pointed out that we are citizens in the greatest and richest nation in the world. It behooves us, he wrote, to recognize God's supreme gifts and to use these gifts in a great program of unselfish world service.

He undergirded that idea with this truth: "Southern Baptists have been purchased by the blood of Christ and belong to him — all they have and all they are." He did not exclude other Christian groups — but he pointed to his family of Southern Baptists.

We are called also to be "excellent stewards of the manifold grace of God." We need to cease being awkward and hesitant about our ability as Tennessee Baptists to "overcome the world" for Jesus Christ. If He had not meant for us to be overcomers, He never would have given that command!

Using Mark 16:15 as the rudimentary challenge for boldness, Archer Thorpe, TBC director of Stewardship/Cooperative Program, reminds us that our one mission is to tell all the world. We cannot reach the lost people of "the uttermost parts" of the world until and unless we reach them next door.

The missions challenge called "One for All" stresses these stretch points of performance:

- Undergirding our one mission, taking the good news of Christ to all the world.
- Strengthening our one basic mission support plan, the CP.
- Increasing financial support for all mission ministries through the CP.
- Encouraging all churches to consider each

year an increase in CP percentage giving.

- Leading all churches to educate all church members about the CP.

- Enabling all Southern Baptists to share, by personal witness and financial gifts through the CP, the one and only Gospel for all the world.

In sports competition or in the business or political arena, the loser is usually the one who does not give his/her best performance. Though the Cooperative Program has performed grandly since its inception, God would be able to do so much more for a lost world if we would all do our best.

In a sense we are looking for greatness in the wrong places. It will not be found in marketplace successes. It will not be found by climbing to the top of the entertainment world or becoming a personal success in any worldly profession. God expects greatness in our stewardship. He expects people who love him to emulate the poverty-stricken widow who lovingly, carefully "gave" her last pennies. He expects us to perform to our total giftedness.

It is shameful that Christians have to be cajoled and begged to do what Christ has already commanded. Do we indeed love the lost world? Do we love the lost people of Tennessee?

A true observation of Cooperative Program Day on Sunday, April 21, will be more than going through the motions. It will be a celebration of the grace and mercy of a living Lord who gave himself for us all. Give for the millions. Give, for the Savior blesses where there is concerted effort to obey. — WFA

Closer than a brother sometimes means 'partners'

Most people have had close friends while growing up — someone they called "buddy" or simply "my best friend."

That buddy or friend was close, dependable, ready to help, considerate of the other's needs, understanding without being domineering. That kind of friend is like gold in the bank, as the saying goes.

When representatives of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Evangelical Chile Baptist Convention signed an agreement for a three-year Partnership/Mission April 9 — the two became friends, buddies. More than that, the relationship is Christian and Baptist.

The visit to Tennessee by President Moises Pinto, his wife Haydee, and First Vice President

Victor Olivares, was beautifully orchestrated by Clarence Stewart, TBC Partnership Missions director.

Stewart skillfully brought together the Chile leaders with Tom Vassar and James Cecil of the Foreign Mission Board, TBC Executive Director D.L. Lowrie, plus Richard Poe and Charles and Betty Hawkins, FMB missionaries to Chile.

Mind you, they all wanted to meet together. Tennessee Baptists may be unaware of the Christian diplomacy and skill displayed by Stewart in our partnerships — unless they are volunteers themselves.

Time and again unsolicited accolades concerning the efficiency and reliability of Tennessee part-

nerships comes to us.

It was made easier by the cohesive attitudes among missionaries, FMB personnel, Chilean Baptists, and Tennessee leadership who had equal participation in the three-day meetings. TBC Baptist Center staff contributed to the meetings also.

So we are now partners with Chile. When the final missions projects with the Philippines are completed early next year, Tennessee volunteers will move with smooth and swift accord into the three-year relationship.

If the duration of the partnership is as flawless as its launching, we will be blessed beyond measure. And God will be pleased. — WFA

Retired pastor James Binkley dies

James E. Binkley, retired pastor of Hendersonville, died there after a long illness.

The Feb. 28 funeral was at College Heights Church, Gallatin, where Binkley was a member.

Binkley was pastor of Madison Heights Church, Madison, and Twin Hills Church, Westmoreland; and in-

terim pastor, First Church, Lafayette, after his retirement. He also served Southside Church, Gallatin; First Church, McEwen; First Church, Waverly; First Church, Oliver Springs, and Pleasant Hill Church, Lenoir City.

He is survived by his wife, Elsie, Hendersonville; son, Jerry; and daughter, Wanda L. Warren.

One Mission...

Telling ALL the WORLD...
through the Cooperative Program

Observe Cooperative Program Day
April 21, 1991

"Ye shall be witness unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

The greatest missions program on earth is now happening.

After decades of struggle to support missions work through individual appeal for designated contributions from churches, Southern Baptists launched the Cooperative Program, and the foundation was laid for today's worldwide mission outreach.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' ONE for ALL plan for support of evangelism, missions, Christian education and many benevolent ministries. ONE for ALL challenges Southern Baptists to respond with increased financial support and sacrificial giving in support of these ministries through the Cooperative Program.

In 1991, Southern Baptists in about 38,000 churches will respond to the ONE for ALL challenge to do the work of God through a proposed Cooperative Program Basic Operating Budget of \$137,332,523.

Approximately 70 cents of each Cooperative Program dollar is distributed to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards to send some 8,000 missionaries to 120 foreign nations and all 50 United States of America. Just over 20 cents is used by the six SBC seminaries in training over 12,000 students. Of the remaining 4 cents is directed to the Radio and Television Commission and less than 6 cents is divided among the other SBC agencies.

On April 21, 1991, thousands of Southern Baptist Churches across America will be celebrating the results of our working together through the Cooperative Program. Join us by planning to observe COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY in your church.

Baptist and Reflector

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SBC in Atlanta

Attendance to be lower than previous years, Porter predicts

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Attendance at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 4-6, in Atlanta may be down from recent record registrations if the predictions by Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, are accurate.

Registration will open in the Georgia World Congress Center Sunday at 4 p.m. and each day of the convention thereafter at 8 a.m. Porter said the registration office would close "a little after 9 p.m." each day.

Porter's forecast of 20,000 to 22,500 messengers would be larger than any previous convention prior to 1985, except Atlanta in 1978 when 22,872 registered. Dallas, in 1985, is still the record with 45,519, followed by Atlanta, 1986, with 40,987 and last year's convention in New Orleans which registered 38,403.

Porter's accuracy in predicting messenger counts has been impressive since his election in 1977. His predictions have been within ten percent of the actual figures every year since 1978 with the exception of the record Dallas crowd.

With about 7000 visitors expected, the June convention could still attract near 30,000, Porter said.

Some observers have speculated the diminishing controversy in the convention, a presidential incumbent apparently uncontested for re-election, a May meeting in Atlanta by a Southern Baptist "moderate" group, and holding the convention a week earlier in June, all may contribute to a smaller attendance.

Registration will be located on the main floor of the World Congress Center, Porter explained, right inside the major entrance. Large signs will direct messengers to rooms 313-314.

Porter had some suggestions for

those wanting to register early but who will face a long line. "Don't stand in line at 4 p.m. on Sunday or at 8 a.m. on Monday. . . . Come about 30 minutes later and you will register in about five minutes!"

Messengers must bring proper credentials from their churches, Porter cautioned. SBC registration cards are available from state convention offices (in some states they are available at association offices) and must be totally completed and signed. Where in Atlanta the messenger is staying should also be noted in case of emergencies, said Porter.

The credentials committee will not be available on Sunday, Porter said, for those having trouble registering. The committee will be available beginning Monday morning through the rest of the convention.

"If a church does not have a messenger card, the messenger should bring a letter from the church to the credentials committee," said Porter. "If you arrive in Atlanta without a messenger card or a letter, you will need a telegram sent from your church stating you have been elected as a messenger."

Each messenger will receive a name badge, convention program, and a set

of ballots. The book of reports, complete with agency reports, amendments, recommendations, etc., will be available for \$4, Porter said. Alternate messengers and visitors are not registered.

Requirements for messengers are found in the SBC Constitution, Article III, and in the bylaws (8) and are printed on the messenger card itself. Mission churches must elect their messengers through the mother

church, said Porter. Churches which have organized or constituted in 1991 will not be able to have messengers at this convention, he said.

"Every messenger must be elected by the church he/she represents, including pastors, directors of missions, and denominational employees," Porter said. Churches having questions about the registration process can contact Porter at (615) 251-2181.

Porter still considering SBC office

NASHVILLE — Lee Porter has not ruled out the possibility of allowing his nomination in Atlanta for a 15th term as Southern Baptist Convention registration secretary.

Porter, in an interview with Baptist Press regarding the Atlanta registration process, was asked if he would allow his nomination in June.

"If I am still employed by the Sunday School Board, I will not allow my name to be presented to the convention for re-election. But if the Lord should lead me to another position of service and God reveals to me and the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention that the cause of Christ, denominational harmony, and confidence in the registration and

balloting process could be extended with my serving as registration secretary, then I would allow my nomination," said Porter.

Following the convention in New Orleans last year, Porter was told by Sunday School Board officials it would be "unwise" for him to serve as registration secretary again. Porter was said to have made disparaging remarks about Southern Baptist "conservatives" to a seminary class visiting the convention.

Asked if he were looking at other employment possibilities, Porter said "yes."

Porter indicated he would make a full statement in May about his future as a convention officer.

Missions/sports day camp to be provided during SBC

ATLANTA (BP) — A missions/sports day camp will be provided for boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6 and whose parents are attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June.

The missions day camp will provide a missions education program and sports activities for the children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention as follows:

Tuesday, 8:15 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Thursday, 8-11:20 a.m.

The cost is \$8 per day per child. This covers a lunch for Tuesday and refreshments each day, as well as accident insurance and transportation.

All registration must be done at the missions day camp booth near the messenger registration area in the Georgia World Congress Center.

Registration will be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday, June 3, and during daytime convention sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

It is sponsored by the children and youth division of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, the Georgia Baptist Brotherhood department, the Atlanta Baptist Association, and Second Ponce de Leon Church in Atlanta.

The buses will leave the Georgia World Congress Center between 7:45 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4; between 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 5; and between 7:30 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, June 6.

Church dress codes must be met in order to board the bus: no short shorts, no tank tops, and only soft-soled recreational shoes, with socks.

Parents will pick their children up promptly at 5 p.m. on Tuesday; 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday; and 11:20 a.m. on Thursday at the conclusion of the daytime sessions.

House action could remove provision banning lotteries

If some members of the Tennessee House of Representatives and perhaps the Senate have their way, Tennesseans would be voting in November 1994 whether to remove constitutional prohibition against a lottery.

But such a possibility has some pitfalls before becoming reality.

The House voted 74-20 on April 11 to have a statewide vote on whether to remove a provision of the state con-

stitution that bans lotteries. It was their second vote, having passed it the day before by a 74-22 margin.

Rep. Alan R. Hubbard of Kingsport, who sponsored the legislation, declared it was not a lottery bill because a lottery could not be created (even if the constitutional prohibition were repealed) unless the General Assembly passed a lottery law.

Another sponsor, Rep. Ken Givens of

Rogersville was quoted in the Nashville Tennessean as saying he has "a gut feeling" that Tennesseans want a legalized lottery.

Some House members feel that Tennesseans should have learned a lesson when legalized bingo went awry two years ago. Several public officials and bingo figures were convicted in a corruption investigation and the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled bingo illegal in 1989 — because it violated the anti-lottery portion of the constitution.

Here are some of the hurdles that must be crossed by the Thursday legislation:

- It must receive a majority vote once more in the House this session.
- It must have three majority votes by the Senate.
- It must have a two-thirds vote on three separate days during the 98th General Assembly which begins in 1993.

That means the legislation must pass several more votes before becoming eligible for a ballot in November 1994. It would then take effect on July 1, 1995, if approved at the ballot box.

The prohibition against lotteries has been in effect since 1834 — some 154 years ago. Some House members point out that the House resolution favoring repeal of the prohibition indicates a false assumption that lottery income would help solve state budget woes.



SHILOH PASTORS — Members of the Shiloh Association Pastors' Conference met in regular session April 8 and discussed the work of the Baptist and Reflector with Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor. The meeting was held in Adamsville at the associational office. From left: Ed Alexander, retired director of missions; Lewis Harrington, First Church, Savannah; John Pippin, director of missions; Frank Kemper, First Church, Adamsville; Billy Joe Stewart, Good Hope; Artie Rivers, Mount Hermon; Lauren Locke, Olive Hill; and Lamar Ball, Northside.

FMB Prayerline gets new number

RICHMOND (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's toll-free "PrayerLine" is getting a new number: 1-800-395-PRAY.

Thousands of Southern Baptists call the PrayerLine regularly for specific missions prayer requests and news updates. The recorded messages change twice each week.

The new number, effective May 1, is 1-800-395-PRAY (or 1-800-395-7729). It will replace 1-800-ALL SEEK. Use of a different phone company will enable the mission board to save money on billings for the toll-free calls, said Minette Drumwright, director of the prayer strategy office. Local callers in the Richmond area will continue to dial 355-6581.

The PrayerLine has received more than half a million calls since it was begun in January 1987.

Secretaries train, hear benefits survey results

BRENTWOOD — Secretaries of Tennessee Baptist churches and other entities met last week to improve their skills, prepare for ministry, and compare their situations to others.

A record 131 met at the Baptist Center April 8-10 for the annual Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Secretaries' Conference which is directed by the TBC Discipleship Training Department.

Secretaries attended conferences designed for professional development with a ministry slant. A multi-course certification program developed by the Baptist Sunday School Board, the "Personal Enrichment Program," had 18 participants.

Leonard Wedel, retired director, BSSB personnel department, surveyed the group concerning salary and benefits and presented the findings. Sixty-one of about 100 responded to the survey, of which 26 were part-time and 35 were full-time.

Wedel encouraged the secretaries to show the surveys to their bosses and not to accept just appreciation for "the salary and benefits you deserve." He noted average pay was \$6.90 an hour and nine reported they receive no holidays/vacations and five less than one week of vacation. Fifty receive no medical insurance or annuity benefits, 49 no life insurance, 52 no disability insurance, and 55 no accident insurance. Thirteen of the respondents were from

churches with less than 600 members and 37 were from larger churches.

The compensation budget of a church including salaries and benefits paid in cash can be as much as 45 percent of its budget, said Wedel.

Workers should ask for a raise if, after research, they know they are underpaid or if they have not had a salary increase for two or more years.

"Money may not be number one, but it's way ahead of what may be in second place. It provides everything that you want for your lifestyle," said Wedel.

"You are somebody, a person of worth. You are gifted. You are called. You are a part of the team. . . . When the benefits are doled out, you should never be left out."

Wedel noted in some situations, God's plan includes a job change. "Sometimes God has a plan for us that we do not realize. He allows things to happen to us to get us out of a situation."

Bill Blackwell, retired associate pastor, First Church, Nashville, led a session on dealing with transients and families in crisis.

Churches need written guidelines for members and non-members covering areas such as food, clothing, medical aid, transportation, employment, rent, and utilities, he said.

Blackwell recommended co-

ordinating efforts with other churches to eliminate duplication of efforts which can "subsidize misbehavior or dishonesty" and be poor stewardship.

However, he added, "I'd rather be taken in by somebody who is dishonest rather than to turn away somebody who is in genuine need."

Cash gifts should never be given, he said, and church personnel should not be left in unlocked, unattended buildings.

Insurance companies may advise churches not to hire temporary workers because of the church's liability, Blackwell noted. A network of businesses who may need employees is a better response to an employment need.

Other restrictions placed by churches, such as certain hours during which application for help may be made, is acceptable because people with real needs will follow reasonable guidelines.

Blackwell added a spiritual decision should not be requested from a person in need, because at that time, physical needs outweigh other problems.

Sharon Johnson, Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol, reported in the conference on her struggle to remain sympathetic after helping a family who requested powdered milk for their children. She believes it was used to dilute heroine discovered in a drug raid in the area.

Lyda Edwards, Big Emory Association, said, "It's depressing to realize that families can plan cross-country trips at churches' expense."

Blackwell noted the Salvation Army and the Tennessee Department of Human Services are agencies which offer help to families dealing with

crises.

Tim Holcomb, consultant, BSSB church administration department, led the participants in a session on job/self improvement to determine their personal style through a survey. Then they learned characteristics of their style and those with which they are more or less compatible.

Of three relationship categories — parasitic, symbiotic, and cenerginic — Holcomb noted a cenerginic relationship is the most fulfilling because it results in more than the two people bring to it, producing unique ideas and understandings.

"Each of us thinks, feels, and acts differently," he said, adding, "There's nothing wrong with being who you are. We need to cultivate it. God's church needs the cenergy you bring with your gifts."

Elected as 1991-92 officers were Sarah Farmer, North Johnson City Church, Johnson City, president; Martha Taube, Highland Heights Church, Memphis, vice president; and Evelyn Benson, former president, North Etowah Church, Etowah, secretary/treasurer. — *Connie Davis*

Spencer to Pocahontas

Joe Spencer has been called as pastor of First Church, Pocahontas, from Bethlehem Church, Corinth, Miss.

He also served as pastor of Olive Hill Church (West), Ramer. Spencer is a bivocational pastor. He works at a tractor manufacturing company.

The Mississippian was ordained in 1985 by Harmony Church, Walnut, Miss.

Spencer and his wife, Linda, have two boys.

Our Readers Write

Thanks for helping

This has been a trying year for the members of Bethel Church, Henderson. Because of tremendous growth, a new educational building was built with dedication service June, 1990. On Aug. 16 a fire destroyed the new building along with the existing building, built in 1923, and all the contents of both.

A tent was loaned by the Tennessee National Guard Unit of Henderson and chairs were loaned by First Church, Henderson. We erected the tent on Saturday after the fire. A revival was held beginning Aug. 19 with Morrise Hays preaching. We had seven additions from this, only one week after the fire.

With financial help from many sister churches and the money from insurance, and help from the architectural department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, construction began on a new worship central educational building.

On Feb. 24 this year the building was officially given to the congregation by the construction company. The building is completely finished and furnished without the congregation having to finance any of the cost.

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.

Pastor Ron Davis and the membership of Bethel Church thank God for the blessings that have been ours through this hardship and thank all the churches and individuals that have helped us financially and with their prayers. It has come not only from the immediate area but from all over Tennessee. We want to say, "Praise the name of Jesus," and thank you Tennessee Baptists!

W. Ronald Davis, pastor
Bethel Church
Route 2, Box 75A
Henderson, 38340

Praises PraiSing

I enjoyed immensely the happenings in Nashville surrounding the recent PraiSing. Of particular enjoyment was one lunchtime happening at Church Street Center: a great gathering of restaurants and shops in downtown Nashville. People from downtown come through there during their noon mealtime. I was thrilled one afternoon as our Tennessee Baptist Men's Chorale, under the direction of Julian Suggs, sang in an "open-Mall" type setting. Oh, you should have heard the Gospel sung by those men! You should have seen the faces of pagan passersby who stopped and listened! What a presentation. I was so proud at that moment to be Christian and Tennessee Southern Baptist. Truly, the restaurants and shops were alive with the sound of music!

Would there be any way this could be a "regular happening" at the strategically congregated places where our Tennessee Baptist Convention meets each year? Authorities permitting, let's take the Gospel to the streets and shopping centers with our tremendously talented musicians. It was like "tearing a page from the book of Acts!" Thank you, Julian and TBC singers.

Billie Friel
First Church
P.O. Box 226
Mt. Juliet 37122

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

The marker of Joseph Reese's burial place for many years was broken, and the grave surrounded by an array of weeds, grass, and clutter.

But that is understandable. He was not a "great" man.

His name is buried among other details in Baptist history instead of holding a place as a chapter title. The marker was shattered by vandals and his grave forgotten for most of the nearly 200 years since he died.

The grave, which has been dressed up considerably by kinder hands in more recent years, lies about twelve miles from Columbia, South Carolina.

Many Southern Baptists are familiar with the prominent place held in Baptist history by the name Furman. Among other things, the South's oldest Baptist university bears that name.

Richard Furman was father to the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and Furman University was named for him. One historian says that Furman "did more perhaps than any other man to help create basic organizational ideas unique to the Southern Baptist denomination."

Richard was about fifteen when he heard Joseph Reese preach the Gospel at High Hills of Santee Baptist Church. That is where and when he found Christ. Furman began to preach by the time his next birthday came around, and on May 16, 1774, five months before he was nineteen, Joseph Reese helped ordain him as pastor at High

Hills.

And what about Reese? Not much is known about his later years, but he is credited with helping take a large portion of the state for Baptists. He, Philip Mulkey, and a few others

started so many churches that their work was called "a strong spiritual upheaval."

What if there had been no Reese?

There would have been no Furman.

And if there had been no Mulkey,

Reese would not have been saved — for he was one of

Mulkey's converts. And there would have been no Mulkey if he had not heard the Gospel from Shubal Stearns.

What if there had been no Stearns?



ALLEN

The "what ifs" could continue down a long trail of history. No Stearns without the Great Revival in the nation's early years, and no Great Revival without George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, and others!

God's precious line that links people to people through the Gospel is unbroken. Plan? Of course there was (is) a plan. The "Go ye" command of Jesus that began two millennia ago is yet pertinent for modern ages. The offer of salvation still stands, the unbroken line is unwavering.

TBC Executive Board votes to continue . . .

(Continued from page 1)

It was noted also the hospital gives free or discounted service to Tennessee Baptist pastors and spends millions of dollars annually in charity care. Since last December, Stringfield said, the hospital has provided \$430,000 in charity care at Tennessee Baptist pastors' requests. These services will continue, Stringfield assured the TBC board.

The hospital board's executive committee was to have met yesterday (April 16) in response to a proposal from the TBC negotiators. One option which was explained to the Executive Board by Guenther would allow the TBC to elect 25 percent of the hospital's trustees. The hospital would submit names for the other 75 percent to the TBC — three names for each vacancy. The TBC would be required to elect one of the three. The TBC would then have trustees on each of the hospital's entities.

One of the heated points of discussion Friday concerned ownership. Protestant Hospital trustees in 1948 voted to give the facilities in downtown Nashville to the TBC — which accepted. The hospital received Cooperative Program funds until 1968 when it requested that funding cease.

However, ties have remained strong — and Baptist Hospital has given Middle Tennessee Baptists a recognition of excellence in health care and Christian service through the years.

Other points of discussion in the Friday called meeting:

- **The qualifications needed for hospital trustees.** One primary reason for the Dec. 19 action, according to hospital officials, is that expertise in advanced health care and business management is needed for the \$270 million program. They also maintain that they haven't gotten some nominees they presented to TBC committees in recent years. Hospital officials say trustees are needed with expertise in finance, banking, insurance, and related areas. TBC leaders say they have never been informed officially that the problem existed, and will rectify it.

- **How to remain in close relationship.** TBC leaders stress that the Dec. 19 action was unwarranted and should be overturned. They also say they will continue to negotiate in good faith. Hospital officials thus far have not reversed the Dec. 19 action, yet maintain they want close ties to continue.

- **How will other TBC entities respond?** TBC sees a danger that colleges or others could emulate the hospital action. Several, including the hospitals in Knoxville and Memphis, have said they would not. In Friday's meeting, it was noted that while no entity has made any suggestion about changes — it could happen. "We need to keep in mind what principles we establish here will be carried to other

institutions," said Jim McCluskey of Knoxville.

- **Sending a message.** Board members said Friday they feel a strong message must be sent to all concerned that this cannot be allowed to stand. There were several emotional pleas to that effect.

"We must take strong action on this matter. If we don't do it for this hospital we can kiss some of our other institutions goodbye," said Donald Owens of Lebanon. He had expressed his longtime ties to the hospital, noting his home church contributed money for the hospital in 1948.

Other board members asked about the message sent when "brothers sue brothers."

The meeting was open to all Tennessee Baptists and others interested. Several Baptist Hospital board members were present. Stringfield and Davis were the only official representatives of the hospital, and because of prior commitments, could not remain after lunch when the CSC report and recommendations were presented.

Ed Moody, a retired businessman and member of First Church, Franklin, told the board he had not been asked to attend. Some TBC board members said they had heard board members had been asked not to attend the Friday session.

During the day, there were frequent statements about the outstanding ser-

vice and health care which Baptist Hospital has provided.

TBC board members questioned the hospital's need for change, citing the board's financial growth from \$50 million to \$270 million in ten years, as an example of good leadership from trustees elected by the convention.

Stringfield responded that the concern was not for the present or past leadership, but for the future. The hospital's doctors and its accrediting board have cited concerns about the stability of the board in the future, Stringfield said, noting that every officer of the board will rotate off in the next two years.

A motion to amend the recommendation was made by Ann Davenport of McMinnville.

"We have been wronged. The deeper the wrong, however, the more love we must show as Christians," said Davenport, expressing concern about mentioning the lawsuit in the motion. "Everyone knows the alternative," she said.

Her amendment, which lost by a vote of 47-21, would have changed the wording to say: "... will consider further action in keeping with the desires of the convention" instead of "... consider for adoption ... the filing of a lawsuit."

The main motion passed with no dissenting votes. — *Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story.*

Southern trustees approve 'historic' covenant . . .

(Continued from page 1)

school since its founding as the convention's first seminary in 1859.

In response, Southern's faculty voted unanimously to ask the board to rescind its action. They were joined in their appeal by officers of the seminary's alumni association. Faculty argued in a statement that the trustee decision created "significant problems" in the faculty's relationship with the board, misused the Peace Committee report and introduced "ambiguity and confusion" into the seminary's instructional process. It also expressed concerns about implications for accreditation and recruitment of faculty and students.

In addition to its statement on Scripture, the covenant commits trustees, administration and faculty to "a system of seminary governance which maintains in the operation of the in-

stitution the distinct and separate functions of trustees, administration and faculty." The covenant also promises trustees, administration and faculty will seek an "inclusive ministry to all Southern Baptists in a period of transition in denominational leadership and theological interpretation within the Southern Baptist Convention."

Trustee Executive Committee Chairman Wayne Allen, of Memphis, a member of the ad hoc trustee committee, said the covenant is a step toward building trust between faculty and trustees and could help "avoid a head-on collision" between the two groups. "I feel that we are headed for some very troubled days that could affect the vitality and life of this institution if everybody isn't willing to make some concessions," he said.

Nevertheless, he said the document

contains a "very fine statement" on the authority of Scripture. "I don't think you will find a better statement on Scripture in any institution," he added.

In response to questions by some trustees, Allen asked seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt to address concerns that the covenant would prohibit the trustees' academic personnel committee from asking prospective faculty members their view of the Peace Committee findings.

Honeycutt responded that the committee historically has been free to ask any question that is "germane to faculty selection." Still, he said, the covenant and the Abstract of Principles would be the seminary's official employment guidelines.

Trustee Jerry Johnson, a pastor from Aurora, Colo., offered an amend-

ment that would have added the Peace Committee report to the covenant and made other editorial changes to the document. The amendment failed.

In an interview after the vote, Honeycutt called the covenant a "historic document" for the seminary and Southern Baptists. "I think if there were the same spirit in SBC leadership that we have seen here this afternoon and with the faculty, we would resolve the SBC controversy in less than 24 months," he said.

Faculty Association President Bill J. Leonard said in an interview the adoption of the covenant gives hope to the faculty. "Both the faculty and trustees have reservations about the document, but this is a way of starting to alleviate the crisis atmosphere and everybody prefers this document to a crisis atmosphere," he said.

SBTS elects professors under new guidelines

LOUISVILLE (BP) — The first professors elected at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary under terms of the school's new employment guidelines were closely scrutinized by trustees during their annual meeting April 8-10 in Louisville, Ky.

Prospective professors were questioned by the trustees' academic personnel committee about various theological and social issues, committee members told the full board. They reported all candidates for faculty positions and/or tenure gave satisfactory answers to specific questions from the findings section of the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee report. Despite questions from some trustees, all applicants were elected without opposition.

Earlier in their meeting, trustees voted 49-7 to remove the Peace Com-

mittee report as an official employment guideline for faculty members. It was replaced by a "Covenant" document that previously had been approved by the school's faculty.

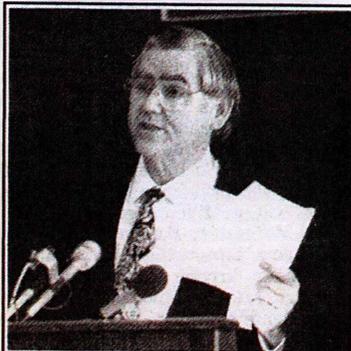
Trustees elected three new professors to the faculty and granted tenure to two current professors. Leigh E. Conner, a pastoral counselor from Atlanta, will be associate professor of psychology of religion with tenure. Two were elected to tenure track positions: Rebecca Straney Russell, a part-time instructor at the seminary, will be assistant professor of church music, and David C. Stancil, minister of pastoral care at Louisville's St. Matthews Church, will be assistant professor of psychology of religion.

Trustees granted tenure to Jon Rainbow, assistant professor of social work,

and Craig A. Loscalzo, assistant professor of Christian preaching.

In addition to personnel actions, trustees voted to "restate" a motion passed last April which guaranteed students the right to tape record any class lecture. The new motion affirms "the principle of openness and disclosure in all appropriate areas of seminary activity." However, it leaves the policy decision about tape recording classroom lectures to the discretion of the administration.

The previous tape recording policy, along with adoption of the Peace Committee Report as an employment guideline, were two concerns prompting an investigation by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, one of the seminary's accrediting agencies. —BP



ALLEN ELECTED — Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarwood Church, Cordova, urged Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees to approve a "covenant" agreement between seminary faculty and trustees. Later in the meeting, Allen was elected trustee chairman.

HMB report, Graham headline WMU annual meeting

ATLANTA (BP) — An address by a former hostage in the American Embassy in Kuwait, the only full Home Mission Board report to be given during the Southern Baptist Convention, and the election of a new national president will highlight the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting June 2-3.

The five sessions of the meeting will be held in the Ballroom of the Georgia World Congress Center beginning Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The Sunday evening session begins at 7:00 p.m. Monday sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Theme of the meeting is "Called to Mission."

Maurice Graham, a Southern Baptist missionary to Kuwait, will speak during the Sunday afternoon session. He was one of several Americans held hostage at the American Embassy after the Iraqi invasion last August. His release came on Dec. 9, the day Southern Baptists had been asked to pray specifically for Graham's release.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will bring the full home missions report he usually gives to the entire Southern Baptist Convention, during the Monday evening session of the WMU meeting. Normally a one-hour presentation to the convention, the home missions report time this year has been reduced to ten minutes to make room on the SBC schedule for an emphasis on spiritual awakening.

During the report, five home missionaries will talk about the work each is doing: Mickey Mayfield, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Larry Martin, Newton, Mass.; Patty Lane, Dallas; Herminio Rios, Duncan, Okla.; and Sheila Black, Charlotte, N.C.

A new WMU national president will be elected during the Monday morning session to succeed Marjorie J.

Tennessee president leads musicians

ATLANTA (BP) — "Turning Our Hearts" will be the theme for the 1991 Southern Baptist Church Music Conference annual meeting June 2-3 in Atlanta, according to Mark Edwards, conference president.

A unique organization of local church ministers of music, college and seminary music faculty, and denominational church music workers, the conference's annual meeting is primarily a time of fellowship, musical inspiration, and an interchange of ideas, said Edwards, minister of music at First Church, Nashville.

The conference is one of about a dozen meetings scheduled in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta June 4-7.

The two-day meeting is split between Wieuca Road Church in suburban Atlanta and the Ritz-Carlton (Buckhead) Hotel. A banquet Monday evening with an awards presentation concludes the conference.

Conference participants will join the Wieuca congregation Sunday night in worship with Allen Walworth, pastor of First Church, Huntsville, Ala., as speaker and Edwards leading the music.

Concerts will be provided by South Carolina Honor Children's Choir; First Light of First Church, Nashville; choir and orchestra of First Church, Augusta, Ga.; Georgia Sons of Jubal and Jubalheirs; youth choir of Providence Church, Opelika, Ala.;

McCullough, the current WMU president. McCullough is in her fifth year as national president. WMU bylaws allow the president to serve five consecutive one-year terms.

Other features of the WMU meeting: • Foreign missions will be the emphasis of the first session of the annual meeting. Highlighting the work of the Southern Baptists around the world will be R. Keith Parks, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president.

Describing what it is like to experience God's call will be people from four different walks of missions life: Allison Lee, a teen-ager from Columbus, Ga.; Dixie Hunke of Fresno, Calif., a recent foreign missions appointee; Robert and Diana Clark, mis-

sionaries who have worked in the Philippines a short time; and Laura Frances Snow, a veteran missionary to Chile.

• Clayton Gilbert of Alexander City, Ala., will bring the message during the Monday afternoon session. Gilbert is the father of Mary Anna Gilbert, the

Pre-convention meetings

FMB journeyman teacher who was killed in a plane crash in China last October.

• A service of missions-centered

music is slated for Sunday evening. Four choirs from the Atlanta area will bring special music in addition to congregational singing. The Atlanta Korean Children's Choir is one of the choirs to perform.

• Dellanna W. O'Brien, national WMU executive director, will present her report during the Monday morning session. The president's address by McCullough is scheduled for Monday afternoon.

The luncheon will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center. Tickets are \$18 and must be ordered by May 1 from: Annual Meeting Meal Tickets, Order Accounting, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010.

Criswell, North among pastors' conference speakers

ATLANTA (BP) — The 1991 meeting of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference will focus on revival — in the home, heart, land, and church — June 2-3 at Atlanta's Georgia World Congress Center, according to Richard G. Lee, conference president.

The theme, "Lord, Send Revival," will be the focus of 14 messages by pastors, evangelists and others during four sessions, said Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga.

"We are praying that this year's Pastors' Conference will lead us to refocus our aim toward strengthening our homes, personal repentance, pointing our land back to God, and building soul-winning churches," said Lee. "Thus we are expecting a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit during these two dynamic days of music and preaching."

The conference can be the catalyst for a "sweeping revival" within the Southern Baptist Convention, Lee said. Speakers for the conference, one of

more than a dozen meetings scheduled in advance of the annual meeting of the SBC, include a number of familiar pastors as well as an evangelist, a college president, and three nationally recognized author/speakers.

W.A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Church, Dallas and former SBC president, will conclude the conference Monday evening with his message.

Other pastors scheduled are Jerry Vines, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Ed Young, Second Church, Houston; Adrian Rogers, Bellevue

Church, suburban Memphis; Jimmy Draper, First Church, Euless, Texas; Darrell Gilyard, Victory Church, Richardson, Texas; and Jack Graham, Prestonwood Church, Dallas. Vines, Rogers, and Draper are former SBC presidents.

Current SBC president Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, will bring a welcome Monday evening, said Lee.

Lt. Col. Oliver North, central figure in congressional hearings several years ago on aid to contras in Central America; Tim LaHaye, author and speaker; and Chuck Colson, author and speaker on prison ministries, will bring messages Monday afternoon.

Other speakers include: Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Church, Dallas; Bailey Smith, evangelist from Atlanta; Bill Stafford, evangelist from Chattanooga; and Paige Patterson, president, Criswell Bible College, Dallas. Music will be provided by several choirs, groups, and individuals, including Larnelle Harris of Nashville.

Hispanic ministers to meet June 1-3

ATLANTA (BP) — Leaders of eight Southern Baptist institutions will address the annual Hispanic Ministers Conference to be held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta this summer. "Sharing the Love that Unites Us" is the theme for the June 1-3 gathering, which will conclude with a panel discussion about how SBC agencies and institutions are ministering to Hispanics.

The panel will include Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis, Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks, Sunday School Board president Lloyd Elder, Annuity Board president Paul Powell, Executive Committee president-treasurer Harold C. Bennett, Woman's Missionary Union executive director Dellanna O'Brien, Brotherhood Commission president James Smith, and Radio and Television Commission president Jack Johnson. Oscar Romo, HMB director of language church extension, also will participate.

The panel discussion will be part of a concluding luncheon at Baptist Tabernacle in downtown Atlanta. The luncheon is free, but seating is limited to the first 250 people to register. The Hispanic Ministers Conference will begin at 2:30 p.m. June 1, with an "upper room experience" at First Spanish Church of Metro Atlanta. Roberto Gama of the Baptist Sunday School Board will speak about prayer.

International evangelist Rudy Hernandez will address the group June 2 during a rally at Tabernacle Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. Hernandez also will bring an update on the Manuel Noriega conversion story. Lewis will bring greetings to the group.

Registration information is available from First Spanish Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta, 3532 Covington Highway, Decatur, Ga. 30032.

DOMs announce Atlanta meeting

ATLANTA (BP) — Fellowship, support, learning, and an interaction forum are descriptions of the 30th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions June 2-3 at the Hyatt Airport Hotel, Atlanta.

"Seeing the Invisible" will be the theme, according to Russell Bennett, president and executive director of Long Run Association, Louisville, Ky.

The gathering of directors of missions has been a "supporting and learning time," said Bennett. "It meets the needs of DOMs and serves as a forum for interaction with SBC agency officials."

Bennett will address the group Sunday afternoon followed by a banquet hosted by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. Also bringing a featured address will be Milton Ferguson, president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Dennis Swanberg, director of missions, Hot Springs, Ark.; and theme interpretation, Henry Blackaby, director of spiritual awakening, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Floyd Collins, director of missions, Kingstown, R.I., will preach in the Sunday morning worship service. Special music throughout the meeting will be brought by the "Singing DOMs."

Luncheon for wives features humorist

"Heart of the Hearth" will be the theme of the SBC Ministers' Wives luncheon, held in Atlanta on June 4, at 12:15 p.m. at the Omni International Ballroom.

Charles Petty, "America's Family Humorist," author and well-known speaker, will speak. The luncheon will be held between sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta.

Advance tickets to the luncheon, which is open to the public, are \$17 each before May 20, and may be ordered from Margaret Murchison, 3235 Ramsgate, Augusta, Ga. 30909. Ticket price at the convention booth will be \$19.

The Omni International Ballroom is located in the Omni Hotel-CNN Center in Atlanta.

134th session

SBC meeting to call nation, denomination to prayer

By Herb Hollinger

ATLANTA (BP) — Calling a denomination and a nation to prayer for spiritual awakening will highlight the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Georgia World Congress Center, June 4-6.

"Jesus ... There's Power in His Name" is the theme for the 134th session. All the business, reports, and sermons of the annual meeting are planned, but also a special session, as a call to spiritual prayer for spiritual awakening in America.

"(The program) is one of the best in a long time," said Danny Watters, pastor of Beulah Church, Douglasville, Ga., and chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

The Wednesday evening session will be an emphasis on the spiritual, Watters said, with President Morris H. Chapman calling the denomination and America to special prayer for an "encounter with God."

Last year Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, appointed a ten-member spiritual awakening committee which will coordinate the two-and-a-half hour period. The Home Mission Board relinquished its slot on the program for the

emphasis.

"This has been on (Chapman's) heart for a long time," said Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, and chairman of the spiritual awakening committee. "This will be an evening the Holy Spirit moves in His people to launch a spiritual awakening both in the Southern Baptist Convention and across America."

Choir, representing three Georgia churches, will begin the special evening session.

Keynote speeches during the three-day meeting will be Chapman's presidential address at the conclusion of the first session Tuesday morning and Tom D. Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., will bring the annual convention sermon

record numbers attending the annual meeting, primarily because of diminishing public confrontations between "moderates" and "conservatives" in the convention.

The Foreign Mission Board will close the Tuesday evening session while a special "Baptist Hour" 50th anniversary presentation by the Radio and Television Commission will close the annual meeting Thursday morning.

About four hours of business will be spread across the three days beginning Tuesday afternoon. Messengers will vote on a proposed \$140,710,282 1991-92 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, a 2.46 percent increase over the current year.

Votes will also be taken on a proposed merger of the convention's public affairs committee and the Christian Life Commission, bylaw changes, and elimination of at-large and local trustee slots for three agencies.

Although the Wednesday evening session will be special it is not to be seen as a precedent, according to Watters. He said it will probably be a "one time" special emphasis and was not planned as a precedent for future conventions.



Jesus

There's Power In His Name

"Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

The session will feature calls "to a fresh encounter with God, to confession and humility, to the cross and sacrifice, to celebration, and to renew our covenant with God. It includes prayer groups, Scripture readings, presentations of banners and crowns, special music, and messages.

A concert by a Patriotic Festival

Wednesday morning.

Elections for officers will begin Tuesday afternoon. Unlike recent conventions, there does not appear to be opposition to Chapman who is eligible for another single year term.

Most observers speculate the attendance may be down from recent

Southern Baptist Convention

Tuesday, June 4 - Thursday, June 6
Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Tuesday Morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration - First Church Choir, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 8:30 Call to Order and Congregational Singing
- 8:35 Prayer - Ray Fowler
- 8:40 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention - Lee Porter
- 8:45 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) - Danny E. Watters
- 8:50 Welcome - James N. Griffith, executive director, Georgia Baptist Convention
- 8:55 Response - Vander Warner Jr., pastor, Grove Avenue Church
- 9:00 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:05 Radio and Television Commission Report - Jack B. Johnson, president
- 9:15 Home Mission Board Report - Larry Lewis, president
- 9:25 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) - Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer
- 10:25 American Bible Society Report - Fred A. Allen
- 10:35 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:05 Annunity Board Report - Paul W. Powell, president
- 11:15 Congregational Singing
- 11:20 Music - Chris Chapman, college minister, Prestonwood Church, Dallas
- 11:25 President's Address - Morris H. Chapman
- 12:00 Benediction - Bernie Moraga

Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration
- 2:00 Congregational Singing
- 2:05 Prayer - Claude Thomas
- 2:10 Messenger Information Survey - Martin Bradley
- 2:20 Business: Committee on Order of Business (Second Report), Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) - Harold C. Bennett
- 3:30 Congregational Singing
- 3:35 Committee on Nominations Report - James W. Richards Jr.
- 3:50 Christian Life Commission Report - Richard D. Land
- 4:00 Congregational Singing
- 4:05 Business: Committee on Order of Business (Third Report), Committee on Committees Report, Introduction of Business and Resolutions, Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)

- 5:00 Benediction - Chester H. Holmes Jr.

Tuesday Evening

- 6:30 Music for inspiration
- 7:00 Congregational Singing
- 7:05 Prayer - John H. Traylor Jr.
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:20 Baptist World Alliance Report - Denton Lotz
- 7:30 Congregational Singing
- 7:35 Bold Mission Thrust Report - Harold C. Bennett
- 7:45 Brotherhood Commission Report - James H. Smith
- 7:55 Stewardship Commission Report - A. R. Fagan
- 8:05 Woman's Missionary Union Report - Dellanna W. O'Brien
- 8:15 Congregational Singing
- 8:20 Foreign Mission Board Report - R. Keith Parks
- 9:15 Benediction - Michael S. Hamlet

Wednesday Morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration - Festival choirs/orchestra
- 8:50 Congregational Singing
- 8:55 Prayer - Ron Hardin
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Education Commission Report - Arthur L. Walker
- 9:20 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Landrum P. Leavell II
- 9:30 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Milton Ferguson
- 9:40 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report - William O. Crews
- 9:50 Commission on American Baptist Seminary Report - Arthur L. Walker
- 9:55 Congregational Singing
- 10:00 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Russell H. Dilday
- 10:10 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Roy L. Honeycutt
- 10:20 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report - Lewis A. Drummond
- 10:30 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 10:40 Public Affairs Committee Report - Albert Lee Smith
- 10:50 Congregational Singing
- 10:55 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:00 Business: Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report), Committee on Resolutions (First Report), Miscellaneous Business
- 11:55 Music
- 12:00 Convention Sermon - Tom D. Elliff
- 12:30 Benediction - Anthony Jordan

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration-Patriotic Festival Choir
- 6:30 Congregational Singing
- 6:35 Prayer - Ron Hanie
- 6:40 Business: Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report); Election of convention sermon preacher and alternate, and music director, 1992; Denominational Calendar Committee Report
- 6:45 Presentation of newly elected SBC officers
- 6:50 CALL TO PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN AMERICA - Introduction - Jim Henry
- CALL TO A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH GOD - Morris H. Chapman, Scripture reading: Message - Charles F. Stanley; Music - First Church, Orlando; Presentation of Banners and Crowns
- CALL TO CONFESION AND HUMILITY - Philipians 2: 5-7 - Henry T. Blackaby, Roy J. Fish, Avery Willis
- CALL TO THE CROSS AND SACRIFICE - Philipians 2: 8-9 - David Ring, Daniel J. Yeary
- CALL TO CELEBRATION - Philipians 2: 9-11 - Mike Huffman, Congregational Song of Praise
- CALL TO RENEW OUR COVENANT WITH GOD - Philipians 2: 12-16 - Minette W. Drumwright, Jim Henry, Morris H. Chapman, Larry L. Lewis, Congregational Singing
- 9:30 Benediction

Thursday Morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration - Combined choirs/orchestra - Germantown Church, Germantown, Tenn.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing
- 8:55 Prayer - Wayne McCraw
- 9:00 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 9:05 Southern Baptist Foundation Report - Hollis E. Johnson III
- 9:15 Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group - Larry L. Lewis
- 9:25 Denominational Press Report - Herbert V. Hollinger
- 9:35 Historical Commission Report - Lynn E. May Jr.
- 9:45 Congregational Singing
- 9:50 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report - James M. Dunn
- 10:00 Baptist Sunday School Board Report - Lloyd Elder
- 10:20 Congregational Singing
- 10:25 Business: Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:45 Recognition of Outgoing Officers
- 10:50 Radio and Television Commission "Baptist Hour" 50th Anniversary - Jack B. Johnson
- 11:20 Benediction

'Driven out' claims are unfounded, says SBC president

ATLANTA (BP) — Claims by leaders of the "moderate" group known as The Baptist Fellowship that they are being "driven out" of the Southern Baptist Convention are unfounded, said SBC President Morris Chapman.

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, said members of the group (The Fellowship) are choosing to disassociate themselves from the majority of Southern Baptists. They have no one to blame but themselves. They have chosen to do this.

The SBC president said convention

Cholera medicine arrives in Peru

LIMA, Peru (BP) — About 65 tons of medicine supplied by Texas Baptists arrived in Peru April 6 to aid the fight against the ongoing cholera epidemic there.

The medicine was flown from Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, on a military transport plane.

Carlos Garcia, second vice president of Peru, along with a representative of the U.S. Embassy, met the shipment. Garcia, a Baptist, was on hand to call attention to the donation by Southern Baptists and to credit them for the help.

About 100 Peruvian Baptist volunteers helped load the supplies onto trucks headed for Cajamarca, Trujillo and other cities affected by the cholera outbreak. Southern Baptist missionaries and Peruvian Baptists hoped to begin distributing the supplies in the Cajamarca area April 8.

Cajamarca, the city hit hardest by the epidemic, also was damaged by an earthquake April 4. Some landslides

"moderates" have "absolutely not" been disenfranchised, but those in the Fellowship have chosen to "disassociate themselves" from the denomination. Chapman's comments came during an interview with *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Reports that a task force of the Fellowship had proposed the establishment of a World Missions Center which would commission missionaries prompted Chapman to say such moves would be "in direct competition with the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission boards. I think that

were reported on roads in the area, but officials believed the supplies would get through.

By April 2 more than 100,000 cases of cholera had been reported in Peru. About 36,000 people had been hospitalized and 769 confirmed dead, with 50 percent of those in Cajamarca.

A second Texas Baptist shipment of about 215 tons of supplies scheduled to arrive by sea April 16 has been delayed. It is expected to arrive April 28 in Paita, a northern port.

The response of the Peruvian government's ministry of health has been, "We don't believe it. Where did you get that much stuff?" said missionary Ken Bowie. "Southern Baptists will have brought in more than any government anywhere in the world toward helping with the cholera epidemic."

Still, the tons of supplies probably will fall far short of what eventually will be needed, added missionary Hayward Armstrong.

the vast majority of Southern Baptists will lend no support to such a movement," Chapman said.

"The Baptist Fellowship and others of similar persuasion remind me of the little boy who went to the carnival with his best friend. When down to his last dime, he was pressured by his friend to ride the merry-go-round. When they finished the ride, the boy said to his friend: 'I have spent my last dime. We have gone 'round and 'round. I got off where I got on, and I ain't been nowhere.' That is, when all is said and done, I believe their efforts will come to an uneventful end," he said.

The call for WMU participation also elicited Chapman's response.

"The WMU has always been a vital part of Southern Baptist missions." He said he would be "extremely surprised and greatly saddened" if the WMU ever considered "opening the door to participate with an organization such as The Baptist Fellowship. I certainly pray that they will continue their historic support of the two Southern Baptist mission boards. I believe the hearts of Southern Baptist women beat strongly for Southern Baptist missions," he said.

Chapman said he also disagreed with FMB President R. Keith Park's comment that the proposed missions center was the "inevitable result" of the SBC conflict. He said the move was "a calculated giant step away from

mainstream Southern Baptists."

He also said the establishment of such a center "does not compare whatsoever with a local church's mission projects."

The Fellowship is "choosing to go their own, separate way," said Chapman, "and their heart's desire is to have their own denomination when it seems to be feasible."

Richard deLuna accepts Lawrenceburg pastorate

Richard G. deLuna recently became full-time pastor of O.K. Church, Lawrenceburg, after serving as interim for several months.

deLuna was formerly associate pastor of First Church, Loretto. He also was pastor of churches in Ohio, Alabama, and Mississippi.

He and his wife, Sheila, have two sons, Russell and Daniel.

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Associations ...

Wilson County Senior High youth will meet April 30 at 6 p.m. at Immanuel Church, Lebanon. Directors of Baptist student ministries from local college campuses will be there to meet students planning to attend their schools this fall. The session is sponsored by Wilson County Association. For more information, contact the association office at (615) 444-8820.

Missions ...

The Circle Bible Class and the BYKOTA Class of Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville, have given a set of Bible commentaries to the International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest, Hungary.

Leadership ...

Jeff Calloway is the new pastor at Lakeview Church, Clinton. The Carson-Newman, Jefferson City, graduate was ordained in January at Unity Church, Knoxville. This is his first pastorate.



FOR 36 YEARS — Ircel Harrison, right, TBC Student Ministries Department director, presents Irene Turner a silver tray for service as Baptist Student Union director, Nashville area schools, 1953-90, during the April 5-7 State Student Spring Conference in Clarksville. — Photo by Roger Hill

A reception for Allen Buhler will be held April 28, 2-5 p.m., in honor of his 75th birthday and 50th year in the ministry. The event will be at Trinity Church, Lebanon. Anyone interested in attending should call Reba Preston at (615) 444-9094, or Sara Henslee at (615) 444-4145.

Jane Griz recently resigned as minister of education at South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, to become minister to senior adults at First Church, North Augusta, S.C.

North Etowah Church, Etowah, called Mark T. Winstead, Marvell, Ark., as minister of music and education. Winstead has served as music minister at churches in Alabama, Arkansas, and Kentucky. He earned a master's degree in religion and education at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He will begin his new duties May 5.

W. David Reeves has been called as staff evangelist of First Church, Somerville, and is available for revivals and supply. He was formerly pastor of Williston Church, Williston.

First Church, St. Bethlehem, called John Mark Thomas as pastor.

Pleasant Site Church, Selmer, called Kenneth Spencer as minister of music.

Bob Wood is now serving as interim pastor of Second Church, Savannah.

Lake View Church, Caryville, called Roger Stanley as pastor.

Dennis Callahan is the new pastor of Rocky Springs Church, Bolivar.

People ...

Charles Buckner, long-time minister of music in Shelby Association, died April 1 after a brief illness. He had served as music minister at Poplar

Avenue Church, Audubon Park Church, Cherokee Church, and Eastwood Church, all in Memphis. He was serving Eastwood Church at the time of his death.

Revivals ...

Grace Church, Springfield, began revival April 14, which will continue through April 18. Tommy Wood, Tampa, Fla., is evangelist.

Henry Linginfelter will lead revival April 21-25 at Manley Church, Morristown. Dick Barrett will lead music.

Salem Association reported the following churches will hold revival during April: Whorton Springs Church, Smithville, April 21-28, Tom Baines; Sycamore Church, Woodbury, April 25-28, Marvin Glass; Woodland Church, Woodbury, April 24-28, Thurman Seber; and Prosperity Church, Auburntown, April 28-May 3, James Haynes.

Fairfield Church, Centerville, will hold revival April 21-24.

Revival will be held April 28-May 2 at First Church, Lobelville.

The following churches in Dyer Association have scheduled upcoming revivals: Southside Church, Dyersburg, April 19-21, Rodney Alexander; Miston Church, Bogota, April 25-28, Bill Williams; and Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes, April 28-May 3, Hoyt Wilson.

Beech Grove Church, Lawrenceburg, will hold revival April 21-25. Ricky Nelson will be evangelist.

Don Russell will lead revival April 21-24 at Braace Church, Summertown.

Weakley County Association reported these churches will hold revivals: Gearin's Chapel Church, Greenfield, April 17-21, Richard Skidmore; Tumbling Creek Church, Gleason, April 21-24, Bill George; Long Heights Church, McKenzie, April 21-25, Dean Doster; Central Church, Martin, April 21-26, Johnny Jackson; First Church, Greenfield, April 28-May 1, Raymon Carneal; Bethlehem Church, Greenfield, May 5-8, Bob Copeland; and Old Bethel Church, Palmersville, May 5-10, Lammie Lammersfeld.

Oak Grove Church, Gray, will hold revival April 17-21. Aubert Rose will be evangelist.

Revival services will be held April 28-May 3 at Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis. Don Boone, Mobile, Ala., will be evangelist and Phillip Willis, Baton Rouge, La., will lead music.

Leon Kilbreth will lead revival April 28-May 1 at Calvary Church, Union City. Les, Chris, and Brent Snyder will provide special music.

Northport Church, Newport, will hold revival April 21-26 with Gerald Atkins leading the services.

An April 19-21 spring revival entitled, "Days of Spiritual Awakening," will be held at Unaka Avenue Church, Johnson City.



HONORED BY STUDENTS — Fred Witty was honored with the gift of a silver tray at the April 5-7 State Student Spring Conference in Clarksville for service from 1956-91 as Baptist Student Union director at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. — Photo by Roger Hill

First Church, Camden, will be led in revival April 21-25 by Benny Jackson and Jonathan Nelms.

Six people made professions of faith and 12 rededicated their lives to Christ during a March revival at First Church, Obion. Billy Skinner, pastor, First Church, Union City, was evangelist and Fred Murphy, Trace Creek Church, Mayfield, Ky., led the services.

Ordinations ...

On March 24 Marcus Daniel and Jim McNeese were ordained as deacons at First Church, Collinwood. Harold King, pastor, Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, issued the charge to the men.

Dillard's Creek Church, Elmwood, ordained Benny Ray Fields to the deacon ministry.

Shady Springs Church, Oldfort, recently ordained their new pastor, H.A. Reagan, to the Gospel ministry.

Jan Williams and Jesse Rodgers were ordained to the deacon ministry of Beech Grove Church, Lawrenceburg.

Loretto Church, Loretto, ordained Kenny Koss and Willie Flippo to the deacon ministry March 24.

Riverside taps Ken McMillen

Mississippi native Ken McMillen began duties April 1 as the new director of missions for Riverside Association, based in Livingston.

McMillen comes to the post from First Church, Vyhalia, Miss., where he served as pastor for ten years.

A native of New Albany, McMillen is a graduate of Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Miss. He has held several pastorates in Mississippi. McMillen also has conducted MasterLife workshops in Tennessee for the state convention's Discipleship Training Department. McMillen and his wife, Sarah, have four children and two grandchildren.



McMILLEN

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

What is special about April 21, 1991? It could be a very significant day in the life of your church. Many Tennessee Baptist churches will pause during their time of worship to say a positive word about the Cooperative Program.

As I write this article I have been preparing for a meeting of the Budget Committee of our Executive Board. They have the assignment of listening to all of the needs that come from the boards and agencies of our convention. They have to estimate what they believe the churches of the convention will give through the Cooperative Program. Then they have to recommend a budget to the Executive Board and the convention.

This fine committee is chaired by Larry Gilmore, pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin. The

15-member committee comes from all parts of the state, and includes pastors and laypersons. They come from churches of all sizes. The Cooperative Program budget of our convention is from the Baptists of the state.

It seems appropriate for us to spend some time thanking God for this efficient way of supporting our mission work in the state, across the nation, and around the world. Let me encourage you to say a good word for the work in your church this Sunday.

I was in a meeting a few days ago where a dear Christian from one of our mission fields rose to say "Thank you." They had been won to Christ by a missionary supported by our churches through the Cooperative Program. Their gratitude warmed my heart. I was equally grateful that God had given me the privilege of belonging to a church that believes in cooperative missions.

So on behalf of all who benefit from your Cooperative Program giving, I want to say, "Thank you."



LOWRIE

Tennessee Baptists needed as refugee sponsors

Tennessee Baptists sponsored more refugees during 1989-90 than during the previous year, but urgent needs exist, especially for residents of the Soviet Union who are allowed for the first time in many years to immigrate, reported Terry Sharp, new Missions

Department associate, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Eight churches, missions, or associations sponsored refugees through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention during 1989-90, he reported.

Those sponsors were Concord Association; First Church, Goodlettsville; Glendale Church, Nashville; First Church, Oak Ridge; Sharon Church, Knoxville; Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain; Valley View Church, Cleveland; and Vietnamese Mission, Memphis. Refugees from the Soviet Union, Poland, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia were sponsored by these entities.

learning language, and adapting to community.

Persons wishing further information may contact the TBC at (615) 371-2032 or the HMB's Immigration and Refugee Service at (404) 898-7395.

Wrigley members hold prison ministry

Members of Wrigley Church, ALPHA Association, serve in a prison ministry that reaches several areas.

They recently renewed a six-months commitment to hold worship services each Sunday afternoon at the Tennessee Prison for Women. Two

MasterLife groups have been started there by Sharri Donegan and Lori Toy.

Roland Marshall is teaching death row inmates at Riverbend Maximum Security Prison on Thursday nights.

Services are being held at Turney Center Prison on the first Sunday and third Wednesday night each month, with Gary Conner and Marshall leading, assisted by Barry Toy and Iona Tidwell.

According to the group, the inmates show great appreciation and some pray for Wrigley Church and its needs.

Correction on congress

The number of participants at the annual Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress was 1665 rather than 1165 as reported in the April 10 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

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Children of all ages find refuge at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. In recent years, several programs have been created to meet the needs of troubled teenagers. The Genesis ministry provides care and spiritual guidance to adolescent girls. In Millington, teenage boys receive love, support and encouragement at the Boys Ranch.

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Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes
 A Ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

David anointed king over all Israel

By Robert Armour, retired director of missions; Troy

In our "instant" generation we would find few men who would have the trust, patience, and courage to wait upon the Lord as David did. He seems to have found a deep confidence in God that gave peace which passeth understanding (Philippians 4:7). Yet David's confidence in God not only gave him peace and patience, but great motivation and power. He was humble enough to recognize the source of power to face the enemy. He was also respectful enough to consult that source.

David, Israel's king at last (5:1-5) All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron seeking to make him their king. They first appealed to him on the basis of kinship, then leadership, and lastly divine appointment. Surely David considered the other two, but he was mainly convinced by God's having divinely anointed him as Israel's king when he was a lad tending the sheep. He made a league with them and they anointed him their king.

This was the third time David had been anointed. First, he was anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel when he was probably only 15 years old. He was next anointed king over Judah, and lastly king over all Israel. He reigned over Judah at Hebron for seven and one half years, and 33 years at Jerusalem over all Israel, which gave him a 40-year reign. Now he knew the joy of having waited for God's will to be done in his life.

Jerusalem became David's city and capital (5:6-7, 9-12)

David wanted to establish his capital at Jerusalem, but the Jebusites were occupying the city. David approached them and they chided him saying that the blind and the halt could defeat his army. But David consulted God and He told him to go up against the Jebusites and He would deliver them into his hand. David challenged his men with the proposition that the first one to find a way into Jerusalem to smite the

Jebusites would be made commander of his army. Joab was the one first to smite the Jebusites and was made captain of the army. David then moved into Jerusalem and began to fortify the city.

BIBLE BOOK

April 21 Lesson

Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 5:1-25

David seems to have been a good friend with Hiram, king of Tyre. Hiram gave David timbers and laborers to build a house. David continued to grow in fame and fortune because God was with him. Much to David's credit, he always gave God credit for all that was accomplished.

A return engagement (5:19-20a) The time came again for David to have to fight his old enemy, the Philistines. This time there seems to have been no Goliath. David inquired of the Lord if he should go up against

the Philistines. He told him to go ahead and He would go with him. In order to be able to fight effectively, David reverted to some of the strategy used during his days of fleeing from Saul. He went to the "hold" to establish his defense. This was probably the fortress he had established when he was fleeing from Saul (1 Samuel 22:4-5, 24:22). It was also called the cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22:1 and 2 Samuel 23:13-14). David's move to the hold seems to have been very wise because the Philistines camped in the valley of Rephaim near Jerusalem with the idea of dividing David's forces and cutting his supply lines.

David inquired of the Lord and being told to go, attacked them straightforward and dealt them a devastating blow. The Philistines regrouped and were ready to attack again. God told David to attack this time from the rear. David's army drove them back into their own land. Israel enjoyed peace for a long period of time.

The more excellent way

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

Our lesson last week about spiritual gifts and unity dealt with the means and method of Christian service. In this lesson, we move to the motive for service. No matter how well equipped and organized we are, our motives still must be right for our service to be acceptable to God.

Notice in chapter 12:28, the equipping and calling is up to God and in the context of the church. By examining Romans 12:6-8 and Ephesians 4:11, we can conclude there is no distinct order or hierarchy of gifts or positions in the church. We have no distinction of clergy and laity. Each member should simply want the role he is best suited for, whether it is missionary, preacher, teacher, specialist, doctor, helper, manager, linguist, or whatever. But the most important thing is

motive.

First Corinthians 13 is one of the most beautiful and beloved passages ever written. Perhaps it was to indicate that Paul was referring to a special kind of love that led the King James translators to translate the word charity. Only 15 other times did they translate the word charity, but in almost 200 other places they translated it love. Actually, there were three other Greek words for love more commonly used, but the Holy Spirit chose this one to indicate a Godly kind of self-giving love.

CONVENTION UNIFORM

April 21 Lesson

Basic Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13

This chapter presents love as the

only right motive for the use of spiritual gifts. Verses 1-3 stress that for the Christian, love is absolutely indispensable. Powerful preaching, ingenuous insight, or even impressive faith without love result in frustration. Without love, acts of benevolence, no matter how seemingly sacrificial, gain no merit. In fact, everything minus love equals nothing.

Verses 4-7 present love as eminently ethical. It always does what is right and good. In 15 short forceful phrases, Paul pictured the nature of Christian love. It is active, not passive. By using several negatives, he actually emphasized the positive nature of love.

This kind of love is very patient. It looks for a way to be constructive. It is not possessive or jealous. It is not anxious to impress, nor is it arrogant or boastful. It does not insist on its own way and is not touchy. It does not try to remember every evil it receives.

It is never glad when wrong is done, but is always glad when truth prevails. Despite the circumstances, this kind of love has no abatement of its concern, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope, and no limit to its endurance.

Love is essential; love is ethical; and, finally, love is eternal. It never stops. At some time the last sermon will be preached, the last message shared, the last class taught.

Preaching and witnessing and teaching will cease. They are limited to this present age, but love will go on. It is as eternal as God, for "God is love" (1 John 4:8).

Like a child grows up, we should make progress in the way of love. But at best, we do not yet know it all nor have it all, and so all our service, regardless how gifted, is incomplete. But it won't always be that way. Someday in the sweet-by-and-by we will be mature and complete and able to love the way God loves.

A glorious salvation

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

We've all heard or read stories about children to whom great wealth has been left upon the passing of their parents. Though God certainly did not die to leave his children an inheritance, Paul used the analogy of an inheritance to describe God's blessings and gifts to His children. To help our understanding of this inheritance we will follow Paul's description.

Paul spoke of four blessings from God the Father to redeemed persons (vv. 3-6). First, we are chosen by God (v. 4). This fact alone should prevent any pride on our part that we had anything at all to do with our salvation. Though we received God's redemption as an act of our will, it was God who first chose us to be redeemed.

Second, God chose to bless us by making us "holy and without blame" (v. 4). This is not something we attain as we grow in grace, mature, or become a "better" Christian. This blessing is bestowed by God fully on a person the moment he is covered by the sacrificial blood of God's perfect

sacrifice, His Son Jesus Christ. I am glad that God sees me not for my weak, sinful self but that He sees me as He sees His Son, "holy and without blame."

The third blessing from the Father is that we are adopted into His family (v. 5). With this adoption come the privileges and responsibilities due any blood-related child of the family (such as his only "begotten" Son!).

The fourth blessing that God bestows on His redeemed is that He "made us accepted" (v. 6). Children, youth, and adults alike in our society today are willing to go to any length and cost, even to their own physical destruction, to gain acceptance by their friends and peers. But to the redeemed person, acceptance by those of the world pales in comparison to the fact that we are "accepted" by the Great God of the universe, not because of what we are or have done, but because of the gifts of grace that He has given us.

Paul also spoke of blessings through the Son (vv. 7-12). Of the three blessings mentioned, notice the third one

(v. 9). Christ has "made known unto us the mystery of his will." At one time people possibly could have claimed ignorance of and about the will of God for themselves and God's people. But not anymore! God has chosen "according to his good pleasure" to reveal by his Son his will for the world. As we live in a love relationship with Christ we understand how our lives fit into God's will for all of creation.

LIFE AND WORK

April 21 Lesson

Basic Passage: Ephesians 1:3-14

Finally, Paul spoke of the blessings of a glorious salvation bestowed upon the redeemed by God the Holy Spirit (vv. 13-14). He stated (v. 13) that once we have heard the Gospel, believed, and have accepted God's salvation, that we are "sealed" by the Holy Spirit. Since that word "sealed" carries much the same meaning in both modern and ancient times, we should have no trouble understanding that once we are saved it will not come "undone."

Neither man nor all the demons in hell can take our salvation away

because Jehovah God Himself sealed shut the envelope. Yes, "once saved, always saved!" Praise God that He is able to protect our salvation until its final completion! Praise God it doesn't depend on us or our power but upon Him and his promise!

Then it is as if God wanted to make doubly sure that we know that the investment of our life and soul with Him would be secure. He impresses Paul to tell us that his Holy Spirit has been placed on deposit as an earnest guarantee of our inheritance (v. 14).

If God would not or could not make good on the promises He has made (including the security of our salvation) then He would lose His earnest. Since losing the Holy Spirit would mean that God would cease to exist, we know that our life, soul, inheritance, and salvation is secure with God because God is eternal and will never cease to exist.

Bogota Church calls Clifton Davis

Bogota Church, Bogota, has called Clifton Davis as pastor.

The Union University student was ordained Feb. 24 by Wynnburg Church, Wynnburg, his home church.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Nevada executive director announces retirement

RENO, Nev. — Ernest B. Myers, the Nevada Baptist Convention founding executive director-treasurer, will retire June 30, 1992.

Myers, 65, has been Nevada's chief executive officer since January of 1979. His retirement actually begins March 15, 1992, but he will use accrued vacation until the end of June. The announcement was made during the March session of the Nevada Baptist Convention executive board.

"I believe this is the right timing for my retirement," said Myers. "This will give the convention an opportunity to find God's man for this important job and have him on the field by the time I leave." Since the state convention's organization in 1979, the number of churches has more than doubled, total membership has grown to 23,000 and the state budget has expanded from \$390,000 to more than \$1.7 million.

Noriega professes Christ in Miami prison cell

MIAMI — Manuel Noriega, the man Americans love to hate, says he has found the love of God in an American prison. The deposed Panamanian dictator testified to his Christian conversion in documents written and signed from his isolation cell in Miami, where he has spent the last 14 months awaiting his June trial for conspiracy to smuggle cocaine.

"I received Jesus Christ as my Savior the 15th of May of 1990 at 11 a.m. in a small room, like unto a cave, in the Metropolitan Correctional Center of Dade County, Fla.," Noriega wrote in Spanish. Noriega's spiritual conversion, which has been kept quiet for ten months, has been substantiated by his attorney, a paralegal aide, a Miami Baptist layman, and the two Southern Baptist evangelists — Cliff Brannon and Rudy Hernandez of Texas — who led him to profess Christ. The five are among the handful of people permitted to visit Noriega, who is held in virtual solitary confinement in the prison's four-room hospital annex.

The layman, Tony Ponceti, has been Noriega's spiritual tutor since August, visiting the general weekly and leading him through a program of intensive Bible study. After spending about 100 hours with Noriega in the one-on-one teaching sessions, Ponceti is emphatic about the convert's sincerity: "I am fully persuaded."

Noriega reportedly has asked to be baptized but he must wait until wary prison officials approve the request and find a way to have the general immersed without compromising the air-tight security that surrounds him.

Texas evangelism director dies

DALLAS — Carlos McLeod, director of the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1981, died April 2 in Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas. Physicians said he died of a rupture of the thoracic aorta, main blood vessel leading out of the heart.

McLeod, 62, a native of Farmersville, Texas, was president of the 2.5 million-member BGCT from 1979-1981 while he was pastor of First Church, Plainview, Texas.

ACTS awards ceremony televised April 25

FORT WORTH, Texas — The sixth annual American Christian Television System Awards Ceremony will be televised live nationwide on ACTS from Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas, April 25.

The 8 p.m. (CDT) broadcast will feature singer-author Anita Bryant, who will host the event, and contemporary Christian artist Wayne Watson, who will provide musical entertainment. Also providing music will be Jubilation Brass, a sacred/Gospel instrumental group from Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, which will present a concert.

The awards ceremony recognizes ACTS affiliates (cable television stations and churches) for innovative and creative ways they are reaching out to their communities. Awards will be presented in the areas of local television production in four spot and 11 program categories, said Michael Wright, executive producer. One local ACTS affiliate will be honored as the Affiliate of the Year.

SWBTS students see decisions for Christ during spring break

FORT WORTH, Texas — More than 1000 decisions in 31 states and two foreign countries are being reported by students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary participating in the school's annual spring break revivals.

Those decisions include more than 225 professions of faith in Christ as a result of 120 revivals, a basketball team in Mexico, and a group of students witnessing in New Orleans' French Quarter.

One hundred and thirty-six students participated this year, the 32nd year of the program, according to Dan Crawford, associate professor of missions and evangelism and director of the Spring Evangelism Practicum at Southwestern. The results of this year's practicum are lower than last year, when more than 500 professions of faith were reported, Crawford said. However, he added that students reported a higher-than-normal number of reconciliations among church members and family members.

"Maybe our job this year was more in the area of church renewal and restoration than in evangelism and outreach," Crawford said. Not all the reports from the revivals are in, Crawford said, adding "only God knows the bottom-line results of the practicum."

WMU, Brotherhood affirm coed missions options

By Steve Barber & Susan Todd
NASHVILLE (BP) — A six-point statement affirming coeducational missions options for youth emerged from a meeting of Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission leaders and Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union leaders April 1-2.

The adoption of the statement led to the appointment of a task force charged with developing coed missions options for youth.

Although the group, consisting of 90 state and national leaders, did not have the authority to make decisions for the two organizations, they agreed to present the following statement to their respective governing boards:

- "We affirm:
1. "The need to focus on all youth to effect an understanding of and personal involvement in Southern Baptist cooperative missions;
 2. "The need for WMU and Brotherhood to work together;
 3. "The need to provide missions resources for youth not presently involved in missions organizations in all types of SBC churches;
 4. "The need for a Brotherhood-WMU partnership in World Changers national missions projects with specific roles to be defined;
 5. "The appointment of a task force made up of state and national WMU and Brotherhood leadership and other youth professionals to develop coed missions options for youth not presently involved in missions education organizations;
 6. "That all we do together in these emphases will benefit what we each do separately."

World Changers is a coeducational missions program sponsored by Brotherhood for youth in grades 9-12. It consists of 11 training sessions and culminates in a seven-day missions project.

Southern Baptist Convention action in June 1990 modified the program statement of the Brotherhood Commission, allowing the agency to address churchwide audiences. Acting on the change in their program statement, Brotherhood trustees endorsed the concept of coed missions options and instructed their staff to proceed with implementation.

During their January 1991 meeting, the WMU executive board also voted to affirm the concept of coed missions education options for youth. The WMU executive board asked a report of the April joint meeting be presented during their June 1991 meeting in Atlanta.

"I am excited that, having recognized a tremendous need in our churches, we've been able to come together and address it and to develop a response to the need," said Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director.

"This will not affect what we are already doing with Acteens," she said. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by WMU for girls in grades 7-12. "We still feel our most effective work is done through age-level organizations such as Acteens. But there are youth in our churches who we are not reaching."

"We know that there are more than 750,000 Southern Baptist youth who are not currently involved in any missions organization," said James H. Smith,

president of the Brotherhood Commission. "This meeting affirms the intent of WMU and Brotherhood together to impact those young people.

"We have no interest in moving young people from one program to another. We simply want to involve them in missions."

Marjorie J. McCullough, WMU national president, also acknowledged the need for a coed missions option for youth. "The time has come for it

because we're not reaching all of our young people. If WMU and Brotherhood can learn to work together, we can help the Brotherhood, WMU, the convention, and especially those youth," she said.

A task force to develop specific coed missions options was named which includes national WMU and Brotherhood staff and state WMU and Brotherhood representatives.

Hello Baptists focuses on non-residents

By Ginny Whitehouse
NASHVILLE — The fastest growing segment of Southern Baptist church population is not senior adults or the Baby Boomers or even the Cradle Roll, but the more than four million members who have moved out of town and are not coming back.

The tragedy with these nonresident members is that they are no longer going to church anywhere, and they are harder to reach than non-Christians, according to Tom Lee, coordinator of the Hello Baptists program for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "They have left church for a reason, and they have barriers to overcome," Lee explained. "It may be the style of worship or the type of music or the quality of the sermons. But there is a reason and it may be painful."

Many of these nonresident members are former college students who never transferred their membership to a new church home once they graduated and moved to a new city. Some are serving in the military and others were relocated by their corporations or

found new jobs, said Lee. "They are the fastest growing segment of Southern Baptist life," he added.

Hello Baptists is a way to reach these nonresident members, whereby the church where they hold membership contacts a church in the neighborhood where they have moved. The annually updated "Directory of Southern Baptist Churches" lists the addresses of all the denomination's churches by zip code.

At no cost, the Sunday School Board will provide postcards that can be sent to a church in the members' area, Lee said. That church then has an opportunity to make contact.

As college graduates and other single nonresident members marry and have children, they become more likely to return to church, he explained. That will give churches in their new community opportunity to take the first step.

"Churches must find a way to minister to these people even though they are not close," Lee said.