

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## FMB organizes program to feed Kurdish refugees

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP) — A Southern Baptist feeding program — inside Iran — is being organized to feed 100,000 Kurdish refugees a day.

The joint program of the Foreign Mission Board's Persian Gulf Response unit, Texas Baptist Men, and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission jumped toward becoming reality April 17 when Foreign Mission Board representatives received verbal commitments from Iranian officials to permit Baptist refugee ministry inside Iran.

The Foreign Mission Board forwarded specific plans for the feeding program to Iranian officials April 19 for formal approval, said Tim Brendle, executive director of the Persian Gulf Response unit.

About \$1.25 million would be allocated from Foreign Mission Board relief funds, and April 25 is the projected date for starting the feeding operation, Brendle said.

More than one million Kurdish refugees — unprepared for the mountainous region's cold weather and many of them barefoot — have entered Iran or amassed at the Iran-Iraq border, fearing retribution for their failed rebellion against Saddam Hussein's forces.

The Iranian government itself has committed \$57 million to the Kurdish relief effort, according to reports from international relief agencies.

"Animals have protection on this earth," Ahmad Zyai, governor of an Iranian town near the border with Iraq, was quoted as saying, "but these people have nothing." Between 500,000

and 700,000 refugees also are in the mountainous Turkey-Iraq border region.

A thousand Kurdish refugees are dying daily of exposure, starvation, and disease, according to relief agencies. Even with President Bush's announced plans for an expanded relief effort by the U.S.-led coalition, Brendle noted a broad range of supplemental efforts by Baptists and others still will be needed among the displaced Kurds.

In organizing the Baptist feeding program for Kurdish refugees in Iran, Texas Baptist Men have begun:

- Assembling four portable kitchens — each capable of feeding 25,000 people two meals a day. Each kitchen will cost about \$15,500 and include ten stoves, pots, utensils, a water purifier to process 10,000 gallons a day, and tarps.

- Enlisting disaster relief teams of two or three volunteers to operate the portable kitchens for up to four weeks and train Kurdish refugees to take over the feeding operation.

- Exploring sources capable of providing the large quantities of rice, canned food, and powdered milk that will be needed.

Both the Persian Gulf Response unit and Texas Baptist Men also were exploring logistical arrangements for moving the portable kitchens and food supplies to Kurdish refugee areas inside Iran.

The scope of the potential feeding operation, Brendle said, is such if the meals consisted only of rice, 68,000 pounds of rice and 8500 gallons of water would be needed daily.

Additionally, Korean Baptists have begun efforts to assemble medical

teams to work in tandem with the feeding program, with their first team scheduled to arrive April 26. One key source of team members will be the staff of the Wallace Memorial Hospital in Pusan.

Southern Baptists wanting to donate above their regular church giving to the feeding program can send funds to Persian Gulf Response, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230, or Texas Baptist Men, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798.

In other developments, the Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Texas Baptists are enlisting two four-person medical teams to work among Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq to treat diseases and initiate community health programs, Brendle reported.

(See FMB, page 5)

## MissionsFest Tennessee begins Friday at C-N

MissionsFest Tennessee, "a foreign missions extravaganza," will take place April 27-28 at Carson-Newman College and First Church, Jefferson City.

The two-day program will be filled with missions experiences as 43 missionaries from 21 countries, including several Tennesseans, will be on hand to share about their work.

Registration begins Friday at 4:30 p.m. at First Church and Holt Field House on the C-N campus.

The Global Walk-around, an area filled with exhibits and booths, will be open from 5-7 p.m. in the Holt Field House.



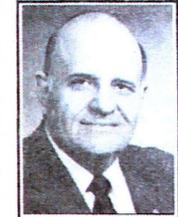
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The main program, "A Celebration of Commitment," begins at 7:30 p.m., at First Church. D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will welcome the participants. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, will speak following Lowrie, and again Saturday morning and evening. Tennessee missionary Maurice Graham and his wife, Laurie, will also speak Friday night.

On Saturday, registration begins at 8 a.m. at both locations, followed by convocation at 9 a.m. Children's activities, called "Missions Can Be Fun," are planned for children, grades one through six, from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. The Global Walk-around will be open from 10:15-noon and 1-5 p.m.

MissionShops, or conferences, will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 2:30-5 p.m. Conferences will focus on a variety of topics and will be led by foreign missionaries and FMB personnel.

The TBC's disaster relief van will be on hand as volunteers will serve lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

The weekend festivities will conclude at 7 p.m. with "A Celebration of Commissioning" at First Church. Missionaries will be presented prior to a joint commitment and dedication. Parks' closing message will be followed by a period of commitment.

Missionaries and FMB staff will speak at local churches on Sunday. Missionaries involved with Mis-

sionsFest Tennessee who have Tennessee ties include:

Keith Parks, FMB president, native of Memphis; Ulene Cader, grew up near Cleveland and C-N graduate, emeritus from Brazil; Maurice Graham, native of Shelbyville, graduate of Belmont College and Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Liberia and Kuwait;

Donald and Joyce Heiss, graduates of C-N, Japan; James Gibson, native of Toone and former businessman in Memphis and Collierville, Tanzania; Harriet Gibson, native of Memphis, Tanzania; Robert Erwin, hometown Knoxville, Brazil; Kathryn Sneed Brown, native of Columbia, French Guiana.

Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to attend this "missions extravaganza." There is no registration fee. For additional information, contact Jim Wilson at (615) 471-3536. Wilson and Diane Jordan of First Church, Jefferson City, have served as co-chairmen of MissionsFest Tennessee.

### An inside look

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Jerry Glisson

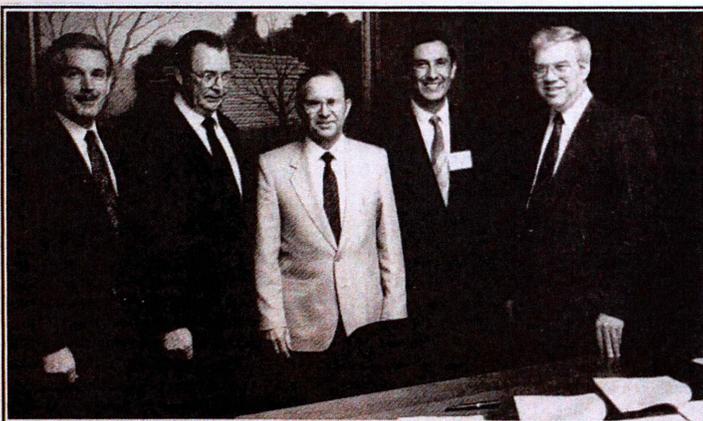
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**PARTNERSHIP SEALED** — Leaders from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Chile Evangelical Baptist Convention recently signed papers to make the Tennessee/Chile partnership, which begins next January, official. From left, Tom Vassar, James Cecil, Charles Alexander, FMB; Moises Pinto, Chile; and D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

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## Editorials

# Whatever happened to the belief in experience?

The process by which the Southern Baptist Convention and most (if not all) state conventions elect trustees and committee members has served well through the years. However, the strained relations that have developed among Baptists in recent years dictates a re-thinking.

Baptists placed on boards and committees, dedicated though they might be, need a solid background. It is not enough to simply say, "This is a good person who believes in the infallible and inerrant Bible, therefore he (or she) is qualified to serve.

If the changes that are underway in the SBC, for example, are to be based on sound principles and prove good for the institutions, agencies, and seminaries, the board members who help make those changes should thoroughly understand Southern Baptist doctrines, heritage, history.

This is not to say that heritage and history are more important than belief in the Bible. We correctly assume our doctrines came from those beliefs. But it is also vital that those who vote policies and bylaws — pointing Baptist entities to new directions — understand what those institutions are and who the people are who have invested their lives in leadership.

The argument that there will always be enough trustees or committee members with sufficient knowledge on these matters to guide newer trustees, will not always hold water.

We have had too many experiences with inexperienced Baptists helping to make major decisions. The "good old boy" system does not satisfy the needs either.

We must have balance. There are many Southern Baptists eligible to serve, Baptists who have no political agenda. Baptists who understand the sacred trusts that have bound us together, Baptists who support the Cooperative Program without reservation, Baptists who are willing (but not necessarily eager) to serve because of their Baptist knowledge.

These Baptists may be "moderate" or "conservative," but they must be willing to approach decision-making and leadership with a clear understanding of who Southern Baptists are and where we have been — since our beginnings.

They must be willing to review in conscientious study our foundations — and not only what happened to us during the last fifty years. A review of the past must not be cursory, and it must include

more than how "moderates" led and how "conservatives" are leading now.

Most of all, that study must determine for that trustee or committee member what is best, under God, for Southern Baptists or Tennessee Baptists. Self sometimes must take second place to the preservation of a greater principle — the good of the body.

It would be wise it seems to restrict board or committee membership to those who, among other criterion, have been active Southern Baptists and Christians for at least ten years.

If such a qualification seems harsh for some younger Baptists, it must be noted that their time will come. If they are qualified now except for the tenured experience, they probably will be qualified a few years later.

Our convention needs non-political experience at leadership positions — including boards and committees. Several examples, such as the young Southern Seminary trustee who disputed President Roy Honeycutt's faith a year ago, are enough to cause anxiety.

The process can be improved — and should be.  
— WFA

## Postage increase affects state papers, non-profit publications

By Maria Sykes

NASHVILLE (BP) — The most recent second-class postal rate increase has seriously affected non-profit publications, including state Baptist newspapers.

The U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors approved the rate increase effective Feb. 3, 1991. The increase is about 22 to 25 percent, said Al Ogelton of U.S. Postal Services in Nashville.

While the cost of printing and other factors have increased with the cost of living, "... Postage has grossly increased and surpassed as the highest percentage expense of production," said Theo Sommerkamp, editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger, newsjournal of the Ohio Baptist Convention, who struggles to produce 24 issues yearly.

"We are watching it closely. We do not know if we will have to take remedial action this year or not," continued Sommerkamp whose publication postage cost was increased by 25 percent, from \$2,800 to \$3,500 per week.

R. G. Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina said, "This is grossly unfair. The postage increases (over the past few years) have been inconsistent in what has happened in the economy," explained Puckett. "The (postal) increases prove to be more than 1000 percent compared to the economy."

The Recorder, with a postage increase of \$1000 per week, raised subscription rates \$1 and skipped the first issue of April to help recover from the budget crunch. The North Carolina paper is also receiving more state Cooperative Program assistance.

"Postal services could eventually price non-profit organizations out of business," said Presnall Wood, editor of the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the largest circulation Southern Baptist newspaper publication. "I'm not sure they (postal services) understand our constituency," Wood continued. He recalled a 50-year period for the Standard without one increase in subscription prices.

"It's a different philosophy now," he

explained. The publication has had to resort to an increase in subscription rates. The postal rate increase has elevated postage for the Texas paper 23 percent, which translates to a weekly average of \$25,000. About \$1 million will be paid for postal services this year by the Standard.

Jack Brymer, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention, said the rate change will increase his publication's mailing costs by 22 percent. "We anticipated the increase, but not the size of it," said Brymer.

While the postage increase has significantly affected most state Baptist newspapers, the effect may be a bit more dramatic for the Witness. In addition to raising subscription rates, Brymer may propose cutting two staff positions, due to increasing postage and declining circulation.

When asked how this action might affect quality of the newsjournal and how it would relate to its readers, Brymer said, "It will hurt. Ultimately, with 20 percent less staff it will affect quality and quick response and coverage. Sure it will hurt."

For Marv Knox, editor of the Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Convention's newsjournal, the increase was not quite as devastating.

"Because we anticipated the increase and shared that increase with our readers in subscription costs last February (1990), we were able to build up for this," Knox continued. "We have about broken even. We weren't as badly hit as others."

To help recover the postage increase, the majority of state Baptist newspaper editors are increasing their subscription rates. However, Jim Watters, editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness, newsjournal of the Northwest Baptist Convention, which includes Washington and Oregon, utilizes a unique plan.

The Northwest Cooperative Program funds the production cost of the Witness. There are no subscription costs. The Northwest paper is mailed to every family in every church.

However, churches are billed to cover

the postage cost for their members. "There are no penalties for churches or members receiving the paper if churches choose not to respond to the statement," said Watters. "This is completely voluntary."

The postage increase has boosted the Witness costs 25 percent. "This plan has cushioned us from immediate shock," said Watters who reports close to 100 percent involvement from churches in reimbursement of postage.

The rate hike increased postage costs for the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 29 percent. "I don't want to cut issues or lose readers. People need this information. We can't afford to cut," explained Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor.

"The feeling from the state editors is mixed. Most think we should pay our fair share if we in turn receive service due," said Allen, who is also president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, organization of state Baptist newspaper editors.

"Some editors may choose to ask for more state Cooperative Program money or more support from their state conventions," explained Allen. "Others may choose to cut down on

issues or pages, while most will raise subscription rates, which will run a high risk of losing subscriptions."

Asked by Baptist Press why such a large increase in second class postage rates was needed, Leslie Clark, attorney for the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, who handled the second class rate design, said, "There were no specific reasons stated, though there is lots of speculation. ... Legally, rate increases can be proposed only when there is an increase in cost."

U.S. Postal officials contacted by Baptist Press were not able to indicate if state Baptist editors can expect more efficient service in paying higher rates.

"Second class non-profit mailers have been dealt with unfairly," said Sommerkamp. "It is unjust to raise us 20-25 percent. There is a bias and a don't care attitude (from the postal service)."

Presnall Wood seemed to sum up the overall feelings of state Baptist editors: "This is not good. It hurts. It hurts because it means fewer people will receive Baptist news. It's a serious thing. — Sykes is an editorial assistant in the Nashville office of Baptist Press.

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## Committee report reflects 'broadening of tent,' chairman says

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — The chairman of the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations says the committee's report demonstrates a "broadening of the tent."

The report was released yesterday by chairman James W. "Jim" Richards Jr., pastor of Southminster Church, Baton Rouge, La. In order for the nominees to serve they must be elected by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta, June 4-6.

The Committee on Nominations is composed of two people, a layperson and a clergy or denominationally-related worker, from each of the 34 state or regional conventions qualified for representation. Committee members met in Nashville March 21-22 to nominate people to serve on the boards of trust of the 24 entities related to the 15-million-member denomination.

Under convention bylaws, the report has to be released through Baptist Press, the denominational news service, at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting.

Richards said the report, in his opinion, is a demonstration of the "broadening of the tent" in SBC life.

"There are more women (nominees) going on than went off," said Richards, "more ethnics and the wide spectrum of Southern Baptists is represented (in the committee's report)."

Richards said he was not aware of any challenge to the committee's report.

The Louisiana pastor indicated there was no criteria set "as far as a quota" representation of a particular kind of people.

"There was no quota system" in the committee's deliberations, said Richards.

Richards described the committee's deliberations as a "delightful experience." He said the committee members were a "wonderful representation of the Southern Baptist Convention, had a harmonious spirit, and the meeting was very positive and productive."

In a bid to clear up confusion concerning the annual report each year of the committee, the SBC Executive Committee has proposed a bylaw change that will treat the annual slate of proposed nominees as a report rather than as nominations.

The Executive Committee said the new bylaw would not alter the way the nominations have been handled in recent years but only clear up the existing ambiguity by clarifying the current practice. A vote on that bylaw change is scheduled for the Atlanta meeting.

The Nominating Committee each year considers about a quarter of the trustees of the convention-related entities. In 1991, the committee considered 223 vacancies among the nearly 1000 trustees and directors of SBC-related agencies and institutions. The nominees include 113 renominations and 110 new recommendations.

Under the SBC's system of staggered representation, trustees may serve two consecutive terms. The majority of trustees serve four-year terms. Trustees serve five-year terms on the six Southern Baptist Convention-related seminaries.

The committee also approved eight members to be a subcommittee which will meet June 2 in Atlanta to fill vacancies or last minute changes in the report.

In addition to Richards, subcommittee members are Carol A. Sutton, vice chairman of Humble, Texas; Michael

L. Trammell of Jonesboro, Ark.; Jose Luis Cano of Pueblo, Colo.; Larry D. Nail of Eldorado Springs, Mo.; Robert Holmes of Henderson, Nev.; Guy S. Sanders Jr., of Bamberg, S.C.; and Sue Redman of Surrey, Va.

Tennessee Baptists nominated to serve on seminary boards of trustees and on commissions and committees of the SBC include:

- Roger S. Oldham, pastor, First Church, Martin; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Mrs. Robert C. Burch, Calvary Church, Knoxville; second term; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Harry Grothjahn, First Church,

### Tennesseans included

## EC, board nominees announced

NASHVILLE (BP) — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the four denominational boards — Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, and the Annuity Board — have been selected by the 1991 Committee on Nominations.

They will serve if elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 4-6, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

Because the Baptist Convention of New England's churches reached the 20,000 membership level, three of the SBC boards — Foreign, Home, and Sunday School — each will receive an additional member from New England.

The Executive Committee will increase by one member with the addition of a member from the Hawaii Baptist Convention whose churches have reached the first level of 15,000 members.

- Alcoa; Historical Commission
- Ben Mitchell, Knoxville; Christian Life Commission
- Marshall Albritton, Park Avenue Church, Nashville; Southern Baptist Foundation
- Henry Linginfelter, First Church, Alcoa; American Seminary Commission
- O. William Long, Crieveview Church, Nashville; second term; American Seminary Commission
- Bob Sorrell, staff member, Bellevue Church, Cordova, chairman; Committee on Committees
- Ray Flora, layman, Bartlett Church, Bartlett; Committee on Committees

Also, Georgia Baptist churches now have more than 1,250,000 members entitling that state to an additional member on the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, and the Sunday School Board.

Tennessee Baptists nominated for positions include:

- Hollie Miller, pastor, Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville, Executive Committee
- David L. Stephens Jr., pastor, Zion Church, Powell; second term; Foreign Mission Board
- Edward R. Futrell, pastor, Southside Church, Johnson City; second term; Home Mission Board
- Phil Glisson, staff evangelist, Leawood Church, Memphis; Baptist Sunday School Board
- Judy Beeler, Fountain City; second term, Baptist Sunday School Board
- Billie K. Friel, pastor, First Church, Mt. Juliet; second term, Baptist Sunday School Board

## FMB trustees re-elect chairman, appoint 31 missionaries

BALTIMORE (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board re-elected a Kentucky pastor as chairman, appointed 31 missionaries, and heard a report on efforts to aid Kurds and other refugees of the Persian Gulf war.

In other action at the April 8-10 meeting in Baltimore, trustees heard a

progress report on a study of the board's facilities and location and held a memorial service in honor of Foreign Mission Board personnel who have died.

Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Church, Louisville, Ky., was re-elected to a second one-year term as chairman of the 89-member board. John Jackson, pastor of Crescent Southern Church in

Anaheim, Calif., was elected first vice chairman; Bonnie Westbrook, a physician from Beaumont, Texas, second vice chairman; and Karen Gilbert, a pastor's wife from Hampton, Va., recording secretary.

The appointments, including 25 new missionaries and six reappointees, bring the total force to 3880 missionaries assigned to 121 countries.

About 7600 people, mainly from churches in the host Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, attended an April 9 appointment service in the Baltimore Arena featuring an 800-voice choir, a parade of world flags, and a challenge to new missionaries by Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks.

Seventy-seven people came forward to make spiritual decisions at the end of the service, including 51 committing themselves to foreign mission service.

Tim Brendle, the board staff member named to head up the board's response to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, told trustees in an interim report strategies already are under way to aid thousands of refugees in cooperation with Southern Baptist personnel and other Christians.

Don Kammerdiener, the board's executive vice president, led the service in memory of 11 people related to foreign missions who have died in the past six months. They included Darla Lovell, a journeyman who died in her sleep March 24 in Uganda, and Lynda

Betheta, a missionary murdered March 27 by highway robbers in Kenya.

Kammerdiener, whose daughter, Carol Hawkins, was among missionary appointees, also told trustees he will present a report in June suggesting alternative approaches the board can use to study its facilities.

His report, requested by trustees, grew out of a motion last October by trustee Ron Wilson of California that the board develop criteria it could use if it decides to consider a change of location.

Hancock, noting that rumors around the Southern Baptist Convention indicate the board plans to move, said the study is being done to examine "facilities and resource management to maximize the stewardship of Southern Baptists."

Trustees also heard reports on the FMB public affairs office, theological education in Eastern Europe, the need for flexibility in responding to world crises, and an update on the status of people who serve as local Virginia trustees of the board.

Parks announced Zeb Moss, associate area director for Eastern and Southern Africa, has been named to succeed Bill O'Brien as executive director of public affairs. O'Brien left the board March 1 to become director of a new global strategies center in the Beeson School of Divinity at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. Moss, 61, is a 32-year mission veteran.



**AGEE HONORED** — Wilson County Association Director of Missions Robert Agee, second from left, was honored April 8 during a special recognition held in conjunction with the quarterly associational WMU meeting at Round Lick Church, Watertown. Agee has been director of missions in Wilson County Association for ten years. He was presented a plaque and a check representing a love offering from churches in the association. Participating in the service to honor Agee and his wife, Marie, were Ray Cleek, right, pastor of First Church, Lebanon, who served as master of ceremonies, and Albert Jewell, pastor of Saulsbury Church, Watertown and moderator of the association — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

# Memphis pastor celebrates 35 years at Leawood

*By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor*  
**MEMPHIS** — Memphis pastor Jerry Glisson recently celebrated his 35th anniversary as pastor of Leawood Church — a significant accomplishment considering the average tenure of a Southern Baptist pastor at one church is less than five years.

Glisson noted, however, he might not have reached that milestone had it not been for an event which happened in 1970.

The Dyer native came to the pastorate at Leawood in 1956 after serving five years as pastor of First Church, Huntingdon.

He recalled Leawood grew steadily until around 1964 when it, along with many other churches, began to decline during the turbulent years of the 1960s.

"We remained in a downward trend until 1970," Glisson said. "That's when God turned me around."

In his book, *The Church in a Storm: Surviving or Thriving*, published by Broadman Press, Glisson recounted his experience.

"...I found myself defeated as a pastor, preacher, father, and husband, desiring to find an answer for myself and Leawood Church. I accepted an invitation to be in a revival with a church and pastor who were experienc-

ing revival. By the time I arrived on the church field, I was sick spiritually and physically.

"The real encounter with the Holy Spirit came in the calm atmosphere of a motel prayer meeting with only three present: the pastor of the church, myself, and the Lord.

"When the spirit-filled pastor prayed, there was nothing left for me to do but give up everything I called my own — the church I pastored, my ministry, my goals and ambitions, and my family.

"Victory came immediately. The rest of the week was a heavenly walk with the living Lord . . ."

Glisson noted at that point he rededicated his life and ministry to the Lord.

"The church did a turnaround as we became ministry oriented," recalled the graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The former Tennessee Baptist Convention president (1969-70) cited four other factors which have influenced his ministry.

- "I have always loved people and have been willing to tell them personally and from the pulpit."



**FATHER AND SON** — Jerry Glisson, left, stands outside Leawood Church's Prayer Tower with son, Phil, who serves as staff evangelist at Leawood.

- "I have been willing to apologize when I felt I made a mistake or offended someone."

- "I preach the Bible with a total commitment and belief in it."

- "Jesus said, 'My house shall be a house of prayer.' We have tried to magnify that."

And, those factors have paid off. During Glisson's tenure at Leawood, there have been 4957 baptisms, enrollment has increased from 1200 to 5300, several new buildings have been constructed, and the church has been a strong contributor to the Cooperative Program.

Glisson acknowledged it is tougher to be a pastor today than it was 35 years ago. He cited broken homes, abused children, rebellious teenagers, and threats of lawsuits against the church

as "potential problems" for the church today.

"We had families break up 35 years ago, but it was not on the scale of today," Glisson observed.

As with any church or career position there have been "trouble spots" along the way, Glisson acknowledged.

"But with people willing to work together God will enable you to work through problems if you give Him an opportunity."

And, Glisson continued, "the church has been good to me."

Glisson also gives credit to his wife, Helen, for her help. "My wife is God's gift to me. It takes a good wife to be a good minister and I have one. She participates in all the ministries just like I do."

The Glissons have three children: Rickey, a salesman in Memphis; Phil, staff evangelist at Leawood; and Lisa, wife of Jimmy Garrett, pastor of Gravel Hill Church, Selmer.

Glisson, who has recovered from heart surgery, has no immediate plans to retire. "Everytime I have checked out retirement, the Lord has said to continue with my ministry," he observed.

## Bradford accepts church

Don Bradford has begun serving Pope Avenue Church, Athens, as pastor. He formerly served Smyrna Church, Ocoee.

A bivocational pastor, Bradford also works at a paper mill. Previously he has served Shiloh Church, Decatur; Parkway Church, Athens; and, as interim pastor, Oak Grove Church, Athens. He was ordained by Oak Grove Church.

The native of Athens is married. He and his wife, Teresa, have two children.

## Dewey Mercer dies in Japan

**MATSUE, Japan (BP)** — Dewey E. Mercer, a Southern Baptist missionary who spent the last decade of his life rebuilding a congregation in an out-of-the-way area on the western coast of Japan, died April 17 of a heart attack. He was 61.

Mercer, from Central City, Ky., came with his wife, Ramona, to the town of Matsue about 10 years ago to try to resurrect a church whose members had all left. Using his typical evangelistic zeal, whatever personal money he could free up and volunteers to refurbish a building, the couple established a fellowship of about 30 believers.

Mercer attended Union University in Jackson and Campbellsville (Ky.) College. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Western Kentucky State College (now Western Kentucky University) in Bowling Green and the master of divinity and doctor of divinity degrees from Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Mercer met his wife, the former Ramona Hall of Fayetteville, Tenn., while in his second year at Southern seminary. They were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries in 1955. In Japan, Mercer worked as a general evangelist and pastor. Before appointment, he was a pastor in Kentucky.

Besides his wife, Mercer is survived by two grown children.

## Clark retires four years after heart transplant

"Although my body and mind are 65 years old, I have a 25-year-old transplanted heart and I'm doing just fine," says Paul Clark concerning his retirement as pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, after 24 years.

Clark, known for being the only Tennessee Baptist pastor who has had a heart transplant, said during an interview by the Baptist and Reflector after the April 15, 1987 transplant, "We will always be grateful to the Lord for His kindness."

He was honored April 14 by activities which included a reception and messages by Bill Affolter of St. Louis and Earl Wilson, director, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood.

Clark's brush with death because of his failing heart didn't restrain him from returning to an active life. He is moderator of Madison-Chester Association.

He credits much of his recovery to a visit home after four months in St. Louis where he received the transplant. He returned to receive a honorary doctor of ministry from Union University. And he was greeted at the church by 150 members who had gathered to welcome him.

During his service at Calvary, the church has moved to its present location near Union University and gained 1465 members, 380 of those by baptism. In 1983 it completed its sanctuary/

education building and in 1990 its family life/education building.

Clark has served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, Committee on Boards, Committee on Arrangements, on Union University's board of trustees, executive committee, religious affairs board, and SAC self study committee, and on Tennessee Baptist Foundation's board of trustees. He has been president of

West Tennessee Pastors' Conference, secretary of Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, and member of the TBC executive secretary-treasurer search committee which called Tom Madden.

The Clarks plan to remain in the Jackson area where three of their four children live. Clark plans to work in churches who need supply preachers and revival leaders.

## Campers on mission plan state rally

Tennessee Baptist Campers on Mission will hold a state rally May 3-5 at Hermitage Landing Resort near Nashville.

Tennessee Baptist Campers on Mission is made up of approximately 67 families across the state who have registered with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said Bill Smith, director of missions, Western District Association, and president of the organization.

The meeting will consist of fellowship, missions information, and planning of a 1991 summer missions project, Smith said. Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood Director Cameron Byler also will address the group.

Any camper interested in this organization may contact Smith at (901) 642-4641 or J.C. Carpenter in the TBC's Missions Department at (615) 371-2044.



**RETIREMENT RECOGNITION** — Doris and Paul Clark, center, talk with Lynn and Gay Kennedy during a reception on April 14. Kennedy is minister of music at Jackson's Woodland Church. — Photo by Joe Westbury

# FMB administrators clarify termination policy

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND (BP) — A document stating reasons for terminating the service of missionaries does not represent any change of policy by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, administrators said April 18. It simply puts into writing policies followed informally for years, they explained.

The document, distributed to all missionaries last fall as an update to the "Manual for Overseas Personnel," has been misunderstood by some missionaries overseas and by some Southern Baptists in the United States.

Marse Grant, editor emeritus of the *Biblical Recorder*, newsjournal of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, attacked the policy in a column published in the *Charlotte Observer*. And a former missionary now on the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Page H. Kelley, also has written a letter to state Baptist papers criticizing the policy.

Some missionaries became upset because of wording in the document, and leaders of missionaries in one area asked the board to reconsider its wording.

But Foreign Mission Board administrators believe the

misunderstandings have arisen because of a lack of adequate information about why the policy was prepared.

Top-ranking staff executives drafted the document at the urging of the board's attorneys, who say it is essential to have such matters in writing because of the increasing frequency of lawsuits in today's society, explained Don Kammerdiener, the Foreign Mission Board's executive vice president.

After being reviewed by board administrators, the document was presented to the board's trustees for approval last July at a meeting in Glorieta, N.M. It became effective Jan. 1 of this year.

The policy is intended to help the board's area directors in determining if a missionary's service must be ended, Kammerdiener said.

Most of the concern has stemmed from the concluding portion of the document's introductory statement, which says the "Foreign Mission Board always retains the right to terminate any field personnel for any reason satisfactory to the board without disclosing to the person the reason for the termination."

Kammerdiener said the statement was included because the 12 reasons

for termination that follow are not "all inclusive," and attorneys suggested this statement to protect the board's interests in case challenges arise in other situations where personnel must be terminated.

He emphasized the instances in which a missionary or other field personnel would be fired are rare. But even one person who fails to live up to Christian standards can adversely affect the work in a given area, he noted. The FMB has more than 3800 missionaries in 121 countries.

As the new document was distributed overseas, some missionaries mistakenly related the policy to current strategic directions of the Foreign Mission Board such as the ten-year "70-30" deployment goal and the move to turn institutions over to national believers.

Some felt if they could not go along with the new initiatives, their service might be terminated, based upon the "catch-all" stipulation in the document's introductory statement.

Kammerdiener emphasized the board has no such intention. "Most missionaries and mission supporters agree with the emphasis on the evangelistic witness of missionaries and the nationalization of the work," he said.

"But there is considerable room for discussion and dialogue as to the best way for achieving these goals," he added. "The Foreign Mission Board encourages and expects full dialogue, a diversity of opinion, and (diversity in) local application of these strategies of work. There is no relationship between these particular strategies and the statements regarding termination."

The missionaries themselves are working with their area directors to determine how best to deploy person-

nel in their individual areas, Kammerdiener said.

"The deployment goal (more commonly known as '70-30') is worldwide in scope and not a requirement of any specific missionary," he pointed out. "Hence it could not be used as a basis for terminating the service of any individual."

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks affirmed this statement. "As Southern Baptists, I believe we have the finest group of missionaries ever assembled in one denominational mission force. The instances in which the service of a missionary must be terminated are rare, indeed. We have one of the lowest attrition rates of any missionary-sending organization in the world, and there has been no significant variance in the attrition rate over the past decade."

Parks did note a report some months back expressed concern over the convergence of three factors — a slight increase in resignations (which includes any terminations that might have occurred), an increasing number coming to retirement, and a three-year decline in the number of appointees. The picture began to improve with an increased number of appointments in 1990.

The president said he regretted any unnecessary concern which the written policy on reasons for terminations may have caused. "We hope to continue to clarify this in communication with both our missionaries and those who support them back home," Parks said.

## Retreat for Asians

The annual Vietnamese/Chinese Retreat, scheduled for May 25-27 at Camp Linden, Linden, has been canceled. The Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department sponsors the event.

## FMB organizes program to . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Each team will have a physician recruited by Texas Baptist Men's Medical Fellowship, a nurse from the Texas Woman's Missionary Union Nurses Fellowship, a team leader enlisted by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, and an interpreter provided by the Foreign Mission Board.

No Southern Baptist personnel ever have worked in Iraq. In Iran, Southern Baptist personnel worked in Tehran

## Forum leaders consider dissolution

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — The possible dissolution of the SBC Forum will be a focus of its eighth annual meeting scheduled June 3 at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta.

The Forum is one of a number of meetings scheduled by Southern Baptists prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 4-6, in Atlanta.

Although the program will not be available until May 1, notice of the possible dissolution of the group was needed to fulfill legal obligations of the Texas non-profit corporation, SBC Forum, Inc., said John H. Hewett, president and pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C.

The Forum was created at the SBC meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in 1984. The group will consider disbanding because its purpose has been met by the convocation of The Baptist Fellowship, said Hewett. The Fellowship is a coalition of "moderates" who plan a convocation in Atlanta in May. Fellowship spokesmen have indicated they felt displaced in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"That organization continues to fill the need for which the Forum was created," said Hewett who is also a member of The Forum's nine-member steering committee.

until a few days after the Ayatollah Khomeini rose to power in 1979.

Other Southern Baptist Persian Gulf ministry efforts to date include:

- purchase of nearly 35,000 blankets to help Kurdish refugees endure the nighttime cold in mountains along the border between Iraq and Turkey. The blankets — 20,000 purchased with \$121,000 in Foreign Mission Board relief funds and 14,400 purchased by Texas Baptist Men at a cost of \$45,000 — are being airlifted to Kurdish refugee camps as part of the Defense Department's "Operation Provide Comfort." The crates of blankets purchased by the Foreign Mission Board were stamped in English and Arabic with the words, "Gift to the Kurdish People from Evangelical Christians — Baptists."

- \$25,000 in Foreign Mission Board relief funds for Kurdish refugee aid in Turkey and along the Turkey-Iraq border.

- \$92,600 for distribution of Arabic Bibles in the postwar Middle East. The FMB funds will pay for 14,000 Bibles, along with "How to Read the Bible" inserts produced by the Arab Baptist Publication Center in Beirut, Lebanon.

- \$120,000 in FMB hunger funds for food distribution in Baghdad and Basra, Iraq. The funds will be handled by an emergency relief committee of the Jordan Baptist Convention, in cooperation with evangelicals in Baghdad and the board's Persian Gulf Response field coordinator, veteran missionary Paul Smith.

- arrangements to send two-month supplies of food to Kuwait for at least 10,000 workers and family members from India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka who were stranded in Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion. FMB officials are waiting for Jerry Zandstra, who has returned to Kuwait as pastor of the National Evangelical Church, to complete preparations for the relief effort there.

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

One of America's alltime favorite movies certainly must be "Sound of Music."

The children are captivating, the music is superb, the setting is enchanting, the landscape is breath-taking. Add to that an interesting plot, and you have a classic.

But the story is more than that. I want to take you behind the scene for a moment — and investigate another facet of the perennial favorite.

I was one of three chaperones with a Baptist youth choir several hundred miles from home — in South Burlington, Vermont. Many long days and quite a few nights of preparation, practice, and training had qualified the members of the group.

Not only had the group prepared well for back yard Bible clubs in apartment complexes and census-taking in neighborhoods — they were ready for public appearances. They proved their versatility by also mastering the melodious handbells.

Home missionary Bob Brindle was our host. Not long after our arrival, he asked our minister of music if he would mind if some neighbors came over and listen to the handbells. "I think they will appreciate the bells," he said, "and I think the guys and girls will like my neighbors."

About a week into our stay in the

Burlington area, he told us to get ready for the "performance" for his neighbors. The name Baroness Von Trapp didn't mean anything to most of the youth group — but we adults caught it.

They rehearsed diligently, and then on a hot Wednesday they were ready. The baroness and a daughter came into the small church building "just like ordinary people," as one of the youth later said.

Of course, it was Maria Von Trapp — and her daughter Maria — from the legendary "Sound of Music."

She and daughter Maria did like the handbells — and the youth did fall in love with the "neighbors." The two were indeed real people — not show business at all.

We also learned that they were devout Christians. Later I read the family autobiography, and it's true. They always placed their lives in God's hands — and trusted and praised Him for all the ways He used them for His glory.

Movies do not tell that kind of story very often.



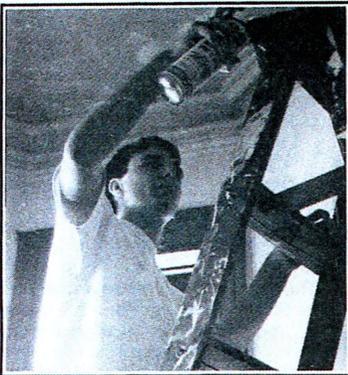
ALLEN

# Belmont students serve historic Baltimore church

By Denise Chamblee

Rolling out of the Belmont College parking lot at 5:30 a.m., all of the students weren't thinking of the adventure that was ahead. Some were remembering that last exam or paper that had held attentions for the previous week. Nevertheless, the team was off to Baltimore, Md., for SPOTS '91.

Each year Baptist Student Unions across the state take a fortunate few of their students on an adventurous excursion during spring break. The purpose of these excursions is to serve the communities visited, and most importantly, to grow and learn from these experiences. It is SPOTS, which means Special Projects Other Than Summer.



**CLEAN-UP** — Doug Crews cleans one of the rowhouses to be used as a ministry center.

The team left its comfort zone to see life from a different — sometimes more challenging — perspective. This was the attitude assumed as ten Belmont students and one campus minister, Dane Anthony, wandered out of a van into inner-city Baltimore. Unsure and skeptical, the team's feelings were to change.

Ellen Udovich, the director of weekday ministries at Seventh Church, our host church, greeted and oriented the team. Pastored by Jack Vandenhengel, the church is one of the original Southern Baptist churches, established well before any of the home churches of team members in Tennessee.

Seventh Church was the home church of Annie Armstrong until she was 12 years old, and she was baptized there. The Gothic structure was impressive. However, the most amazing asset was the congregation of 80-100 members.

The view of the community, from the eyes of a visiting observer, is cluttered and unappealing; but, the members of Seventh view the community as a challenge that only God's love could meet. Over the years, the church has purchased a block of turn-of-the-century rowhouses across from the church to use for its various ministries.

The daycare program the church houses is the least costly in the neighborhood. It provides affordable, yet adequate care for children. In the afternoons, the church provides clubs, such as the Big A Club, for first

through seventh graders. Also, the church has Manna House, which has food for homeless people, and a thrift-shop, which provides clothes and other items. Team members worked in many of these ministries.

Another program in which the team participated was set up specifically for visiting mission groups. Instituted by Udovich, "Urban Awareness" simulates the homeless experience. Students were locked out of the church for a few hours. No one had any money. The experience enlightened and humbled team members.

The Belmont students also cleaned the rowhouses in which they were staying. The houses had been church-sponsored halfway houses for psychiatric patients. They were to be sites for weekday ministries. The basement of one house was renovated to become a low-cost medical clinic.

On Palm Sunday, the team joined the congregations of several churches in a commemoration of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Proudly carrying palm branches and singing a hymn, marchers circled a block. Another special service on Maundy Thursday commemorated the Last Supper. In this service, several students sang hymns and songs.

During the week, the team was swept into the fellowship and harmony of this church, hoping we could retain and distribute the loyalty and service they showed.

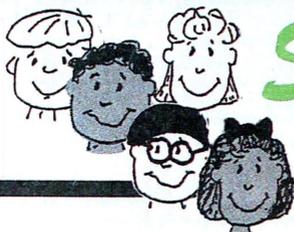
SPOTS team members were Todd Felts, Joelton; Courtney Stephens, Waverly; Julie Williams, Knoxville;



**GIVING HUG** — Team member Tecia Puckett hugs a member of Seventh Church's daycare.

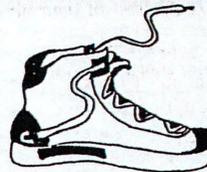
Denise Chamblee, Fayetteville; Denise Miller, Clark Range; Jennifer Vantrease, Dyersburg; Karen Bush, Crossville; Tecia Puckett, Smithville; Doug Crews, Leesburg, Fla.; and Alison Akard, Bristol.

Another Belmont College SPOTS team worked near Jefferson City with Carson-Newman College students in the college's Appalachian Outreach program. The team included Rodney Henderson, Smyrna; Stephen Dean, Sudbury, Mass.; Angie Watson, Franklin; Lee Barnett, Waynesboro; Drew Matthews, Louisville, Ky.; and David Elliott, Donelson. — Denise Chamblee is a junior communication arts major at Belmont College



## Shoe Strings

"the kids' fun page"



Created by  
**Rob Sauls** April 1991  
**Darrell Vandergriff**  
**Lib McCluskey**

### Name the ShoeString Kids

We want to thank all those that responded to naming the ShoeString Kids. To give kids in other states that get Shoe Strings a chance to respond, we will wait until the first anniversary issue in July. So if you have a suggestion for names and ages send to:

Darrell Vandergriff  
 720 Watson Branch  
 Franklin, Tenn. 37064

### Describe your mother using these letters:

M uch love for me  
 O  
 T  
 H  
 E  
 R

### More Adventures

Mary Ann really dreaded this Sunday. She thought of every excuse she could give her father to not attend church this week. You see, it was Mother's Day. Things were different this year, in that she no longer lived with her mother. She had no use for a lacy card like they made in Sunday School last year. Why should she go this week?

Dad just would not listen to those excuses, so early Sunday morning Mary Ann slowly reached for her Bible and shuffled toward the car. It was Mother's Day. What would her friends say? What would Mrs. Terry have for an activity? Would Jesus understand about her family?

Mrs. Terry was standing at the door when Mary Ann arrived. She always seemed so glad to see everyone. Maybe she had forgotten about Mother's Day, Mary Ann thought.

As each child came in, they joined in a Bible game and then listened to a story about Hannah, who gave her son Samuel to God. Suddenly Mary Ann began to understand.

Samuel grew up without a mother, yet God was always with Samuel. He must have known that his mother loved him very much.

Mary Ann now understood that Mother's Day was a special time to think of not only her mother but each person in her life that cared for her.

A lacy card and an "I love you" made Mary Ann's father extra happy this special day.

### Match Mother with Child

Luke 2:7	Mary	Joseph
Ex. 6:20	Jochebed	Esau
II Tim. 1:1-5	Eunice	John the Baptist
Gen. 21:3	Sarah	Moses
Gen. 4:25	Eve	Jesus
Ruth 4:17	Ruth	Issac
II Sam. 12:24	Bathsheba	Seth
Gen. 30:24	Rachel	Obed
Luke 1:63	Elizabeth	Timothy
Gen. 25:25	Rebecca	Solomon



# Record 104 Union students work in U.S., Canada

By Joe Westbury

JACKSON — A normal spring break envisioned by Union University freshman Jay Pruett would have been selling athletic footwear at a shoe store in his native Tullahoma.

Instead, he found himself working with children in a Clearwater, Fla., Baptist Center by day and sharing his faith on the beach with other Union students by night.

Beverly Hudson of Paris would have returned to Henry County for a rest and to bone up on her Spanish before the crunch of term papers hit on her return to campus.

And Blane DeLoach of Jackson would have spent his April 1-7 vacation "hanging around the house, cutting the grass, and getting to know my family a little better." But the week following Easter found him and a dozen other students working in a mission in inner city Detroit.

Pruett, Hudson, and DeLoach were among a record 104 Union students who gave up their spring break to take their faith to residents of six states and Canada. That commitment to ministry and personal evangelism resulted in 14 conversions and 17 other decisions for Christ, said Tim Wheat, assistant director for religious affairs.

For many it was the first time to participate on a mission trip, but the experience gave them a new appreciation for their faith and their ability to share it with others.

The students participated in a program called SPOTS, an acronym for Special Projects Other Than Summer. The program is coordinated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to provide volunteers with opportunities to serve alongside home missionaries across the country.

It was the eighth consecutive year that students participated in the program, but this year saw an increase of 23 students from last spring, Wheat said.

The Union students spent five to seven days in Winnipeg, Canada; Clearwater Beach, Fla.; Savannah, Ga.; East St. Louis, Mo.; Detroit, Mich.; Nashville; and Starkville, Miss.



**MAKING A HAPPY FACE** — Dana Cunningham of Obion applies clown makeup to Andy Morris of Jackson to prepare for a missions activity in Winnipeg, Canada.

They were sponsored by the college's Baptist Student Union.

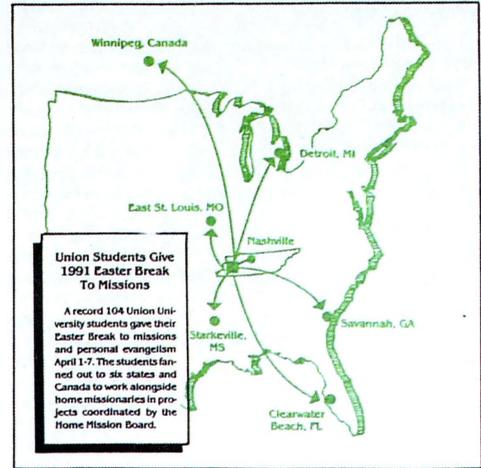
DeLoach, a member of Jackson's Englewood Church, ministered for six days in an inner city Baptist Center in Detroit. It was a side of life that he and the 14 other Union students who accompanied him were not used to seeing, he said.

Tammy Smith of Hendersonville, daughter of Gerald Smith, pastor of Alta Loma Church, Madison, traveled to Savannah. Her team of 14 students and Wheat did light construction and repair work around the Baptist Center and also led services in the homeless center.

"Some of the people we ministered with were already Christians but had faced one tragedy or another in their lives. Others were not Christians, but we were able to share our faith equally with the people regardless of their circumstances."

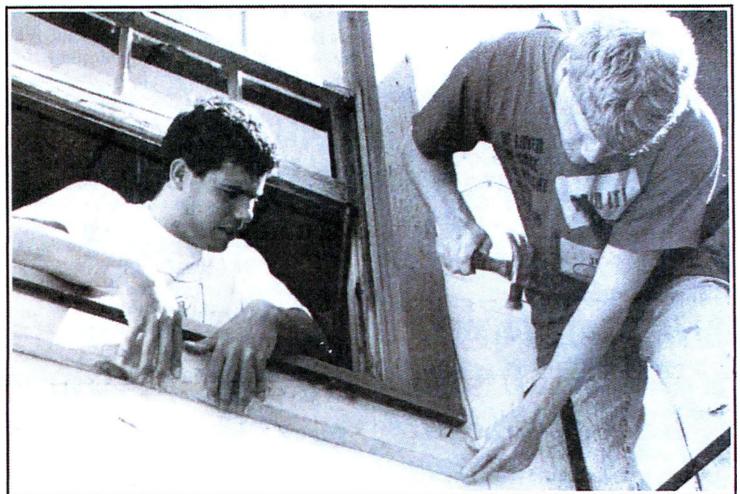
Eric Mason, a senior from Collinwood, traveled the shortest distance from Jackson. He and 14 other students worked in the day care and children's program of Woodcock Baptist Center in Nashville. The week left its mark on him in ways he will long remember.

"I don't know whether it will be full-time or not, but I feel like God has a place for me in an inner city



**Union Students Give 1991 Easter Break To Missions**

A record 104 Union University students gave their Easter break to missions and personal evangelism April 1-7. The students fanned out to six states and Canada to work alongside home missionaries in projects coordinated by the Home Mission Board.



**TEAMWORK** — Construction volunteers, left, Sam Warner of Jackson, and Alan Teel of Red Banks, Miss., repair a window in Savannah, Ga.

ministry," he said.

For Carey Dyer, a Jackson sophomore and member of Woodland Church, the experience was his first on a mission trip.

Before the week was over he received a new vision for sharing his faith with others. "We didn't do anything special for God because we gave a week to missions. It's our duty ..."

## Tennessean, NOBTS team spends spring break in Mexico

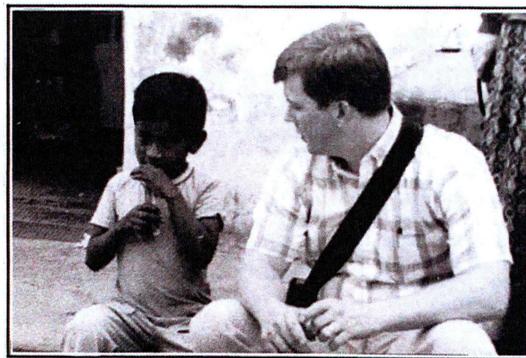
MEXICO CITY, Mexico — "Let me interrupt you. What are you doing here? Are you trying to get me to join your religion?" the Mexican man asked George Husk.

Husk, of Morristown, was one of 17 students from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary who traveled to Mexico City for a week-long workshop on urban missions. Husk, who speaks Spanish, was inviting people to revival services at a Baptist mission.

"I told him what we were there for, and his whole countenance changed," Husk said. "The man said, 'I can tell you are real in what you are saying.'"

Husk, who is pastor of Iglesia Bautista Betel, Chalmette, La., and the other members of the team reported more than 20 people made decisions for Christ during revival services they led in the poverty-stricken Chalco neighborhood and in a street.

The response was not surprising to Juan German Ortiz, pastor, First Church, Mexico City. He told the group, "People are not being satisfied by religion or politics, and they are



**BUDDIES** — George Husk talks to a young boy across the street from the Baptist mission in Naucalpan. — Photo by Breena Kent Paine

hungering spiritually." Ortiz has been able to capitalize on that hunger — he baptized 155 people last year and 100 this year.

Another example of the spiritual hunger of people was the market for trinkets of body parts outside a cathedral. The seller, a woman, told Husk people wishing healing would buy a trinket of the ailing body part and wear it until the healing occurred.

But when asked if she believed it,

she said, "I've used it," reported Husk. Her response revealed her disbelief, he noted.

In the city of 20 million people, Baptists have only 110 churches and 54 missions, the team learned from Carlos Amado, general director, Central Baptist Association.

"Many youth have a home, but their families don't have enough to support them, so they leave and join gangs, sleeping in train or bus stations,

gathering together cardboard and newspaper to keep warm," said Amado.

To reach gang members, the association holds movie showings for them. Other unusual ministries of the association include hosting breakfasts for businessmen, tract distribution among strikers and protesters, and workshops on drug and alcohol addiction.

Team members became more aware of the problems of the huge urban area when they got to know a man who accepted Christ because of their efforts. He confessed he had been a drug trafficker.

The group, led by Joe Trull, associate professor of Christian ethics at the seminary and former Carson-Newman College professor, also toured the Baptist seminary, center for student work, and several churches.

"It was such a good learning experience as well as an inspirational one. Students learned what it's like to be a missionary — both the limitations and the joy," said Trull.

# Southeastern president examines 'spiritual awakening'

By Lewis A. Drummond

First of two articles on revival and spiritual awakening.

On Wednesday night, June 5, during the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga., the entire evening will be given over to prayer for spiritual awakening. For two hours, we shall be concerning ourselves in seeking God's presence for true revival power. It may be a profound turning point in Southern Baptists' spiritual life. It could be an historical moment. But, do we really know what we will be praying for? What is the meaning of a "spiritual awakening," or its historical equivalent, "revival?" That is the question.

"Revival" particularly is a very ambiguous word in Southern Baptist life. It means a multitude of things to a multitude of people. Ideas range all the way from the annual "vociferous preaching time the third week in April," to the awakening in Northampton, Mass., in 1734 under the dynamic ministry of Jonathan Edwards that saw multitudes won to Christ in a matter of days. But a precise definition based on the Bible, and manifest in history, is vital if we are to pray and seek God intelligently.

A good description of a revival, or spiritual awakening, from a Biblical, historical perspective is given by H. C. Fish. He stated:

*Revivals, then, are seasons when Christians are waked to a more fervent prayer, and to more earnest endeavors to promote the cause of Christ and redemption; and consequent upon this, seasons when the impenitent are aroused to the concerns of the soul and the work of personal religion. They are times when the Spirit of the Lord again moves on the face of the waters, and the freshness and beauty of the new creature comes forth. Nature itself seems more full of God; the very words of Scripture seem thereby invested with a new light and glory and fullness and meaning. As Edwards says: 'All things abroad, the sun, moon, and stars, the heavens and the earth, appear as if we were with a cast of divine glory and sweetness upon them.'*

Such a definition of revival or spiritual awakening immediately points up a most important and foundational truth: real revival comes only from God. He alone is the fountainhead. A spiritual awakening cannot be scheduled, worked up, or humanly engineered. If we are to experience a "refreshing time from the Lord," it will be because God's sovereign hour has arrived. God grants revival blessings when and where He pleases.

All history attests to this fundamental reality. Why did God come down in power in 1734 to the church in Northampton, Mass., touch the ministry of Jonathan Edwards, and spawn America's "First Great Awakening?" Because God chose to do so!

Why did our Lord reach down to a little Bible study group of Moravian brethren on London's Aldersgate Street on Wednesday, May 28, 1738, and

## First Church, Madison, calls Jack Carver

Jack L. Carver became pastor of First Church, Madison, earlier this year.

He was pastor of Westhaven Church, Knoxville, for six years before coming to Madison. He also served as pastor of Oak Street Church, Elizabethton; and Florence Church, Murfreesboro; and as associate pastor of Shelby Avenue Church, Nashville.

The Nashville native earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He and his wife, Wanda, have two sons.

transform John Wesley whom the Holy Spirit used to birth the 18th Century Revival in England? Because God chose to do so!

Why did the Holy Spirit come mightily on Barton Stone in 1801 at the Cane Ridge Meeting House in Bourbon County, Ky., that July weekend and explode on the scene America's "Second Great Awakening," which wove the deep south "Bible Belt?" Because God chose to do so!

Similar historical accounts of awakenings can be repeated almost endlessly, recalling God's sovereign mercies in revival power. But why does He move as He does? Why does God act in such a manner? There really is no final human explanation as to why God moves when, where, and how He acts to grace us with revival blessings; except that in His sovereign love He does. Therefore, be done with what has been called "evangelical humanism." We must rest in God's sovereign grace and wisdom alone.

Of course, it is true that God pours out His Holy Spirit on His people in free grace because they need a fresh touch. He does bless us because, without revival times, the church inevitably strays away from the cross and grows cold, slipping into the Laodicean Syndrome. There is that much explanation. But the "when" and "where" and "how" of revival rests in God's sovereignty.

Yet, God never works in a vacuum. He always uses His people in spiritual awakenings. That leaves us with the inevitable paradox of Divine Sovereignty and human responsibility. But even that paradox means there are things we are to do if God is to bless in revival, things we shall be considering in subsequent articles before the Con-

vention meets in Atlanta in June. Nonetheless, we must view God as the sole source of all awakening grace and thus prostrate ourselves at His feet and simply trust Him for sovereign mercies. If we do that, it just could be that Atlanta in June will be that "One Divine Moment" when it will be said, "God revived His people." Let us seek Him to that divine end. May we earnestly and humbly and in resignation cry out with the Psalmist: "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation" (Psalm 85:6-7). It just may be this is God's sovereign hour. — Drummond is president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

## Church calls Bolton

The interim pastor of New Salem Church, Clinton, Milton Bolton, has been called as pastor.

The bivocational pastor works for Tennessee's Human Services Department based in Nashville. Previous ministerial service includes Fairview Church, Oak Ridge; Cedar Grove Church, Tazewell, and a church in Virginia. Also he was youth director at Alice Bell Church, Knoxville, and assistant pastor of First Church, New Tazewell.

Bolton is a graduate of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, and the University of Tennessee — Knoxville. A native of Harrogate, he was ordained in 1961 by Greers Chapel, Harrogate.

He and his wife, Ellen, have two children.

## News service taps Greg Warner

Washington (BP) — Greg Warner, 36, associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness since 1985, has been named the first full-time editor of Associated Baptist Press.

Warner will assume his new duties May 1 and maintain his headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla.

A native of Oneida, N.Y., Warner holds degrees from Florida Southern College, Lakeland, where he was reared; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and University of North Texas, Denton.

Warner will be ABP's first salaried employee. Plans call for an editorial assistant as quickly as that position can be filled and a system of correspondents to be put in place across the nation, said Don McGregor, executive director of ABP.

ABP is an independent news service which began operation last fall under the auspices of Craig and Associates, a communications consulting firm in Nashville, with Dan Martin, former news editor of Baptist Press, as interim editor.

The ABP board of directors took over operation Jan. 15 and began the search for a permanent editor.

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## Leadership ...

Tom Atkinson is now minister of music at Harsh Chapel Church, Nashville. His wife, Sandra, is the new pianist.

Grace Church, Johnson City, called Kelver Mullins as interim pastor. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He has been a pastor of churches in Holston Association for 34 years.

James C. Justice recently accepted the position of minister of music at Springfield Church, Springfield. He most recently served at Pennsylvania Avenue Church, Urbana, Ill.

Dave Adams has resigned as associate pastor/minister of music at East Ridge Church, Chattanooga. He and his wife, Suzanne, have been appointed as foreign missionaries in Germany. They will begin orientation May 1 in Rockville, Va.

## McMinn-Meigs taps Roy Fowler as DOM

Roy Fowler is serving as the director of missions of McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists.

Fowler was pastor of First Church, Mountain Home, Ark. His brother is Ray Fowler, pastor, Highland Heights Church, Memphis.

The Georgia native also was pastor of First Church, Metropolis, Ill.; Gardenside Church, Lexington, Ky.; Royal Springs Church, Georgetown, Ky.; associate pastor, First Church, Hopkinsville, Ky.; and for 13 years a Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil.

He is a graduate of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned his doctor of ministry degree.

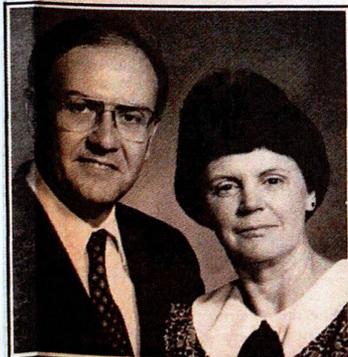
He and his wife, Patricia Ann Ross Fowler, have six children.

## FMB appoints Tennessee couple

BALTIMORE, Md. — David and Mary Sheddans were among 22 people appointed as missionaries April 9 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Sheddans will live in Indonesia where he will start and develop churches and together they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

A native of Knoxville, Sheddans is the son of Edith Sheddans and the late Jack Sheddans. He also has lived in



SHEDDANS

Lloyd Bardowell was honored by Rivergate First Church, Hendersonville, recently for his fifth anniversary as pastor. When the church was founded six years ago, it had 29 charter members. It has grown during Bardowell's pastorate to 475 members.

Glenn Davis, Rockford, has been called as music director at Fort Hill Church, Knoxville.

Robert B. Chambers has been added to the staff of First Church, Maryville, as minister of music. He began his duties April 15. A native of Texas, Chambers has served as minister of music in Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, and, most recently, at Trinity Church, Amarillo, Texas. He is a graduate of Texas Christian University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Fort Worth, Texas.



CHAMBERS

First Church, Millington, called Samuel D. Jones Jr., as minister of music. He most recently served as minister of music and youth at First Church, Anchorage, Alaska. He is a graduate of Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Victor Waits has been called as minister of music to Shelby Church, Memphis.

## Churches ...

A homecoming celebration was held April 21 at West End Church, Knoxville. The Riverview Pilgrimages and the Gospel Praisers provided special music.

Crossville. He considers Mount Harmony Church, Knoxville, his home church. Homestead Church, Crossville, also was influential in his Christian growth.

Sheddans, who has been pastor of Emmanuel Church, Glen Rose, Texas, since 1988, holds degrees from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Sheddans is a native of New York. She holds degrees from Maryville College, Maryville and University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The Sheddans have two children. They will go to Rockville, Va., in June for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Two other couples with Tennessee ties also were appointed.

Philip and Sheila Marshall were appointed as missionaries to Thailand. The Marshalls lived in Memphis and were members of Bellevue Church while he attended Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Everett and Beth Culbertson Douglas were appointed to serve in south Brazil. Mrs. Douglas is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

On May 5, members of Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis, will observe the third annual "Sky Day," an outdoor service celebrating the second coming of Christ from the sky. The twelve hundred people expected to attend will form a giant cross and be photographed from a helicopter. There will be a hot air balloon, and 150 doves will be released. There will be a free barbecue dinner after the service.

The congregation of Hillhurst Church, Nashville, will celebrate homecoming May 12. Tom Madden, former executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be the speaker, and New Vision will provide special music.

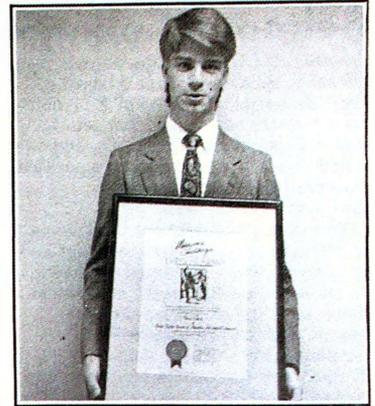
## Education ...

Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, recently pledged \$200,000 to Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. Red Bank Church recently fulfilled an earlier pledge of \$200,000, which was made during the college's church endowment program launched in 1983 to provide east Tennessee churches an opportunity to give scholarship support for students in their congregations.

Tina Pugh, Nashville, has been elected president of the May, 1991 graduating class of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. She earned a bachelor's degree from Belmont College, Nashville, in 1985 and will receive the master of social work degree at Southern's commencement May 24.

R. G. "Bob" Elliott, chief financial officer at Union University, Jackson, for 22 years, has been awarded the Taylor Daniel Award of Merit by the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference. The award is given each year to one outstanding Baptist business practitioner.

Louis Ball, professor of music and chair of the fine arts division at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has been named a 1991 distinguished alumnus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The first recipient of a doctorate in music at the seminary,



**AWARD RECIPIENT** — Marc Brush, 19, of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, was named a recipient of the National Missions Challenge Award during the 37th Annual Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress held recently at Belmont College. To earn the award which is part of the High School Baptist Young Men program, Brush completed 750 hours of volunteer service in the areas of worship, witness, ministry, and education, along with an introductory base unit of study. Brush is a freshman at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

Ball, and his wife, Mary Charlotte, also an alumnus, have published five books on organ-piano arrangements. Ball has been president of the Tennessee Association of Music Executives in Colleges and Universities and the Music Advisory Panel of the Tennessee Arts Commission. He is a member of the Advisory Panel of the Governor's School for the Arts and secretary/treasurer of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

## Revivals ...

Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton, began revival services April 21 which will continue through April 27. Ralph Berry is evangelist.

Central Church, Oak Ridge, held a "Family Renewal Crusade" April 21-24. The church's newly-called pastor, Ron Herrod, spoke in all services. The Jim Bob Family Singers provided special music.

First Church, Martin, will hold revival services April 28-May 1. H. K. Sorrell will be evangelist.



**BSU OFFICERS FOR 1991-92** — Elected as officers at the State Student Spring Conference April 5-7 in Clarksville were, front row, from left, Barry Daniel, vice president; Andy Murry, president; and as regional representatives on state council, second row, Beth Williams, Angela Potter, Robin Bandel, Nancy Hamilton, and Rosetta Howard; and third row, Darrin Warfield, James Thiele, Geoff Bowden, and Paul Riddle. — Photo by Roger Hill

## Belmont College trustees honor Troutt, change school name

NASHVILLE — Meeting on campus recently, Belmont College's board of trustees recognized William E. Troutt for ten years of service, changed the name of one of the six schools, and voted to add a vice president's position for quality and professional development.

Troutt came to Belmont in January of 1981 as executive vice president and, in June of 1982, was named president. In addition to a 40 percent enrollment increase in the past ten years, Belmont's campus has experienced tremendous physical growth during Troutt's service, with several new and

renovated facilities.

It was under Troutt's leadership that Belmont was organized into academic schools in 1983. The board of trustees voted to change the name of the newest school, established in 1988, to the School of Religion, effective June 1. Steven Simpler, the school's dean, affirmed that the direction remains the same in the school which experienced a 44.7 percent increase in religion majors this year. The reason for the name change is simple. "We found that the name School of Biblical Studies and Ministry was hard to say and hard for people to remember," the dean said.

The trustees also heard a report on the success and continuation of the missionary-in-residence program. Yakubu Otijele, visiting professor from The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, will be returning to Nigeria with his family at the end of the semester. Harold Mathews, career missionary to the Philippines, will be on campus for the coming academic

year.

Other action during the board meeting involved a new administrative position. A new vice president will work directly with the president in leading Belmont's new quality improvement emphasis and will direct Belmont's Center for Quality and Professional Development.

## Associational training set for May

Bill Wilson, director, Tennessee Baptist Convention Ministries Division, announced the schedule of the annual Associational Leadership Conferences to be held in four regions of the state during May. Associational leaders for 1991-92 are trained at the meeting.

The schedule is slightly different from other years to avoid meeting on Friday before Memorial Day weekend. The middle Tennessee meeting will be May 16 at Brentwood Church, Brentwood. The other conferences will fall the following week as follows: May 20 — Manley Church, Morristown; May 21 — Westwood Church, Cleveland; and May 23 — First Church, Humboldt.

Conferences will be provided for directors of missions; associational secretaries (afternoon session only);

Bill Mission Prayer Thrust coordinators; moderators; and chairmen or directors of Brotherhood, church media library, church music, Discipleship Training, evangelism, missions development, stewardship, Sunday School, and Woman's Missionary Union.

In addition to training for directors, age-group leaders of Discipleship Training will be trained (evening session only), and organization leaders of Woman's Missionary Union will be taught (both sessions).

Registration will begin at 2:45 p.m., with conferences starting at 3:15 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m.

Participants should make reservations a week prior to the meeting through directors of missions.

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Did you ever try to make a list of the people who have touched your life for good? It could be a helpful exercise for all of us.

The death of two friends in recent days has caused me to think of such people. One of them influenced me for good early in my life. Percy Ray of Mississippi was an encourager to me as a young man. He believed in me when I had a lot of doubts about myself. His prayer life encouraged me to take prayer seriously. He went to be with the Lord a few days ago after a long illness.

Carlos McLeod of Texas was my friend. He served for about ten years as the director of evangelism for the Texas convention. I had the joy of sharing in that work for the two years



LOWRIE

I was with their convention. His singleness of heart about winning the lost gave a contagious intensity to him. He helped me become more of what God wanted me to be.

Is this not what good friends do for us? Are they not God's encouragers? All of us need some people who believe in us and believe in what we can become in the Lord. We need some people who model usefulness to us.

Are they not God's assistants? All of us need the help of others if we are to become what God wants us to be. Some of us need more help than others. God has been gracious to put several helpers along the way for me.

So heaven is a little closer to my heart this week. Two friends have joined the company of the redeemed before the throne. I am praying that God will let me touch others in the way these good men touched me.

Why don't you try making a list? It will probably fill your heart with gratitude.

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Remember the Children: Mother's Day Offering May 12, 1991

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” — 1 Corinthians 13:13

A loving family. A Christian home. These are the fundamentals of a happy home life to many of us. But to far too many children in Tennessee, the mention of “home” triggers memories of abuses — both physical and emotional. For many boys and girls, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes provides their first home without fear. The threats and abuses of years past are replaced by an environment of stable routines, gentle but firm discipline, and Christian love for one another. As one 13-year-old girl, Casey, wrote about her life at TBCH, “The things that scare me are not here. I know that I am safe and that no one will hurt me anymore.” The Mother's Day Offering provides about one-third of the funds needed to support the TBCH ministries. Offering materials may be ordered by calling 1-800-624-8591.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes  
Dr. Gerald L. Stow, Executive Director/Treasurer  
A Ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

## David makes Jerusalem a center for worship

By Robert Armour, retired director of missions; Troy

Joshua established Shiloh as the center of worship early in his reign of leadership (Joshua 18:1; 22:9-34). The Philistines captured the Ark and carried it into their own land (1 Samuel 4:1-22). God sent a plague upon them and they returned it (1 Samuel 5:1-6:21). When the Ark was returned, it was placed in Abinadab's household (1 Samuel 7:1). This is where it was when David decided to bring it to Jerusalem.

God's way is always the best way 6:4-8a

We wonder whether David and the priests just did not take time to search for the instructions for moving the Ark of the Covenant, or if they did not think instructions were important. Regardless, the consequences were the same. Uzzah was smitten by God for touching the Ark (v. 7). Apparently, this made David angry and fearful of the Ark. Therefore, it was carried to

the house of Obed-edom, which was bountifully blessed while the Ark was present.

God's words or instructions are always important and we should follow them. We may disobey them by carelessness or disregard, but the consequences will be the same.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
April 28 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 6:1-7:29

Doing things God's way (6:12)

David was told that Obed-edom's family had been richly blessed ever since the Ark had been in his house. As a result, David realized that disrespect for the Ark brought punishment, but respect could bring blessings. David seems to have planned more carefully and they followed God's instructions for carrying the Ark (Exodus 25:12-15). The moving of the Ark from Obed-

edom's house to Jerusalem was made into a great worship experience. They had sacrifices, dancing, shouting, and all kinds of musical instruments playing. It was indeed an exciting experience of worship for David and his people.

God blesses things done His way (7:10-13)

David became the object of God's promises. God did not approve of David's plan to build a temple, but He honored him for desiring to build one. God introduced His promise by reminding David what He had done for him in the past, but also gave great promises for the future. God had not only given David victory in Israel's conquest of a land of their own, but then He gave David rest from his enemies and promised He would build him a house, a dynasty, establish his seed on the throne even after David's

death and forever. It was done in Jesus — King of kings and Lord of lords.

A grateful response to God's promises (7:25-26)

David's response to the promise of God was one of reverent awe. He had grown in his experience with God to the place that greatness did not inflate his ego or give him a sense of self importance. We find David saying in his prayer of thanksgiving, "let Thy name be magnified" (v. 26).

Real worship brings men to their knees to praise the name of God as David did in his prayer, while much that is called worship brings men to say, "look what I have done and who I am." May we all find today a real worship experience from walking with God, accepting His promises, and praising His Name.

## Mutual concern

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

When one becomes a Christian he enters into a partnership. The senior partner is Christ Jesus, the Lord, and all other Christians are fellow-partners. Certainly, this partnership involves many, many blessings. However, when Paul became a Christian he was very soon told "how great things he must suffer for (the Lord's sake)" (Acts 9:16). Then for the rest of his life, one of Paul's most prominent prayers was: "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death" (Philippians 3:10).

Contrary to the "health and wealth gospel" of our day, being God's servant and saint who is in God's will, doing God's work, and associating with God's people does not exempt one from suffering. It didn't exempt Job, or Jesus, or Paul, and it doesn't exempt us.

We are largely a coddled and spoiled generation. We think we want to be comfortable. The word "comfort"

comes from two old Latin words, *cum* meaning together with and *fortis* meaning strength. In the Bible it does not mean ease, luxury, or sentimentality. Both "comfort" and "consolation," which occur nine times in verses 3-7, are used to translate the same Greek word which literally means "a calling in alongside another to help." Comfort, then, is standing by someone. It is encouragement, support, and help.

As was the custom in his day, Paul began his letters with the name of the writer followed by the name of the receiver of the letter. Timothy was a mutual friend of Paul and the Corinthians (I Corinthians 4:17; II Corinthians 1:19). His mention here only shows he was with Paul at the time, not that he was the co-author of the letter.

The normal New Testament term for Christians was "saints," which means holy ones, or literally ones set apart for a special purpose. The term indicates not so much what they are, as whose they are. Corinth was the

capital city of Achaia, which was what is now southern Greece.

Near the beginning of this letter Paul expressed his prayer that the Achaian Christians have God's best blessings, grace, and peace; and that's the order in which God gives them — grace, then peace. Verse 3 is a threefold doxology to God for being the Father of our Redeemer, the source of our mercies, and the Comforter of His hurting children.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
April 28 Lesson  
Basic Passage: II Corinthians 1:1-11

Paul knew he was not alone in his suffering. He wanted the Corinthians to know they were not alone in theirs. Only in God can one find true comfort, but God comforts us so He can comfort others through us.

Paul referred to his sufferings as Christ's sufferings because his sufferings were related to his service for Christ. Not only were he and other Christians partners ("partakers") with one another, but they were also partners with Christ, and Christ's strength

and help would be more than sufficient, whatever the need.

Having endured suffering, one cannot only sympathize, but also vouch for and share the means of survival and success. Why did Paul want them to know about his sufferings? Was it to egotistically parade them so he might selfishly get attention and sympathy? Not hardly. He testifies of his sufferings only to benefit others.

Surely the devil wants our sufferings to discourage and divide us, but God wants them to encourage and unite us. In fact, sometimes the devil's scheme oackfires and sufferings prove to be a blessing to the sufferer. As the saying goes, suffering can make you bitter or better.

Paul said his suffering forced him to trust God and prompted others to pray for him. Our missionaries' most urgent and frequent request is for our prayers. A. J. Gordon said, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed. But you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed." Prayer blesses in two directions. "The Lord turned the captivity (suffering) of Job, when he prayed for his friends."

## Benefits for believers

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

As the salesman tries to get you to purchase the product, he explains to you the benefits of owning it, the cost, and the reliability. Paul's approach to new Christians and potential believers in and around Ephesus bears similarities to a salesman's approach as he explained to them the benefits God offers in their redemption through Christ.

But before explaining these benefits Paul affirmed the Ephesian Christians for two characteristics that were evident in their lives (v. 15). These two characteristics, "faith in the Lord Jesus" and "love unto all the saints," always go together if our relationship with Christ is as it should be. As illustrated with the "Disciple's Cross" in MasterLife, the vertical connection between God and man leads to the horizontal connection of God's people with one another. To live in dis-

harmony with other people, especially other Christians, and claim faith in God is to live a lie (I John 4:20-21). If many Christians who seem to have lost the joy of their salvation and their zeal to serve God would examine their lives, they most likely would find somewhere back down the road a relationship problem with their fellow man. Maybe the problem is with other immature Christians or their Sunday School teachers who said something that the Lord used to convict them. Maybe the problem is with their pastor who just can't seem to live up to all of their expectations. If we are to experience the benefit of joy in our salvation as the Ephesian Christians did, we must, just as they did, join our faith in the Lord Jesus to our love unto all the saints.

As Paul prayed (v. 16) he asked that God grant the Ephesian Christians five

benefits (vv. 17-19). As we study this list of benefits, "spirit of wisdom and revelation," "understanding being enlightened," "hope of His calling," "riches of the glory of His inheritance," and "the exceeding greatness of his power," we see that these are benefits we receive as God works in and through our lives. Though these benefits are available to every believer, they are unclaimed and unused in most Christian's lives because of our refusal to allow God to do through us what only He can do. When we accomplish what we can do through our own strength or conniving, the "mighty power" (v. 19) of God is unused in our lives. Then we wonder why we can't accomplish anything God-sized and don't enjoy the benefits that the early Christians did!

Paul went on to explain (vv. 20-23) that this "mighty power" God wants to exhibit in the lives of His people is the same power that raised Christ from the dead and set Him at the right hand of God. Imagine that kind of power working in our churches and individual

lives! Not only did this power of God raise Christ and set Him at the Father's right hand, but it also placed all things under His Lordship (v. 22) and made Him head over the church "which is His body" (v. 23). As the body and the individual members that make it up obey the directions from the head, the mighty power of God is exhibited to a lost world and people are drawn to God instead of to programs and personalities

**LIFE AND WORK**  
April 28 Lesson  
Basic Passage: Ephesians 1:15-23

Because the mighty power of God raised Christ from the dead, we have the benefit of peace as death approaches knowing Christ entered the tomb before us and came out victorious over death and the grave.

Though Paul did an excellent job, it shouldn't take much convincing to show us the magnificent benefits available to the child of God. I'm sold, aren't you?

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Hobbs helps laymen get acquainted with the Bible**

NASHVILLE — The modes of transportation and the ways people live may have changed since the days when Christ walked on earth, but "the needs of man have not," according to Herschel Hobbs, author of soon-to-be released *Getting Acquainted with the Bible*.

A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City, Hobbs has written 167 books and even at age 83 he continues preaching and lecture tours across the nation.

His introduction to the Bible offers "a bird's eye view" of each Old and New Testament book plus historical background and modern day application, said Art Burcham, manager of the general officers program section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"The Bible was written out in the arena of history of people dealing with their problems," explained Hobbs, who has written the quarterly "Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons" since its inception in 1968.

The average Christian studying God's Word wants Biblical commentary but needs simpler language than most commentaries provide, Hobbs said. *Getting Acquainted with the Bible* is targeted for Sunday School teachers, lay leaders, church members, and even seminary-trained pastors who "want a refresher course."

"It's like sending a million volts of electricity into a city. If it all goes to one house, the house explodes. But the electricity goes through a transformer so it can serve a 60-watt bulb," said Hobbs. "The goal is to try to take high scholarship and transform it for the minds of the people."

Hobbs examines the record of God's revelation to humanity written by authors inspired by the Holy Spirit, who illuminates the Bible's message to readers today.

"Archaeologists have unearthed sites where the Bible's events took place. Wherever there has been a historical controversy, archaeology supports the Bible," Hobbs said.

Hobbs' book replaces a previous Bible background book — L.D. Johnson's *Introduction to the Bible* first published in 1969 — for the Sunday School leadership diploma in the church study course.

Published by Convention Press, *Getting Acquainted with the Bible*, will be available in May, along with a companion research kit written by C. Ferris Jordan, chairman of the division of religious education ministries at New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Hobbs will be available to autograph the book on Wednesday, June 5, at the Southern Baptist Convention Baptist Book Store. He will also be signing new releases *My Favorite Illustrations* published by Broadman Press and *You Are Chosen: The Priesthood of All Believers* published by Harper and Row.

**Crash survivor welcomed back to Chinese university**

MEIXIAN, China — She hears the ancient Chinese proverb everywhere she goes: "Great blessing follows one who survives a terrible tragedy." That's the way people around southern China's Jia Ying University say there's something special about Erin Thomas.

Thomas, of Harrah, Okla., survived the crash of a hijacked Chinese jetliner last October that claimed the life of her friend and fellow English teacher, Mary Anna Gilbert. The two, who were returning to the campus from a holiday trip inside China, had been teaching in the country only one month under the sponsorship of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. Thomas recovered from several injuries.

But escaping the plane crash is not what makes Thomas special to her freshman English students. They think she's special because she came back. When Thomas walked into her former classroom March 4, the first day of the new school term, welcoming smiles broke across every student's face as they burst into spontaneous applause.

After an introduction by the dean of the school's foreign languages department, who commended Thomas' "strength of character" and commitment to China, she got straight to work encouraging her students to introduce themselves in English.

**RTVC trustees elect Alabama pastor chairman**

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees at their quarterly meeting in Fort Worth April 9 elected James M. "Mickey" Castleberry of Alabama as chairman for the 1991-92 year. Castleberry is pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Montgomery.

He will take office at the close of the Southern Baptist Convention in June, as will other officers elected at the April meeting — LeRoy Stevens, Phoenix, Ariz., first vice chairman; Steven Huffman, Papillion, Neb., second vice chairman; and Charles McKeever, Roanoke, Va., secretary.

The board of trustees elected its 28 members as the board of directors of FamilyNet, a broadcast network which the RTVC recently purchased from Old Time Gospel Hour and Liberty Broadcast Network of Lynchburg, Va. It authorized the FamilyNet executive committee to file amended articles of incorporation for FamilyNet immediately after approval by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in June and to develop bylaws for FamilyNet consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Radio and Television Commission.

**Prepare to counsel grieving youngsters: Bill Young**

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE (BP) — Children's leaders will likely have to counsel little ones who have experienced the death of a loved one, and becoming familiar with their coping behavior can be helpful, a leader in the field said.

But first, teachers must be familiar with their own feelings about death, said Bill Young, director of the preschool-children's section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department. Young led a conference on "Helping Children Cope with Death" during the Advanced Training for Preschool-Children's Workers Seminar VI, April 8-11, at the Sunday School Board. His section sponsored the seminar.

Young said teachers should be aware about "how you feel about death, your philosophy and spiritual beliefs. How do life losses affect you?" he asked. "What makes you uncomfortable in dealing with death?"

Leaders must then approach a child who has experienced a recent death and learn what and what not to say.

"It's easy for us to avoid people who are having problems because we feel uncomfortable about it. We unconsciously avoid the bereaved. But we should just be straightforward and say, 'Sorry about your mother's death' or 'I just don't know what to say.'"

"If you feel uncertain or afraid, don't hide it. Honesty is good," said Young.

Teachers should avoid using fantasy stories with children when discussing a recent death Young said. "For in-

stance, don't say, 'God just needed more angels' or 'It will all be OK.' That just impedes a child's understanding of death."

A teacher should let children talk about death if they want to, he said, "but if they don't want to, don't force them. When they want to talk, listen with your heart as well as your ears."

"Demonstrate how much you care in word and touch. I've yet to find a substitute for a good bear hug," he said.

Use common sense when dealing with physical touch, Young urged. A

child might want to be left alone. "But touching when touching is needed might outweigh the slight possibility it would be unacceptable."

Teachers might find it helpful to study the developmental perceptions children have about death, Young said.

Until age three, a child has little or no perception of death, he said. "They have no idea of time. Any separation could be viewed as death."

Children, ages three to five, have a general awareness of death but not in a permanent sense. "They see death as reversible. They think the dead can

come back."

From ages five to nine, children see death as more severe and ominous. "Children that age think of death as the grim reaper or the bogeyman," he said.

"By nine on, children recognize death as the end of physical life as we know it," he said.

Death can be a growing experience for the child if adults handle it correctly, according to Young.

"Don't hide the reality of death from children, but make it as less hurtful as possible," he said.

**Uzbeks focus of day of prayer and fasting**

RICHMOND (BP) — It may not be the South, but it's a "land of cotton" too.

Uzbekistan — one of the world's largest cotton growers — is also one of the Soviet Union's 15 republics. It borders Afghanistan in Central Asia.

Its people, the Uzbeks (pronounced OOO-bees), are the focus of a worldwide emphasis — the fourth annual day of prayer and fasting for world evangelization. The special day will occur just prior to Pentecost Sunday — from 6 p.m. Friday, May 17, to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

Each year, "Great Commission" Christians worldwide, such as Southern Baptists, hold a day of prayer and fasting for some of the world's 3.5 billion non-Christians — like most of the Uzbeks.

This year Minette Drumwright, director of the Foreign Mission Board's prayer office, is encouraging Southern Baptists to "pray that God will work among the Uzbeks in ex-

traordinary ways."

About half of all Uzbeks are farmers, but Uzbekistan is Soviet Central Asia's most industrialized republic. It also boasts numerous resources such as natural gas, coal and metallic ore.

About 19.2 million Uzbeks live in the Soviet Union, which has a population of 291 million. They represent one of that country's fastest-growing nationalities.

Uzbeks are almost exclusively Muslims. Even most Uzbeks who do not embrace the Islamic faith still participate in Islamic holidays. The New Testament has been translated and Gospel messages recorded in Uzbek, but religious intolerance toward non-Muslims restricts distribution.

Drumwright also asked Southern Baptists to pray specifically that God will "open avenues to provide distribution of Gospel records and cassette tapes which have been translated into the Uzbek language, and bring Christian witnesses from neighboring people."

Other prayer requests include:

- Laborers will respond to the many opportunities for ministry unfolding among the Uzbeks.

- The handful of known Uzbek Christians will have strength as tensions mount toward non-Muslims.

- The Lord will open peoples' hearts to hear and accept the Gospel as they experience many new freedoms after years of oppression.

- The Lord would fill Russian Christians with a missionary spirit so they will reach people for Christ who live among them.

- Translation of the Old Testament into Uzbek will be completed.

**Clinton church calls pastor**

Lakeview Church, Clinton, has called Jeff Calloway as pastor.

Calloway, a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was ordained Jan. 13 by Unity Church, Knoxville.