

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 157/NO. 19/MAY 8, 1991

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

TBC Executive Board receives Baptist Hospital Inc. proposal

Prospects for easing the apparent impasse between the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Baptist Hospital Inc., Nashville, look considerably brighter after a meeting between representatives of the two last week.

At press time Monday night, the Executive Board, TBC, was scheduled to consider on Tuesday a ten-point proposal from the executive committee, Baptist Hospital. The proposal would offer a solution to the problems which developed last December after the hospital board of trustees voted to elect its own trustees. A large monetary sum is included.

Major items included in the proposal are:

The TBC, or at its option, Baptist Health Care System Inc., would have the right to approve any change in the hospital's name or mission statement.

The hospital would continue to submit reports to the convention as it does now.

TBC would have the option of establishing a committee from the

hospital's board to serve as a liaison group.

Baptist Hospital chaplains would continue to be Baptist ministers under current state and federal laws.

Hospital services would continue to be provided the TBC and its churches as permitted by law and as funds are available.

TBC president would be an ex officio, non-voting member of the hospital's trustee board.

The hospital's board of trustees would make a one-time, lump sum donation of \$1.7 million to the TBC as (See TBC, page 5)

In April

TBC giving increases substantially

Giving through the Cooperative Program by Tennessee Baptists certainly was not sluggish during the month of April.

D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist convention executive director/treasurer, gave a glowing report of \$2,471,954.17 in receipts for the sixth month of the current budget year.

The \$2.4 million is \$686,615.83 more than the total for April 1990, and cuts the loss for the 1991 budget to \$594,896.82. That means the CP for the first six months is only 4.68 percent behind last year's figures.

Total giving for the half year amounts to \$12,116,576.30, 9.5 percent under. According to budget needs, that should be \$13,398,930.

It shouldn't require a financial genius to realize that some more healthy months like April will enable the Tennessee Baptist Convention's budget to be met — fulfilling all the current goals for ImpacTennessee in all areas of work.

Last year's April total was \$1,785,338.34.

While one good month does not a budget make — Tennessee Baptist churches are moving upward toward meeting the challenge.

Baptists budget \$2.4 million for Mideast relief

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist relief efforts for Kurdish refugees and other victims of war in the Middle East are taking shape — at a potential cost of \$2.4 million or more.

A C-130 cargo plane left South Bend,

Ind., May 1 carrying relief equipment, supplies, and medicines to outfit four Southern Baptist feeding stations in Iran and two medical ministry posts along the Turkey-Iraq border.

Four field kitchens shipped on the cargo plane will be manned by Southern Baptist volunteers in Iran to prepare two meals a day for 100,000 Kurdish refugees. Some one million Kurds fled to Iran fearing Saddam Hussein's forces after an unsuccessful rebellion against his rule. Their exodus has mushroomed into an international crisis of disease, malnutrition, and exposure to cold in the mountainous region. More than half a million Kurds also fled toward the Turkey-Iraq border.

To date, Southern Baptist Mideast relief efforts have involved more than 100 missionaries, staff members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Texas Baptists, and volunteers from several states.

The relief effort will deplete the Foreign Mission Board's general relief fund, said John Cheyne, who coordinates the board's human needs ministries.

The board has two relief accounts — general and hunger — that rely on donations from Southern Baptists above regular church giving. General relief is used for such non-food expenses as medicine, blankets, and temporary housing. FMB President R. Keith Parks has authorized up to \$1 million in contingency funds to provide interim financing for Mideast relief operations.

With general relief funds at a deficit, it "stretches our ability to respond to other emergency needs to the very limit without further contributions," Cheyne said.

Donations for Persian Gulf ministry or general relief work may be sent to the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Although coordinated and largely financed by Southern Baptists, the relief ministry has become interdenominational and international in scope.

The C-130 cargo plane is operated by the LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry ministry of South Bend, Ind., headed by evangelist Lester Sumrall. LeSEA acquired the C-130 six months ago, spending some \$2 million for the purchase and improvements to meet federal standards, said Ken Gill of the ministry's staff. The plane, named Mercy Ship Zoe, made its 6,000-mile maiden voyage in April delivering food supplements, medical supplies, and building materials to Guatemala and Nicaragua, Gill said.

The plane was scheduled to take medical supplies into Turkey May 5 and food, kitchens, and medicines into Iran on subsequent flights.

Three Tennesseans, all of the Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, are a part of the relief team. Jim Burton, editor of Missions Today, left May 3. Jim Ferguson, director of Baptist Men and national coordinator of disaster relief, and Eddie Pettit, director of Baptist Young Men, left May 7.

Cameron Byler, Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department Director, also reported the first Tennessee team of volunteers is scheduled to leave around May 20 for a three-week stint.

SBC giving steady

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program unified budget gifts received by the SBC Executive Committee for the month of April exceeded those of a year ago but by less than a percentage point.

Gifts received for the Cooperative Program for April were \$11,756,419 compared to \$11,667,118 last year, a .77 percent increase. Seven months into the SBC budget year the CP totals are \$83,299,773 compared to the same period a year ago of \$82,539,644, a .92 percent increase.

The 1990-91 basic operating budget need for seven months is \$80,110,639.

Designated gifts for the month, however, trailed slightly the previous month and year. April's designated total was \$9,254,213 compared to April 1990, of \$9,335,072, a .87 percent decrease.

Mother's Day offering aids TBCH

On Sunday, May 12, Baptist churches across the state will take a special Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. This year's goal is \$1 million.

The offering provides about one-third of the money necessary to enable the

boys and girls in TBCH care to have food, clothing, shelter, and a variety of counseling programs.

"We couldn't continue without the generous support from our Baptist churches," said Gerald L. Stow, TBCH executive director. "This year, the need is more critical than ever if we want to continue offering the same level of care to these special children.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Children's Homes, which began as an orphanage in Nashville. Today, it is very rare for a boy or girl to come into the ministry as an orphan. Instead, the children are considered "orphaned by the living" because their parents are unable to provide a suitable home.

Through a dedicated, Christian staff of houseparents and social workers, TBCH provides the counseling and spiritual guidance needed to mend broken lives.

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes — with campuses in Memphis, Franklin, and Chattanooga; group homes in Johnson City, Burrville, and Kingsport; Homes for Unwed Mothers in Greeneville and Franklin; and a Boys Ranch in Millington — is providing a new start in life for hundreds of children each year.

Church groups are invited to visit any TBCH site to observe the ministry at work. For more information, please call the TBCH central office at 1-800-624-8591.



OFFERING RECIPIENTS — Eight-year-old Melissa and 11-year-old Chaka are two residents of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. They live on the Franklin campus with their houseparents (Jerry and Carol Dyer), eight other children, and their dog, Velvet. On Sunday, May 12, the Mother's Day Offering will be taken at Baptist churches in support of the Children's Homes.

MOVING? Cut out and mail this address label to the Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 along with your new address.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

NATIONAL COMMISSION

*901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400

*NASHVILLE

TN 37203

Editorials

May remembers mothers, seniors, God's good earth

May marks at least three major observances in family life for Christians and non-Christians.

Mother's Day this year will be observed next Sunday, May 12. Emphasis is also placed on Senior Adults and Soil and Water Stewardship during this month.

All relate to family: the family of God, the family of nations, the families of community — and the small group of mother, father, children.

Mothers: Although we call attention to Mother's Day annually, we can never emphasize too much the role of mothers in all areas of life, and the love expressed by mothers' actions.

Countless thousands of Tennessee Baptists can testify, for example, that they learned to love God's Word at their mothers' knees. Others can recall easily reinforcement of that Word through Sunday School teachers who were also mothers.

There is that peculiar portion in motherhood which usually expresses love and discipline in a singular firmness. In many cases, it is the mother who holds the family together while the father works for upkeep and sustenance.

Though the role of the mother may be changing as more mothers work in the marketplace — that love still is unbounded, steadfast, strong.

Words of encouragement come quickly from mother's voice. It is she who often picks up the subtly expressed needs of children, father. It is she who knows how to act on those needs.

Until recent years, mothers had monopoly on certain aspects of homelife. Nowadays however, fathers are able to work more closely with mother in holding together home — because we are understanding better needs and desires of family.

Surely one of God's great gifts to mankind is family — and family is bereft of a thousand graces when mother is not there. Genesis 2:24 explains that

a husband is to leave his father and mother — and "cleave to his wife." That is the beginning of their home together, and a change from the earlier relationship.

Exodus 20:12, one of God's commands to his children, says, "Honor your father and mother, that your days may be prolonged . . ." This command has a beginning for us — but never ends. We are always to honor our parents.

When we do this, our days, though they may not be long in years, will be fulfilling and full of a special joy.

Senior Adults: Each family member has a privilege and an obligation to make the family life strong, close-knit, beautiful.

Across the world, many nations revere and care for senior members of the family. They are given first class treatment, and are included in family planning in a positive way.

This may have been true in America years ago, but in today's busy whirl, older parents and grandparents — aged aunts and uncles, may be to the background as if their time had expired on the meter.

Senior adults are busy people — and they need to be busy, to be included in family life even though they are not under the same roof. We may have a fuzzy view of senior adulthood because some are financially able to travel as they wish, and to otherwise provide for themselves.

One thing all seniors need and want — is that continuing love, support, and affirmation that comes through family. The church can fill a void there by providing the same thing in surrogate.

Older minds have not necessarily stopped improving. But that can happen if love is not a proving ground, a stimulus for abundant life.

Soil and Water Stewardship: Whether we grew up

on a farm or live there now should not affect our willingness to be good stewards of earth's benefits.

Look closely at the soil packed around the plant or tree you bought at the neighborhood nursery. Is it really soil? Certainly it is not likely that the potting material is rich with fresh and vital signs of potential.

Some of the earth has the appearance of worn-out potting soil, void of the necessities for growing. Think back to your idea (from the Bible) of what the earth was like when God created it. God said it was good. Was it polluted? Was there sufficient fresh, clean water? Did there grow all sorts of plants and animals now extinct?

Was the soil thin or pulsating with powerful nutrients? Did streams flow swift and clear to an ocean free of rubbish?

We have systematically scoured, scoured, sullied, ruined, scared, mutilated God's good earth. For what? For our own "good" and our desires. That is bad for the family.

Millions and millions of acres of precious soil have been overlaid with asphalt and concrete for roads and parking lots. Buildings are erected with great ceremony and demolished or abandoned a few years later for others greater and larger just a few blocks away. Engines and industry seem intent on spoiling the very air we inhale. By the way, the air is necessary — smoke and other pollutants are not.

This is not a blanket condemnation. Many individuals, groups, and companies are working for a better environment. Each of us must. When you next see a paper thrown carelessly to the ground, garbage dumped by the road, a fouled stream, a forest leveled, a smog-filled sky — think about it. Better still, let's all remember God's gift of earth and our stewardship. We must see ourselves as sowers. — WFA

Baptists continue to respond to cholera outbreak in Peru

LIMA, Peru (BP) — New cholera outbreaks in Peru — and a new estimate that at least three out of four Peruvians carry cholera bacteria — underscore the deepening crisis this Latin American country faces.

While cholera cases in urban and suburban hospitals had leveled off by mid-April, health officials expected new outbreaks in areas previously untouched and recurrences of the disease in already-infected areas.

Southern Baptists' quick response to the epidemic continues to provide medical assistance and spiritual ministry to the suffering.

A shipment of 216 tons of intravenous medicine, the largest single response to the cholera crisis since its outbreak, was expected to dock in northern Peru

April 28. The shipment and an earlier airlift of 60 tons of medicine were sent by Texas Baptist Men in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Iquitos, the Peruvian city near the headwaters of the Amazon River, is in the beginning stage of a cholera outbreak, prompting reports the disease will soon course through the vast Amazon system. And several major fiestas scheduled for June have officials worried people will transport cholera around the country as they travel to the celebrations.

Cholera also has spread to neighboring countries, raising fears of a continental epidemic for years to come.

Since its appearance in January, cholera reportedly has stricken 147,000

people, hospitalized 48,000, and killed 1080 in Peru, a country of 22 million people. Those statistics include only certified hospitalizations and deaths.

Texas Baptists' 60-ton shipment of intravenous solutions and kits for administering the medicine arrived April 6. In less than four hours workers hauled the medicine off the airplane and loaded it onto four trucks bound for the hardest-hit areas — Cajamarca, Trujillo, and Lima.

"It was a day of miracles," said Southern Baptist missionary Hayward Armstrong, administrator for the Peru Baptist Mission. Because of the cooperation of Peruvian officials, the missionaries and relief workers left the airport without signing a single piece of paper, he said.

Most volunteers unloading the medicines were members of Baptist

churches in Lima, but government and health professionals also assisted.

Seventy-three Southern Baptist missionaries work in Peru alongside 117 Baptist churches with 8800 members.

Baptists distribute the medicines directly to hospitals and through clinics set up in churches to serve cholera victims.

All the Baptist distribution plans have been implemented with the support of Peru's government ministry of health. On April 19 the government agency and the missionaries signed a joint agreement for the government to advance 65,000 vials of medical additives to Baptists for use with the first shipment of medicines. The mission will resupply the government from a shipment of additives expected to reach Peru May 17.

SBC messenger cards available at TBC

Messenger cards for the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention are available from the office of the executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Cards have been sent to TBC directors of missions for use by churches within the associations. There is a limited supply in D. L. Lowrie's office. The convention will meet in Atlanta June 4-6.

Following is Article III, Membership, reprinted from the Southern Baptist Convention constitution, which lists the qualifications for messenger participation in the annual convention:

Article III, Membership: The convention shall consist of messengers who are members of missionary Baptist churches cooperating with the convention as follows:

1. One (1) messenger from each church which is in friendly cooperation

with this convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceded been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work.

2. One (1) additional messenger from each such church for every two hundred and fifty (250) members; or for each \$250.00 paid to the work of the convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.

3. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by the churches to the convention, but no church may appoint more than ten (10).

4. Each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is appointed.

Requests for cards should be sent by the church office to: Executive Office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

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

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Susie Edwards, Administrative Secretary
Mary Nimmo, Production Assistant
Church Pages Coordinator

Baptist and Reflector is published weekly except Christmas week by the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027. Subscription prices: \$7.50 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$7.25; church budget plan, \$6.50 when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780).

Space forbids printing of resolutions, obituaries, and poetry. Advertising rates on request.

Baptist and Reflector holds membership with Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Telephone: (615) 371-2003.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jerry Oakley, chairman; Gary Anderson, vice chairman; Bill Bates, Raymond Boston, Hershel Chevallier, Paul Durham, Larry Gilmore, Don Givens, Calvin Harvill, M. B. Howard, Howard Kolb, John Laida, Leonard Markham, June McEwen, Howard Olive, James Porch, Frank Samuels, Bobby Turner, and Emerson Wiles Jr.

Southeastern faculty affirms school's articles of faith

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary faculty has voted to affirm the school's articles of faith, prompting seminary President Lewis A. Drummond to classify it as a "first positive move . . ."

In a related matter, a joint meeting of incoming and outgoing officers of Southeastern's student council deadlocked on a motion to support the faculty statement.

The faculty adopted, without dissent, a "Statement of Continuing Commitment and Cooperation" which affirms practices and positions the faculty has made through the years, according to Fred Grissom, president of the school's chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

"This is seen as a first positive move on the part of the faculty in addressing

some of the important issues of the seminary in its relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention and the seminary constituencies," said Drummond in response to the statement signed April 17.

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty L. Russ Bush agreed but said other important steps still need to be taken.

"I want to affirm the faculty for its initiative. Confidence is a fragile commodity . . . I hope we will be able to point to this faculty action as the early rays of a new day at Southeastern," said Bush.

The faculty's statement was a response to the concerns Drummond expressed to the seminary's trustees in March about the theological integrity of the seminary.

The student motion was proposed by

David Mansberger, outgoing council president, but the vote was 12-12 which killed the motion.

"The intent of the proposal was to give the faculty affirmation that we love them and care about them. We felt their personal integrity had been attacked, even though their theology was the thing in question, because I don't think you can separate your theology and your person," said Mansberger.

David Smith, incoming president, voted against the motion.

"It's my belief the faculty's intentions were good. I want the opportunity to affirm the faculty in our own time and in our own ways. I think one-on-one has much more effect than just a blanket, overall statement."

"I voted against the motion because I felt it would be seen as a politically

motivated statement," said Hale Henderson, vice president of the outgoing council. "I could not support the faculty statement because I believe there is question of theological integrity among some members of the faculty."

The faculty statement contained seven points: an affirmation of "our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ . . ."; scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God; "our loyalty to the churches of which we are members . . ."; "our historic relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention"; the statement of purpose of Southeastern seminary; the Articles of Faith of the seminary; and the "criteria of accreditation of the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools."

Four professors announce plans to leave Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Four professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have announced plans to leave Southern to assume teaching duties at other schools:

- R. Alan Culpepper, James Buchanan Harrison professor of New Testament interpretation, who will teach at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Culpepper will be a visiting professor during the 1991-92 academic year and will become a full member of the Baylor faculty the following year. He has been a member of Southern's faculty since 1974.

- Andrew D. Lester, professor of psychology of religion, who will join the faculty of Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. He joined Southern's faculty in 1977.

- Harry Lee (Hal) Poe, assistant professor of evangelism since 1988, who has been named associate professor of evangelism and associate dean for academic affairs at Bethel Theological Seminary, a Baptist General Conference supported school in St. Paul, Minn.

C-N establishes missionary program

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College has re-established the college's missionary-in-residence program.

The missionary will teach classes, advise and counsel students, and speak for various local churches and community groups. The residency is for one semester and housing and transportation will be provided.

John Silver will serve as missionary-in-residence for the fall semester. Silver and his wife, Sandra, currently serve as missionaries to Paraguay, South America.

Silver, a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Walters State Community College, Morristown, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, serves as general evangelist and agriculturalist in Paraguay, and Sandra, also a C-N graduate, serves as a church and home missionary. In addition to home schooling, she leads discipleship groups, teaches seminary classes by extension, and works with women and children in nutrition and health care education. Both are East Tennessee natives.

- Karen Smith, assistant professor of church history since 1987, who will join the faculty of South Wales Baptist College and the University of Wales, both in Cardiff.

Lester and Smith said their decisions to resign were based primarily on the ongoing controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention and its subsequent impact on the seminary. Both expressed concern the seminary would become too rigidly conservative.

Culpepper, who is associate dean of Southern's School of Theology, said concern over the conservative direction of the seminary played a part in his decision to leave. In addition, he

Credentials, Tellers

Tennesseans tapped for SBC committees

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP) — SBC President Morris Chapman has announced appointments to the final two key committees to serve during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 4-6, in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The SBC bylaws require the president to appoint the Credentials Committee, in consultation with the vice presidents and the Tellers Committee in consultation with the SBC registration secretary.

The vice presidents are Douglas Knapp, a retired missionary to Tanzania, from Gainesville, Fla., and Fred Lowery, pastor, First Church, Bossier City, La. The registration secretary is Lee Porter, consultant with the Sunday School division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The Credentials Committee, in cooperation with the registration secretary, "shall review and rule upon any questions which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers."

Furthermore, any committee ruling, "may be appealed to the Convention during business session. Any contention arising on the floor concerning seating of messengers shall be referred to the committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the Convention," as stated in bylaw eight.

Chapman named Clark Hutchinson, minister from Eastside Church,

said his position at Baylor will allow him an opportunity to move away from administrative duties and concentrate more on teaching, research, and writing. An attractive salary and benefit package was another factor in his decision, he added, noting Southern professors have been granted minimal salary increases in recent years.

Culpepper was granted a two-year leave of absence by Southern.

Poe said his decision to resign was based on a strong sense of call to Bethel and the ministry opportunities available there. His loyalty to the SBC and the seminary made his decision to leave in the midst of controversy dif-

ficult, he said.

Theology Dean Larry McSwain said he regrets the seminary is losing the four professors whom he described as persons of "exceptional quality" who have made "superb contributions." Nevertheless, McSwain predicted the seminary will not experience an upheaval in its academic program.

"The number of people who are leaving is not unusual given the typical cycle" of professors coming and going, he said. He also pointed out the seminary has been adding faculty members with "outstanding" qualifications.

"We anticipate maintaining the same degree of excellence," said McSwain.

Marietta, Ga., chairman.

Tennesseans tapped for this committee are John David Laida, interim pastor of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, and Rick White, pastor, First Church, Franklin.

The Tellers Committee tabulates any votes taken during the annual meeting, under the supervision of the registra-

tion secretary.

Chapman named Michael T. Hailey, minister from First Church, Lakeland, Fla., chairman.

Named to this committee from Tennessee are Murray Mathis, pastor, Third Church, Murfreesboro, and Pete DeMoss, staff member at Germantown Church, Germantown.

Committee requests resolutions for SBC

NASHVILLE (BP) — People seeking to have resolutions considered by Southern Baptist Convention messengers at the annual meeting in Atlanta in June are requested to send them "as soon as possible" to the Resolutions Committee.

Committee chairman David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church in Lake Charles, La., has asked for proposed resolutions to be sent to the committee in advance of the June 4-6 meeting. According to SBC bylaw 21, the committee has the "duty . . . to prepare and submit to the convention resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption and to report on all matters submitted to it by the convention, with or without recommendation or amendments."

"In order for committee members to look carefully at possible resolutions, it would be very helpful to have them in advance," said Hankins. Each of the ten members of the committee will get a copy of each proposed resolution submitted in advance, said Hankins.

All proposed resolutions should be

sent to the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, 37203, Attention: Committee on Resolutions.

Three members of the Resolutions Committee must be members of the SBC Executive Committee, according to the bylaws. In addition to Hankins, the other two are Gayden Jones, First Church, Baton Rouge, La., and Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

Others are Hal Lane, pastor of West Side Church, Greenwood, S.C.; Bill Merrell, director of missions and member of Country Estates Church, Midwest City, Okla.; H. H. "Bud" Jones, insurance/claims and member of First Church, Woodway, Waco, Texas; R. Albert Mohler Jr., editor of the *Christian Index*, newjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention, and member of Atkinson Road Church, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Mary M. Norman, school teacher and member of First Church, Post, Texas; Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, Miss.; and Larry Thompson, pastor of First Church, Merritt Island, Fla.

Historical Commission honors May; plans pamphlet series

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Historical Commission celebrated its 40th anniversary by honoring its executive director, presenting awards in Baptist history, approving a new pamphlet project, and planning for a history writing contest.

The commission honored Lynn E. May Jr., on his 35th anniversary as an employee and his 20th anniversary as executive director. The longest-tenured SBC agency executive since 1987, May has overseen the commission's move to new quarters in the SBC building, expanded the professional staff from two to seven, and enhanced the agency's programs, services, products, library, and archival holdings. He is the agency's third executive director, following Norman W. Cox (1951-59) and Davis C. Woolley (1959-71). May began work at the Historical Commission in 1956 as research director. In their April 22-24 meeting, commissioners presented May with a "Special 40th Anniversary Distinguished Service Award," and a resolution of appreciation. May was cited for professional and personal integrity, competence, and humility.

Prior to the annual meeting, more than 120 donors contributed \$6525 to the Lynn E. May Jr., Study Grant Endowment Fund, in honor of the executive director. The fund, now totaling over \$10,000, provides scholarships for

selected researchers using the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

The commission awarded three scholarships for 1991, and plans to increase that number in the future. The commission also announced an anonymous donation of \$2500 to a "Designated Study Grant Fund." Scholarships from the designated fund are to be used to support research in the areas of "Baptists and the Peace Movement" and "Baptists and the Separation of Church and State."

C. Penrose St. Amant was awarded The Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Baptist History. St. Amant, a former commission chairman, has been professor of church history at New Orleans and Southern Baptist Theological seminaries. He was dean of the School of Theology at Southern Seminary, and president and professor of church history at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The commission lauded St. Amant, a frequent guest lecturer, visiting professor, and author of numerous books, essays, and articles, as a "perceptive interpreter of the Baptist vision" and a "model for and motivator of Baptist historians for almost five decades."

Commissioners approved a new pamphlet project entitled "Understanding Southern Baptists." The eight-

pamphlet series, slated for publication in January 1993, will cover selected features in Southern Baptist history from 1845 to the present, with a focus on the 20th century. Geared for the "person in the pew," topics will include worship, ministry, missions, organizations, religious liberty, and responses to a changing world, among others.

In other actions, the commission unveiled plans for a Baptist History Writing Contest as part of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sesquicentennial in 1995, "to encourage Southern Baptists to reflect creatively on their heritage." Categories will include

books, local church, and associational histories, and unpublished manuscripts.

The 1990-91 commission officers were elected for another one-year term. They are Ray Granade, director of library services, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., chairman; Jerry L. Tillman, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Fresno, Calif., vice-chairman; Marlene Hunt Rikard, professor of history, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., recording secretary; and May, treasurer.

Next year's Historical Commission and Society meeting is scheduled for April 27-29, 1992, in Birmingham, Ala.

Election date set for Brotherhood head

MEMPHIS (BP) — June 5 is the date set to elect a new president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, after the presidential search committee decided it needed more time.

That announcement was made at the spring meeting of Brotherhood board of trustees, held in Memphis April 26-27.

Search Committee Chairman Wendell Reed of Virginia told trustees an offer has been extended, but it will be two to four weeks before the candidate is expected to make a decision.

"We are looking for God's perfect will and not His permissive will," Reed said. "God has been in the forefront of

everything we have done. As of two weeks ago, I felt like if it was not God's will, we would not bring it. The offer has been given and it is between him, the Lord, and us."

Although he would not give any details about the man selected, Reed said he is very familiar with Brotherhood. Trustees would be very pleased with the selection, he said, and predicted a near-unanimous vote.

Madison-Chester churches fund, build home at Union

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Union University now has a home for a missionary-in-residence thanks to the efforts of churches in the Madison-Chester Association.

The association voted about two

years ago to raise money to build the home on Union's campus, explained Gary Williams, director of education and promotion for the association.

The churches raised the funds for the materials and members donated their labor. The cost of the materials for the house is approximately \$50,000, Williams estimated, adding the value of the house will be about \$80-85,000.

Approximately 100 men and women turned out April 20 to do the majority of the work on the building. Walls were raised and a roof was added to the facility, which will match the appearance of other residences on the backside of Union's campus.

Construction efforts were coordinated by Gary Taylor, a layman from Englewood Church in Jackson. Taylor, a building contractor, was assisted by many of his work crew along with the volunteers from area churches.

Taylor, who is now in Brazil overseeing the building of five new churches for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mis-

sion Board, said he sees donating his labor as a way to use his skills for the Lord.

The missionary-in-residence program at Union will not only benefit the university, but area churches as well, local leaders said.

The missionary-in-residence will teach a missions course, counsel students interested in missions, and assist in missions emphasis week on campus, said John Adams, vice president for religious affairs at Union.

Williams observed the missionary on campus also will be utilized by churches for special programs and for supply preaching.

"The missionary-in-residence program will be a real blessing that will reach farther than we can even dream right now," Williams said.

Mickey Basham, pastor of North Jackson Church who participated in the construction project, agreed that the missionary-in-residence program will benefit both the school and the churches at large.

"We as pastors can learn and be encouraged by the support and training the missionaries can give to the people of our churches," Basham said.

Williams told the Baptist and Reflector May 1 that most of the brick work has been done on the house and that it should be ready for occupancy by July 1.

Furnishing for the home will be provided by WMU groups from West Tennessee, he added.

Once the home is completed, it will be deeded over to the university which will then assume responsibility for maintenance, upkeep, and utilities, Williams said.

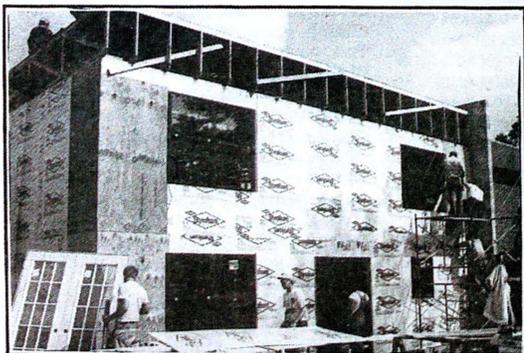
A touch of sadness marked the work on April 20. Union had already scheduled Dewey and Ramona Mercer, missionaries in Japan, as the first missionaries-in-residence. Mercer, however, died April 17 of a heart attack at the age of 61.

Adams learned on May 1 that Mrs. Mercer, a native of Fayetteville, still plans to come to Union for a year, beginning in July.

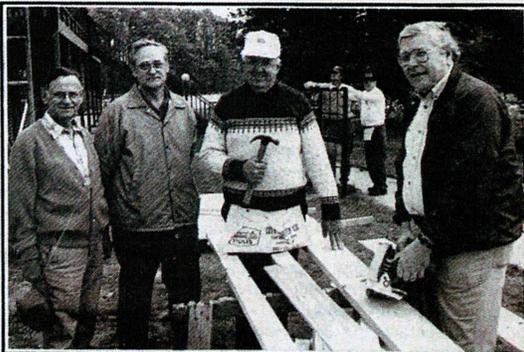
"We are thrilled Mrs. Mercer is coming and plans to serve as our missionary-in-residence," Adams said.



AT WORK — Madison-Chester Association Director of Missions Herbert Higdon, left, is aided by Terry Tynes of First Church, Henderson.



GOING UP — Volunteers from Madison-Chester Association churches work on the new missionary-in-residence-home at Union. The facility is expected to be ready for occupancy by July 1.



HELPING PASTORS — Joining the work day recently at Union were, from left, Doug Brewer, retired, Gerald Smith, Madison Church; Bill Boyer, Beech Bluff Church; and Elzie Danley, Malesus Church.

Moore accepts call

Calvary Church, Mooresburg, has called Phillip Allen Moore of Jefferson City as pastor.

Moore has served as interim pastor of First Church, Whitesburg, and is presently a student at Carson-Newman College. He also has served as a summer missionary through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Moore was ordained to the ministry April 28 at Piney Grove Church in Harriman.

He is married to the former Jamie C. Farris of Kingsport.

Leaders question plan to channel tax dollars to private schools

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Bush administration proposals to use tax dollars to help parents send children to private and parochial schools are coming under fire from several congressional, educational, and religious quarters.

The administration plans to ask Congress for authorization to spend \$200 million to provide incentives to school districts to operate "choice" programs that allow parents to choose which schools their children attend and another \$30 million for states and local districts to set up "choice" demonstration programs. The administration plan also calls for existing Education Department program funds to follow students to public, private, or parochial schools they attend under "choice" programs.

The educational "choice" proposal is part of a reform package announced April 18 by President Bush. The president's America 2000 strategy touts better and more accountable schools for

today's students and a new generation of schools for tomorrow's students. The plan also emphasizes adult education, lifelong learning, and the development of communities that nurture learning outside the school setting.

President Bush's announcement speech and Education Secretary Lamar Alexander's April 23 testimony before a Senate committee sketched a broad outline of the strategy but left many specifics unanswered. Alexander told the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee the department would provide Congress specific legislative proposals by the end of May.

The administration is expected to propose legislation that would authorize grants to provide incentives to school districts to operate voucher programs that allow parents to choose which schools their children attend. The federal grants would not be used to finance the "choice" programs but to serve as incentives for states and districts to establish them.

The general push for educational reform and parts of the administration package have been applauded, but the "choice" proposals that would channel tax dollars to private and parochial schools drew immediate criticism from several sectors.

"While there may be other elements in the grand plan that are acceptable, 'choice' is a misleading banner for the same old repeatedly rejected schemes to divert tax dollars to private and parochial schools," said Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn. "Such ap-

proaches are unconstitutional, regressive, unfair, destructive of the public schools, expensive, inflationary, undemocratic, intrusive, and divisive in the religious community. Other than that they may be all right."

Representatives of major education organizations and Capitol Hill lawmakers have also raised questions about the "educational choice" portion of the strategy.

In opening remarks at the Senate committee hearing, panel chairman Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., told Alexander that the Senate has endorsed the idea of choice for public schools.

"But the administration's proposal goes overboard on choice," he said. "By offering public dollars to private schools, including religious schools, the administration is reopening the bitter and divisive policy and constitutional debates of the past about aid to private schools."

Another panel member, Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., questioned

whether the program would be well-funded enough to make private schools a realistic option for children in lower-income families. "I think this could very well widen inequities," he said.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., told Alexander that she is concerned that the cost of the "choice" program would "grow and grow."

Alexander told the Senate panel he suspects the most divisive elements of the proposal will be those connected to "choice." The former Tennessee governor also said First Amendment provisions separating church and state and Supreme Court rulings in that area may also present obstacles in providing aid to parochial schools.

Asked by Kennedy whether private and parochial schools would be subject under the administration's "choice" plan to the same requirements and regulations that apply to public schools, Alexander said any school in the program, including parochial schools, would have to be publicly accountable.

White to Philippines

Harold White, pastor of First Church, McMinnville, will speak to five sessions of the Mindanao/Visayas Baptist Convention May 13-16.

The meeting will be at the Mt. Carmel Rural Life Center near Davao, Mindanao, the Philippines.

White led the convention in a stewardship emphasis in February, 1990.

He leaves for the Philippines May 9 and returns May 23.

Parking limited during SBC meeting

ATLANTA (BP) — Because of parking limitations at the Georgia World Congress Center, site of the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta in June, officials are urging recreational vehicle owners to use facilities outside the downtown area and ride MARTA.

Campers are advised to use Stone Mountain Park, east of Atlanta, and ride the MARTA bus access/rapid rail to get to the Center. Also available are campsites near Six Flags, McDonough (south), Austell (west) and Kennesaw/Marietta (north).

North Georgia Campers on Mission has made arrangements with a number of Baptist churches in the Atlanta metro area for any group at-

tending the SBC to park RVs in church parking lots. Most churches are offering electrical hook-ups but some offer just parking for fully self-contained units.

For more information on church sites, call George Hugger at (404) 978-1328 or write him at 2382 Junes Court, Snellville, GA 30278. Churches have requested no arrivals before mid-afternoon on the Sunday before the convention.

During the convention sessions there will be a secure lot available at the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium reserved for local SBC volunteers, buses, and RVs. However, bus and RV passengers should be dropped off at the WCC and the driver only proceed to the special lot. A shuttle will be provided to the WCC for those drivers and volunteers.

There is no overnight RV parking in the area near the WCC although there are some public parking lots for day use. Parking near the WCC is limited and relatively expensive. The Stone Mountain Park is on a "first come, first served" basis, said officials, and is \$12.50 per night. There is a \$5 fee each time you leave and re-enter the park.

Other campsites available in the metro area are: Arrowhead Campsites, near Six Flags, (404) 948-7302, \$21.53 per night, \$3 each additional person; KOA South, McDonough, (404) 957-2610, \$19 per night, \$2 each additional person; KOA West, Austell, (404) 427-2406, \$20.50 per night, \$2 each additional person; KOA North, Kennesaw/Marietta, (404) 427-2406, \$19 per night, \$2 each additional person.

Tax proposal needs discussion: Land

NASHVILLE (BP) — The proposal to use federal tax dollars to help parents send children to parochial and private schools is an area that needs far more discussion in Southern Baptist life, according to Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The Bush administration plans to ask Congress for authorization of up to \$200 million to provide for "choice" programs which would allow parents to choose which schools their children attend. The government is also expected to ask for \$30 million for states and local districts to set up "choice" demonstration programs.

In the plan, existing funds in the Education Department also would be used to allow students to attend public, private, or parochial schools under "choice" programs.

Land, responding to a request from Baptist Press for an opinion regarding the administration proposals, said he thinks the overwhelming, and virtually unanimous, position of Southern Baptists is against any kind of direct aid to parochial or religious schools.

"Clearly, there are growing numbers of Southern Baptists who do not see vouchers or tuition tax credits which go to parents, to enable them to make the same freedom of choice that those in the upper middle class have, as direct aid," said Land.

"Many of them have expressed to me they don't see why it is perfectly

acceptable for 19 year old students to receive Pell Grants and tuition equalization grants to go to Baylor, Notre Dame, or Brigham Young University, but it is not all right for a student who is 17 or 18 to receive a voucher letter which his parents can then choose to use in any private or religious school they wish.

"There does seem to be an inconsistency to many Southern Baptists. I think the question needs to be debated and discussed far more widely in Baptist life than it has been and the discussion needs more light and less heat," Land said.

Brotherhood training set for Camp Linden

MEMPHIS — Church and associational Brotherhood leaders can improve their skills in an intensive four-one training conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

National Brotherhood Certification at Camp Linden Baptist Assembly in Linden, will offer conferences May 16-19, on associational Brotherhood, adult Brotherhood campcraft, adventure recreation, and disaster relations.

For more information, or to register, write: National Brotherhood Certification, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis 38104, or telephone (901) 272-2461.

Rooms available for convention

Individuals needing lodging for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta can secure a room through Union University's Alumni Affairs Office.

Cost of the rooms at the Marriott Marquis in the downtown area will be \$110 single or double, plus tax.

Alumni Affairs Director Louise Lynch said reservations must be received by the college as soon as possible. The rooms can be reserved with one night's deposit through a major credit card or check made payable to Union University.

The college is offering the rooms as a service and is not profiting from sale of the space, Lynch added. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come basis by calling (901) 668-1818.

TBC Executive Board receives . . .

(Continued from page 1)
an unrestricted mission gift.

Following adoption of the proposal, the hospital's board would issue a formal statement to TBC officials expressing "its regret over the misunderstanding and hurt generated as a result of its actions."

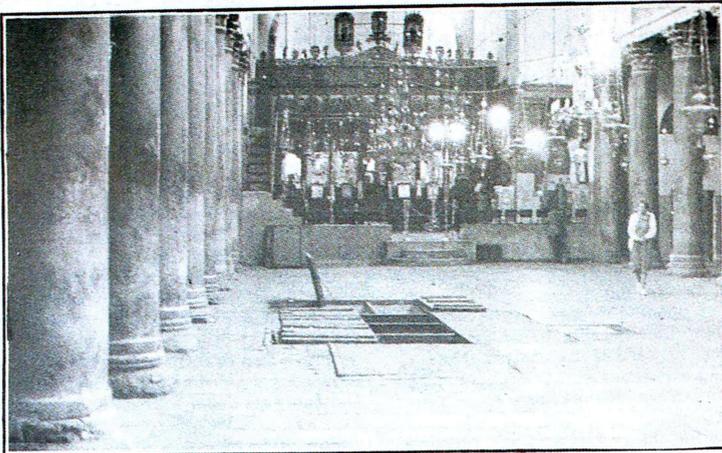
Two other points were to have been settled regarding a benevolent care fund and the character of the hospital board's makeup.

Hospital leadership and TBC officers met May 1 as the hospital group presented the proposal in answer to an April 1 plan from Tennessee Baptists officers.

The hospital's executive committee met April 16 to consider the TBC proposal and voted unanimously to reaffirm its December 1990 action regarding election of its own trustees.

The May 1 proposal was discussed by the Christian Services Committee of the Executive Board, and by the board's Executive Committee on Monday. On Tuesday at its regular spring meeting, the board was to have acted on the proposal.

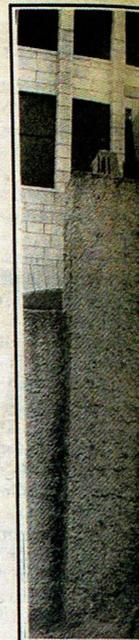
If approved by the Executive Board yesterday, and by Baptist Hospital's board (possibly as early as tomorrow), the proposal would then go to the Tennessee Baptist Convention for vote in November. — Wm. Fletcher Allen



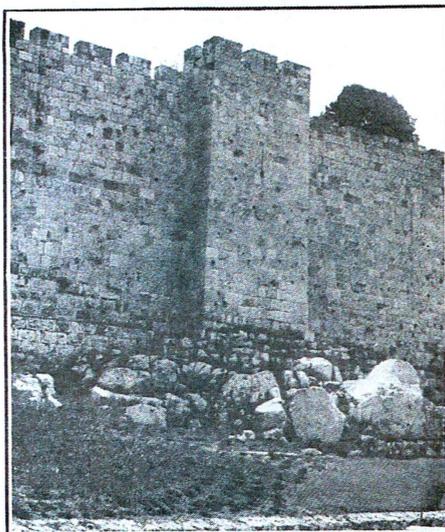
CHURCH OF NATIVITY, Bethlehem



NORTH OF Galilee



BAPTIST CHURCH, NAZARETH, school has 760 students.



OLD CITY WALL with ancient building stones.

ישראל
ISRAEL

Heritage of Holy places — Land of Israel



MOUNT OF BEATITUDES on Galilee shore.

To see and

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Jerusalem, or Yerushalayim. Grown from the little town of Jebus when young King David captured it about 996 B.C. to its current population of almost half a million — it is the epicenter of the world of religion.

How does it maintain its reputation among all the cities of the world? Why does it have such meaning to so many? What is its mystique?

History tells the story. History — and the Bible.

On an April visit to Israel along with 17 other religious journalists, I rediscovered the vitality of Jerusalem.

In the heart of a thriving metropolis with cosmopolitan hotels and restaurants and thousands of tourists, the Old City remains the same.

It is a walled enclave, very old, sitting atop a mountain amid the ancient hills of Judea. It is the crux of today's peace and problems of the Middle East. It is worthy of a visit by any Christian pilgrim.

It is a welter of cramped streets and narrow walks winding and twisting across stones that have been stained with the blood of Israelite, Egyptian, Aramean, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman, Arab, Seljuk, Crusader, Mameluke, Ottoman, British, Jordanian, and modern-day Israeli.

Marking seven flags over portions of the United States pales in comparison to the long struggles for ownership of Jerusalem.

The small acreage we call the Old City embraces cherished shrines of the world's three major monotheistic religions — Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Their conflicting claims over the centuries have made it a chief focus of bitter contests of arms, still not fully resolved.

Yet when one visits the Old City and its surrounds, it is reminiscent of going home. There is a feeling of safety, wellbeing. That same feeling is evident all across Israel.

We were guests of the Israel Government — in particular the Ministry of Tourism and El Al Israel Airline.

The red carpet was rolled out and we walked on it, but we were also free to investigate, question, study, roam, on our own. Israel is Israel, a young and growing nation, but Jerusalem is its heart and soul.

We were there during Israel's week of observances, especially the Day of Remembrance for its fallen heroes and Independence Day.

Jerusalem the city

At the high point of the Old City, the Western Wall stands, a small remnant of fortifications that surrounded the magnificent Temple of Herod. That

remnant is a symbol of Jewish agony.

Since Byzantine times, Jewish custom had directed the faithful to pray daily at the Wall, and their chants and prayers prompt visitors to call it the Wailing Wall. We went there one afternoon when the prayers were made in abundance.

Nearby and within the enclave is a platform called by Arabs the Haram Ash-Sharif, the Noble Sanctuary, the actual site of the Herodian Temple, built according to Jewish tradition, upon the rock where Abraham had been prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Surrounding this scarred rock and dominating the walled square mile of Old Jerusalem is the Mosque of Omar, glittering gold and mosaic struck, some 1250 years old. It is special to Muslims as the spot of Mohammed's ascent to the Seventh Heaven from the Temple's sacred rock. It is Islam's third holiest shrine.

A bit south of the Haram stands Al Aksa — largest mosque in Jerusalem, a site consecrated by Muslims about 700 A.D.

Crusaders invade

After the Crusaders regained Jerusalem for Christianity in the 11th Century, Christians began to hold the site of the Temple to be sanctified ground, because Jesus had been

brought there as an infant, held discourses with the rabbis as a youth, and had preached and taught.

But the single most important Christian shrine in the Old City is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built in the Fourth Century about a half mile east of the Dome of the Rock, by Emperor Constantine. It was then and is now the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, resurrection.

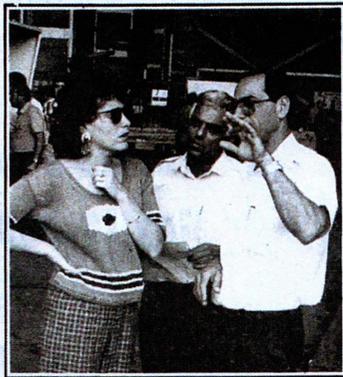
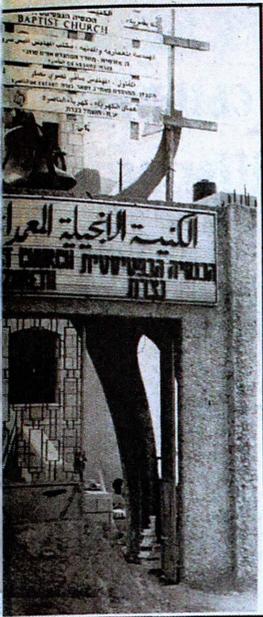
Battered by earthquakes, ransacked and ripped apart by besieging armies, and defiled by countless invaders, the church has endured as one of the oldest Christian church buildings in the world.

Some wrangling

Today it reflects the polyglot of Christianity — jointly tended by the Roman Catholic, Greek, and Armenian Orthodox churches — not always in agreement. Most of its many chapels are under direction of these groups, but others are kept by the Coptic, Syrian, and Abyssinian churches.

In the last 30 years, wrangling has calmed often enough for work or restoration of the church building. Scaffolding some seven years old still hovers over the actual site proclaimed by many as the place where Jesus' body lay.

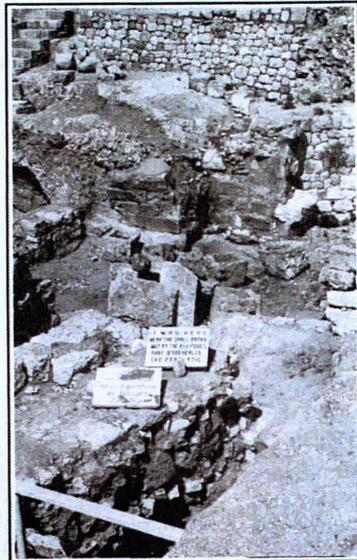
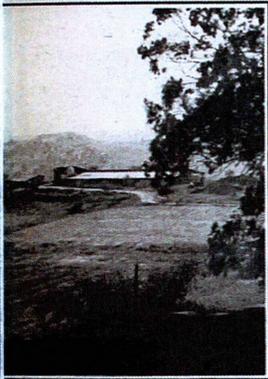
How did all this conflict start — not only among Christian groups, but be-



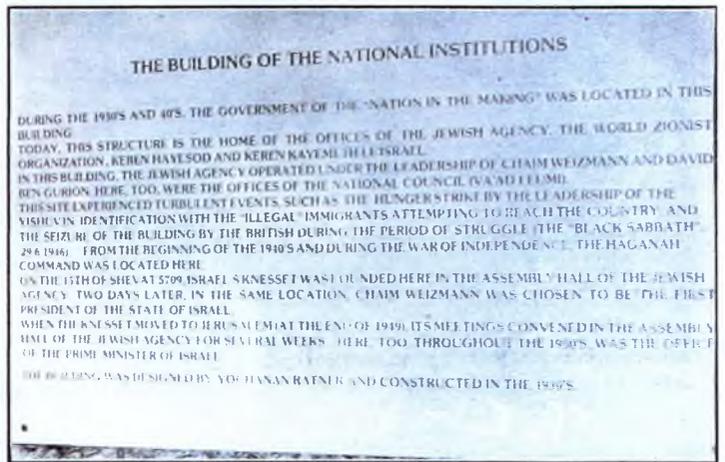
EL AL Airline officials.



JERUSALEM'S TEMPLE mount with "Wailing Wall" and Dome of the Rock.



POOL OF BETHESDA where Jesus healed the paralytic man.



PLAQUE indicating site of the nation's birth in Jerusalem.

How Israel — you have to begin with Jerusalem

tween Arabs and Jews?

The seeds of Israeli and Arab nations conflict and earlier clashing of competing claims to the Holy City were planted when David, youthful king of Judah, wrested Jerusalem from the Jebusites and fixed its destiny.

While the people rejoiced, the Ark of the Covenant came to the end of a journey that had begun at Mount Sinai 300 years earlier. Jerusalem would be sanctified above all cities by the presence of the Ark and its tables defining the moral relationship among men and between God and man would ultimately become the basis of the Judeo-Christian faiths.

More destruction

Solomon built the Temple 46 years later, as a house of the Lord. That temple was demolished by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C., replaced by a new temple in 515 with the blessing and support of Darius I of Persia.

Smaller than Solomon's temple, the second structure suffered at the hands of marauders through the years until 63 B.C. when the Romans conquered Jerusalem and battered down the temple walls.

Herod the Great, Roman-approved king of the Jews, built a second major temple 24 years later and ushered in a golden age of Jewish worship.

But disaster was soon to follow. In 70 A.D., the Roman general Titus smashed Jewish revolts and burned the temple. Hadrian crushed the Jews again in 135 A.D. and obliterated all traces of the city. He built on the site a small city named Aelia Capitolina, banning all Jews.

Constantine, the Roman emperor who dedicated his empire to "Christ, Ruler and Master of the World," built the first Church of the Holy Sepulchre two centuries later and Jerusalem bounced back to prominence.

Muslims conquer

Jerusalem was seized by the Muslims in 637, who built a mosque on the site of the second Jewish temple. In 1099, soldiers of the first crusade captured Jerusalem and butchered its defenders and inhabitants. That victory touched off an era of political-religious turmoil, with the flame of jihad, or holy war, which flickered across the Middle East for centuries to come — even unto the present day. Strife became a way of life in Jerusalem. Recaptured by the Arabs in 1244, Jerusalem was under Arab domination until World War I when it came under British control.

Jordan annexed the Old City by force in 1948 as Israel was born again under United Nations auspices. The young nation, reborn from ancient days,

struggled with Arabs in running conflict until June 1967 when Israeli forces took the Old City back as well as Golan on Galilee's east shore, the Gaza Strip, and all territory west of the Jordan River. Sinai's wilderness was also lost by Egypt but later returned by Israeli as the two nations signed a treaty.

Jerusalem was an enigma then, as is the nation Israel, since both Jew and Arab claim ownership. As late as this January when Iraqi missiles fell on Israeli targets, the world waited for Israel's response.

Our small group of religious news organizations reporters experienced many of the old and Biblically familiar places and events offered by Israel, but the tour also took us to new places and people.

The new and old

From Jerusalem, where we stayed four days, we journeyed south and north — and east, to see what Israel is like in 1991. We were hosted by officials of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and El Al Airline.

For those of us who had previous experience in the "land of milk and honey," there were few surprises. We were intrigued by the sameness and change — a gauge that even a nation born in strife and somewhat embattled

can survive and prosper when will and determination prevail.

We spent most of a morning in the hangars of El Al where jets were being serviced, refurbished, overhauled, and prepared for flight.

At El Al we were free to look at the maintenance operations and ask questions. Nachman Kleiman, company spokesman, hosted a dinner on Tuesday, April 23.

Itinerary varied

The itinerary for our stay in Israel, which will be discussed later, included: several panoramic views of Jerusalem before close scrutiny of the city itself, Yad Vashem memorial museum to the Holocaust (with the poignant Children's Memorial), Museum of Jerusalem at the Citadel, Independence Day celebration.

Israeli Folklore Show at Gerard Behar Center, Shrine of the Book (with Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.), Biblical Research Center, Bethlehem and Church of the Nativity, Visiting in the Old City; Dead Sea area and Masada.

Walking newly excavated area of ancient Bet She'an in Jordan Valley, Tiberias, and Galilee area, Ginnosar and recently discovered ancient boat, Capernaum, Beatitudes Mount, Caesarea Philippi, Dan, Nazareth, Nes Amim (Christian kibbutz), Tel Aviv, and Joppa.



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

Mom.

She can be the most important person in a child's life.

To many children, the ideal Mom is one who is never too tired to give a hug; and never too rushed to sit down and listen — really listen — to the latest young adventure.

The perfect Mom is one who provides comfort and encouragement, and always has time for a gentle, loving hug.

But for far too many children, this "perfect" Mom is one of pure fantasy. She exists only in a storybook or in someone else's home. For these children, the mention of "Mom" causes the reopening of emotional scars, formed from years of yelling or even physical abuse.

At the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, we place very special significance on Mother's Day. It is our mission to provide love, comfort and spiritual guidance to boys and girls who are in critical emotional need of help. On Sunday, May 12, churches across the state will take an offering to help minister to these special children who have been abused or neglected by their mothers and fathers.

Last year, more than 400 children received care at TBCH homes. They were placed in cottage homes — eight children to each group home — with a set of Christian houseparents. Through patience, gentle discipline, and much prayer, scars from past emotional wounds are being healed.

Lisa is an eight year-old girl who lives in TBCH group home. She writes of her life:

"When I first came, I thought no one loved me.

"Then I knew they loved me.

"When I first came I felt bad. All the other kids knew Jesus and I didn't. But when I went up front of the church and accepted Jesus into my heart I knew him better.

"And now I love Jesus more than anything."

The Children's Homes is blessed by dozens of children like Lisa, who eagerly respond to a loving, Christian environment. Since 1891, Tennessee Baptists have shown their love to the needy children of our state by supporting the ministries of TBCH.

Begun as an orphanage in Nashville, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes today has nine locations. There are three main campuses (Chattanooga, Franklin and Memphis); three group homes (Johnson City, Kingsport and Burrville); two Homes for Unwed Mothers (Greenville and Franklin), and a Boys Ranch in Millington.

These homes for children are made possible by the loving support of Baptists across our state. This year's Mother's Day Offering will provide about one third of the funds needed to supply food, clothing, shelter and counseling for the boys and girls in TBCH care.

We invite your church group to visit a TBCH campus and observe this special Baptist ministry at work. For more information on group tours or the Mother's Day Offering, please call 1 800 624 8591, or write TBCH Central Office, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027.



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

We are a ministry owned and operated by the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. We offer care, counseling and spiritual guidance to the abused, neglected and abandoned children of Tennessee. Among our programs are:

- Residential Group Care
- Foster Home Care
- Alternative Homes for Unwed Mothers
- Boys Ranch for Troubled Youth
- GENESIS
Ministry for Emotionally Troubled Girls
- Emergency Placement Services
- Independent Living Programs
- Family Counseling

Continuing the dream to serve children in need



Dr. Gerald L. Stow
TBCH Executive Director/Treasurer

There must have been a dream in the heart of Mrs. Georgia Eastman a hundred years ago. She dreamed of a secure, loving home for orphaned children in Tennessee. The object of her dream was to provide hope, opportunity and a chance for children whose dreams had been shattered by the death of one or both parents.

The needs of today's children have changed, but we must not stop dreaming. Children forced out of their natural homes through neglect, abuse or abandonment need someone to help them restructure the dream of hope and opportunity in their lives.

For many children in our care, their lives have been characterized by fear, instability and pain. For them, the dream of happiness, peace and security has been shattered by circumstances over which they have no control. To the child in these circumstances,

life is a series of unjust and unfair events on the road that leads to hopelessness.

By God's grace and empowering love, we must pick up the pieces of shattered dreams and glue them together with love, kindness and fairness. Every child made in the image of God deserves the opportunity to be all that God intended him to be. With our strong commitment to meet their needs, and our determination to continue the dream into the next century, we shall not fail.

Remember the children this Sunday. Give to the Mother's Day Offering so we can help those who are in such need of loving care.

Gerald L. Stow

TenneScene

... Beginning at Pittman Center,
down to Postelle, west to Guys ...

Churches ...

Members of Rittertown Church, Hampton, will celebrate the church's 60th anniversary during May with special guest speakers during morning worship on Sundays. Speakers will be James Allen, Orville Richards, Omer Painter, and D. L. Lowrie.

Homecoming will be celebrated May 19 at Olive Hill West Church, Ramer. Special music will follow a noon meal.

Members of Red Bank Church, Sevierville, broke ground recently for a new sanctuary which will seat 200 people.

The congregation of Towering Oaks Church, Greeneville, celebrated the church's centennial anniversary May 5. Former pastor David Foster presented a mini-concert and other former pastors offered their testimonies.

Erin Church, Erin, recently had its 100th anniversary.

People ...

Stephen Stewart, a Royal Ambassador at Woodmont Church, Nashville, was recently recognized as a recipient of the National Pioneer Adventurer Award, the highest advancement level in the Royal Ambassador program.

Mary M. Wrye, minister of youth and administration at Prescott

Memorial Church, Memphis, has been named to the 13-member steering committee of the Christian Education Network, a group designed to explore innovative methods of Christian education. The network was formed after a recent meeting of about 80 Southern Baptist educators at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Education ...

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, recently recognized four alumni for outstanding professional and personal achievements. Honored were 1957 graduate Charles Taylor, chairman of the political science department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va., who received the distinguished alumni award; 1978 graduate Mary McBee McDonald, composer of several musicals and anthems, who received the outstanding young alumni award; 1935 graduate Mildred Hale Harris, who received an award for outstanding service to the college; and 1949 graduate Sara Arline Thrash, professor emerita of St. Leo College, St. Petersburg, who was honored for human service.

Leadership ...

Doe River Church, Elizabethton, recently called Garry Hardin as interim pastor. He is a former pastor of the church.

Richard Sloan began duties as part-time minister of education April 29 at South Knoxville Church, Knoxville.

Central Church, Oak Ridge, recently added two new staff members. Arden Taylor, formerly of Knoxville, is now serving as minister of education/administration. David Gipson, recently of Florida, is now minister to students.

Keith Walker has resigned as minister of education/discipleship at Central Church, Hixson, to accept the position of associate director of church growth with the Home Mission Board.

Linda P. Shipley has been promoted to associate professor of music theory and piano at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. The Kingsport native has been a faculty member since 1979. She is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Florida State University, Tallahassee.



SHIPLEY

Hospitals ...

The administration of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, officially opened the 930 Madison office building, a part of the newly named Medical Center Plaza, April 16. The new building, which emphasizes outpatient services, houses physician offices, ultrasound and nuclear medicine radiology services, outpatient diagnostic radiology services, cardiac laboratories, and a new magnetic resonance imaging area.

Ordinations ...

Allan Lovelace was ordained to the Gospel ministry recently at Boiling Springs Church, Baxter, where he is serving as interim pastor. The Morristown native is a senior at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville,

where he is active in the Baptist Student Union and a member of the football team.

Revivals ...

W. A. Galyon will lead revival services beginning May 19 at New Salem Church, Sevierville.

Dupont Church, Seymour, will hold revival services led by Jerry Taylor beginning May 19.

Stanley Frye will speak at revival services May 12-16 at Caldwell Springs Church, Elizabethton.

A Gospel jubilee, sponsored by area churches was held May 5-8 at the West High School Auditorium. Bill Edmonds, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield, was evangelist. Music was provided by The Chords, the Owenby Family, the Williams Quartet, and the Tarklin Family, all of Knoxville.

Caney Fork Church, Cookeville, will begin revival May 10 led by Pete Mullins, Athens.

Milford Ely will lead revival May 12-15 at Clax Gap Church, Harriman.

Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, will hold a Spanish revival May 17-19. Dan Chaney will preach in Spanish during the revival. On Sunday, May 19, Chaney will preach in Spanish during the regular morning worship service. Tulip Grove Pastor Ken Clayton, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Spain, will serve as interpreter.

First Church, Niota calls Glenn Roberts

Glenn Jeffery Roberts has been called as pastor of First Church, Niota.

Roberts is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Prior to coming to Niota, Roberts was minister to youth and single adults at Trinity Church in Raleigh, N.C.

Roberts and his wife, Robin, have two children.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

We have been in Nashville for almost two years, and I have spent most of the two years looking for a place to get my hair cut. Because of the Lord's mercy to me, I still need a haircut about every three weeks. The Nashville metropolitan area has hundreds of places where you can get a haircut. But how do I find the one that is right for me?



LOWRIE

I had a bad experience at one. I had called to make an appointment, but when I arrived at the shop I was totally ignored. I sat in the waiting area almost an hour before anyone ever acknowledged my presence. I have not been back.

I went to one of these new "super"

shops. You can get a cheap haircut in a hurry, but there is absolutely no personal touch. They cut a lot of hair, but I want something more.

Another shop I tried left me with the distinct feeling they had all of the customers they needed. I did not need a haircut bad enough to push my way in where I was not welcome.

I have chosen a shop that is not real close to our house, neither do they give the best haircut in town. They do make me feel like they are glad I am there. They are interested in me!

Some of the same dynamics affect the decision to worship with a particular church. It is not usually a matter of convenience, or of the most attractive building, or even of the best hairdresser (pastor). The decision is most likely to be made on the basis of whether or not people feel welcome. Who is in charge of this at your church?

CHURCH STEEPLES

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALLCROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL, CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS

ERECTION AVAILABLE

WRITE OR CALL FOR LITERATURE OR PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE
1-800-241-3152
IN NC
1-800-523-9058

A&O STEEPLES & BAPTISTRIES
4871 HARVEY RD. • BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NC 27282

PEW UPHOLSTERING

REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS
PEW REFINISHING
STAINED GLASS
LIGHTING
CARPET • PEWS

We have upholstered pews in over 1500 churches totaling over 600,000 linear ft. We can reupholster and repair any pews on site for less cost than the original manufacturer.

Church Interiors Inc.

Leading the Nation in Church Renovations
P. O. Box 5348 • High Point, NC 27262
Call Toll Free: 1-800-BUY-PEWS
(1-800-289-7397)

A.B. Culbertson and Company

invites your
INDICATION OF INTEREST TO
FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS
EARN UP TO:

10.75%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed Culbertson IRA.
Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Semiannually by Check
This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

A.B. Culbertson and Company

Financial Services
1250 Continental Plaza
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Member: Midwest Stock Exchange

For more complete information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of this undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value plus accrued interest, subject to prior sale.

CALL COLLECT OR RETURN THIS TO:

Elizabeth (Betty) Martin, Branch Manager
105 Highland Villa Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Bonds currently being offered by A.B. Culbertson and Company.

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone No. _____

Call (615) 834-5088 or
1-800-727-1529

Reform needed for NEA, Richard Land testifies

By Tom Strobe
 WASHINGTON (BP) — Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told a congressional subcommittee it must act to reform the National Endowment for the Arts "before the outrage escalates to the point that you will be forced to abolish it."

The Christian Life Commission would prefer the NEA be reformed rather than abolished, thereby salvaging the endowment's positive contributions, said Land, testifying April 18 before the Interior Subcommittee of

the House Committee on Appropriations.

Reform should include congressional standards that limit what the NEA can fund and President Bush's replacement of John Frohnmayer as chairman with a person who is "sensitive to the concerns of millions of evangelical Christians" and other concerned citizens, Land said. He told the subcommittee the CLC's most recent request for the president to remove Frohnmayer came March 4.

Southern Baptists and other evangelicals have been "ex-

traordinarily patient" during the continuing revelation over the last two years of NEA grants for "pornographic, sacrilegious, offensive, and indecent 'art,'" Land said.

"While we have been patient, there is a time for good manners to cease," Land said. "That time has come. Our patience is at an end. Unless Congress and the Bush administration reform the NEA, we will be forced to join the chorus of outraged Americans who have said, 'Enough is enough! Abolish the NEA.'"

Land was among five witnesses who criticized the endowment's funding practices. The other four critics, including Phyllis Schlafly of Eagle Forum and Beverly LaHaye of Concerned Women for America, called for abolition of the NEA.

Among the recent examples of NEA "abuses," Land said, are:

- A \$12,000 grant made this year to Frameline to support the 1991 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival;

- A \$25,000 grant for "Poison," a new movie that includes scenes of homosexual intercourse and rape, made in 1990;

- A \$15,000 grant for "No Trace of the Blonde," a stage performance to be written by Holly Hughes, who describes herself as an "openly lesbian performance artist," made in 1991. Hughes told Baptist Press in an earlier interview she planned to use the grant to discuss lesbian themes. The grant also "may violate the First Amendment since it uses federal funds to promote the religion of Santeria and voodoo," Land said. Santeria is an Afro-Cuban cult that includes animal sacrifice in its rituals.

The decency provision in the 1990 congressional reauthorization of NEA funding was a failure, Land said.

AFA president criticizes NEA grant

TUPELO, Miss. — The head of American Family Association has criticized the decision of John Frohnmayer, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, to give a \$12,000 grant of tax money to support the 1991 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

"The decision by Mr. Frohnmayer to support the homosexual film festival shows he is totally out of touch with the vast majority of American taxpayers," said AFA president Donald E. Wildmon. "To support with tax

dollars homosexual porn films indicates that this agency has no intention of stopping the misuse and abuse of tax dollars," he said.

NEA gave the \$12,000 tax grant to Frameline in San Francisco. "Chairman Frohnmayer knew that this money would be used to help promote homosexual films, yet he did not hesitate to give the funds. While reducing other grants, he increased the amount of tax money supporting the homosexual film festival by 33 percent," Wildmon said.

WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?
 VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COST!

Age	\$100,000	\$250,000
30	8.30	14.30
40	10.30	16.80
50	14.30	24.30
60	20.30	41.80
70	34.30	121.80

PLEASE CALL 1-800-888-7215 FOR MORE INFORMATION. TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679. KY: Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, KY. Newlife graded premium life insurance form #78232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 85 and then remain level. Female rates illustrated above.

A&O CHURCH FURNITURE
 4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
 JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— SOLID OAK PEWS —
 FEW UPHOLSTERY REFINISHING
 BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
 EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
 1-800-523-9058
 NC 1-800-222-7895

Going to the SBC in Atlanta?
 Join us for the 1991
**SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
 DESSERT PARTY**
 9-10:30 pm, Tuesday, June 4
 261 West Concourse,
 Georgia World Congress Center
 Call toll-free
 1-800-888-7215 for tickets now

Free Seminar
**Introduction to
 Estate Planning**
 sponsored by
Belmont College
 led by
 Nationally-known speaker/tax attorney,
Winton Smith
 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Thursday, May 23
 Luncheon to follow.
 The Jack C. Massey Business Center, Wedgewood Ave.
 Belmont College

Learn...

- How to maximize benefits for your loved ones.
- How to maximize your own retirement benefits.
- What happens when you have no Will.
- Legalities of Wills, including intestate statutes, powers of attorney, and tax laws concerning Wills and gifts.

Reservations/information call:
Office of College Relations
 (615) 385-6434 by May 20

Call for Free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
 TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
 1-800-251-0679
 FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
 3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

PEWS
 TOLL FREE (800) 366-1716
Overholtzer

Steeple & Baptistries
 From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products
 Call or write for our free catalog

- Steeples
- Baptisms
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Knickerbocker Windows
- Baptistries Heaters

1-800-527-1459
 P.O. Box 1340
 Henderson, TN 37653-1340

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

Child Care Director Needed
 Send resume to:
 First Baptist Church
 1627 N. Highland
 Jackson, Tenn. 38301
 Attention: Frank Starr

FOR \$25 SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY & STAY AT KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT
 for Groups of 12-160, in Eureka Springs, Ark.
 Air conditioned Lodging, Swimming,
 \$9 TICKETS, Cheeseburger Cookout, Dessert, and Breakfast. ALL INCLUDED!
 Call (501) 253-8418 today!

We upholster on site — 15 year guarantee
PEW PADS
 Over 500,000 lineal feet to date
 Our customers are our best referrals... just ask us!
FREE ESTIMATES!!!!!!
 In Nashville, call (615) 373-1048... other cities, call collect...!

NONDRINKERS

**Get More For Your Money With
 PREFERRED RISK INSURANCE!**
 America's Nondrinkers Insurance Company

★ AUTO ★ HOME ★ LIFE ★ HEALTH ★ ANNUITIES ★ CHURCH

Call the following offices in Tennessee:

Chattanooga (615) 899-6033 **Kingsport (615) 288-6711**
Knoxville (615) 524-1201 **Memphis (901) 795-6872**
Maynardville (615) 992-0474 **Nashville (615) 367-9157**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you are a non-drinker with a desire for a career change, Preferred Risk Insurance has opportunities available — no insurance experience needed; company will train; salary while training; office furnished; outstanding benefits. For more information, contact Jim Crofts, Tennessee Sales Manager, at (615) 367-9157.

PREFERRED RISK GROUP Home Office West Des Moines, Iowa

David's sin and God's judgment

By Robert Armour, retired director of missions; Troy

David sent men to comfort Hanun, the new king of Ammon, because of his father's death. The advisors of Hanun convinced him that the men were really spies come to spy out the land and overthrow it. Then Ammon took David's servants and shaved off half of their beard and cut off the lower part of their garments. When David heard of this thing being done, he sent men to meet them because the men were ashamed. He told the men to stay in Jericho until their beards grew out. This incident brought on war with the Ammonites which caused the defeat of both the Ammonites and the Syrians.

David's sin with Bathsheba (11:1-5) It seems that David won so many of the battles against nearby nations, that the leaders told him to stay back and send Joab into battle and not risk being killed himself. At least he was

resting when normally kings went to battle. He got up off his bed where he was resting and went up to the roof of the palace. He was looking over the city when he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath. He inquired of her and found she was Uriah's wife. Uriah was with Joab in battle; therefore, David sent for this woman and lay with her.

BIBLE BOOK
May 12 Lesson
Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 10:1-12:31

Bathsheba later informed him she was pregnant. He proceeded to try to cover up his sin. He sent for Uriah and told him to enjoy a few days with his family because he had been fighting a long time in battle. Uriah was very loyal to his fighting group and would

not go into his own house while they were out in the field fighting. This presented a great problem for David. There are always great problems when we try to cover our own sins. Maybe one of our black brothers had a good outline when he said, "All the money in the world won't buy our way into Heaven. There is no fur coat large enough to cover our sin and there isn't a Cadillac in all the world fast enough to outrun the wrath of God."

David plots Uriah's death (11:15) David could not cover his sin by tricking Uriah, so he resorted to more drastic measures. He sent a letter by Uriah to Joab telling Joab to put Uriah in the heat of battle and back off and let Uriah be killed. There is no way to cover adultery by committing murder. David soon found out that many of his people might not have known, but God

knew all the time.

God's rebuke through Nathan
(12:4-7a, 10)

Nathan came to David telling him a story about a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had a guest come in and he took the only lamb that the poor man had to have a feast for his guest. He had many lambs and the poor man only had the one. David said surely this man shall die for this deed. Nathan replied, "Thou art the man."

So often someone else's sin seems very awful and black, but when we are the guilty party it doesn't seem nearly so bad. God looks at all sin alike. To God, sin of a king is just as black as the sin of a hired servant. Every person stands before God on the same basis — guilty as charged.

This surely does not sound like the David of earlier chapters. This is what sin can do in our lives. David, the king, let lust get the upper hand in a weak moment and adultery and murder were the result. In this particular case, the beautiful became grossly ugly.

Model for ministry

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

In chapter 3 of II Corinthians, Paul implied that some preachers had come to Corinth with letters that recommended them. Paul declared that the Corinthians were his letter of recommendation. They knew him and had personally experienced the supernatural power of his ministry. He pointed out that even though the ministry of the Old Testament was glorious, the ministry of the New Testament is far more glorious because it provides righteousness not condemnation, and liberty not law.

We have this ministry (4:1, 2)

In a very real and important sense, every Christian is a minister; that is, a servant of Christ. When Paul said "we," "our," or "us" in this passage, he was politely and properly using the editorial plural to avoid saying "I," but he was also inferring that the ministry was not exclusively his or just for those with a special calling and ordination. In a very forthright, yet hum-

ble manner, Paul presented himself as a model for Christian ministry.

The good servant is humble, but confident (ch. 3:5, 6; ch. 4:1). He or she is faithful, honest, trustworthy, sincere, and open (ch. 4: 1, 2). Paul thought of service for the Master not as a burden, but a blessing, a privilege we don't deserve, but a responsibility we are honored to have.

Treasure in earthen vessels (4:7-12)

It seems the Corinth Church knew little of persecution from the outside. In fact, it probably was on good terms with its pagan environment. Sad to say, this is true of many churches today. The sufferings of their founder, Paul, may have been perplexing to the Corinthians and may have even offended some. Some of the aspiring leaders in that church must have looked down on Paul for his sufferings, believing themselves to possess a spirituality that elevated them from such a low plane of life.

But Paul said God had entrusted the glorious good news of Christ to us, frail and lowly as we are, like a priceless treasure might be stored in a clay pot. That was done so everyone could see the power is of God and not from humans. Then in verses 8-9, he recounted in pairs four kinds of experience. In each case the first of the pair related to the weakness of the human vessel and the second to the power of God at work in him. He indicated we Christians may be hard-pressed on every side, but we are not hemmed in. We may be puzzled, but not without hope. We may be pursued, but not abandoned; and we may be knocked down, but not knocked out.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
May 12 Lesson
Basic Passage: II Corinthians 3:1-4:18

We who have found new life spiritually are always being exposed to death physically for Jesus' sake, so that His life may be plainly seen in us. We are always facing death, but this means others will know more of life in Christ.

The spirit of faith (4:13-18)

Paul testified that he was motivated by faith like that of the psalmist who said he had to speak out even though he was afflicted (Psalm 116:10). Paul's kind of faith was Scriptural. He later said that faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Paul was not afraid of death, for his faith told him God had raised Jesus and would also raise all real Christians. He also knew that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). This spirit of faith wants to share God's grace so that more and more people will be saved and God will get greater glory.

Paul declared that because of all this he did not lose heart. He admitted that physically he was wasting away, but spiritually he was being constantly renewed. He had found God as good as His word that "as thy days, so shall thy strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25). By faith he knew that our troubles here are little and brief when compared to our glorious future in eternity (Romans 8:18).

Building a new humanity

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

It may be no grand theological truth, but it seems evident that some Southern Baptists descended from a long line of name-calling Jews. While the names may have changed with time ("liberals" and "conservatives" vs. "circumcision and uncircumcision"), the divisiveness and antagonism they cause has not. These Jews (v. 11) wallowed in their bigotry and gloated in their lineage, but the covenant that God made with their father Abraham that "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3) was forgotten. Perhaps they changed it in their minds to mean "shall all families who agree with your laws and statutes be blessed."

As this name-calling and rejection of others was going on, notice the condition of the Gentiles. Since they were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise" they were without "hope and without God in the world" (v. 12). How could the Jewish nation, in covenant with God, allow

others to live and die without God and without hope? How can we, as Christians who have been given the blessed Gospel of Jesus and the message of peace and reconciliation with God do the same thing?

While we hone our skills at bigotry, finger pointing, and name calling, a lost world lives and dies "having no hope and without God." And even if we're not at odds with our brethren, there usually are others we feel are not "good enough" to be God's people.

LIFE AND WORK
May 12 Lesson
Basic Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22

Paul explained to the Ephesian Christians that it was Christ Jesus who "is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (v. 14).

Now not only were the Jews and Gentiles able to be united in faith in the Christ, but the "enmity" was also

abolished, "making peace" (v. 15). This peace is not something coerced or faked. This peace comes from a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The "new man" that emerges has been recreated and no longer is burdened down by the animosity toward others that once was part of his "religion."

Because God has reconciled Jews and Gentiles to himself (v. 16), "we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (v. 18). This access to the Father is not because we belong to a certain race or have come from a certain background, but rather because of the work of reconciliation that God accomplished through Jesus. If we could limit access to God to only Baptists, Jews, blacks, whites, or others, wouldn't we create a mess? The only ones denied access to God are those who refuse God's gift of salvation in Christ. We can deny ourselves access, but not others.

What a joy it must have been for the Ephesian Christians, those "uncircumcised" Gentiles who were "without hope," to read Paul's words. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of

God" (v. 19). What a change!

Because of the salvation they had received through Christ, they were as much a part of God's family as the Jews who received salvation through Christ. And not only (as if that weren't enough) were they now part of God's family, they were also "fitly framed together" (v. 21) with other believers into a "temple" for God's Holy Spirit with "Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone" (v. 20).

God wills to make us new persons and to fit us together as the body of Christ living and working in unity that all families of the earth would be drawn to Him. But as long as we resort to our old name calling, finger pointing, people rejecting ways, all the world will ever see is Christians who can't get along with each other (or God).



One for All is a five-year Cooperative Program promotion for Southern Baptist churches from 1990-95.

It launches our more than 37,000 churches into the last decade of this century, the last decade of Bold Mission Thrust.

It enables us to refocus on our primary mission and reevaluate our priorities.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Muslim-Christian battle kills 80 in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria — Renewed violence between Muslims and Christians in northern Nigeria has killed at least 80 people, according to witnesses. The worst confrontation occurred April 23 in the city of Bauchi, reported the Associated Press. A dozen churches were set afire, the report said. Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria said a Baptist church and parsonage were burned in Bauchi.

Bauchi is near Jos, where Baptists have significant work, and Gombe, where Southern Baptist missionaries Wiley and Geneva Faw live. The Faws, both of Waynesburg, Ky., were reported to be safe at home April 24. Witnesses said thousands of Christians now are trying to flee the Muslim dominated north to southern Nigeria, where more Christians live.

Vision can unite SBC, Lewis tells WMC leadership

ORLANDO, Fla. — If Southern Baptists are unable to "rekindle the fire" of a missions vision, then "our denomination is dead," Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis told state World Missions Conference leaders at their biennial meeting, April 18-19.

"God is waiting to do a mighty thing among Southern Baptists," Lewis said. "What's going to do it? Not another Peace Committee. We just need to get our mind, heart, and soul on reaching this nation and world for Jesus Christ and be one in this obsession: We are going to put missions in first place in all we seek to do. This will unify, excite, and ignite us."

Lewis told the conferees, who administer WMCs in their state conventions, they would "do as much to achieve that goal as anyone I know, anywhere." He called their work to "proclaim the missions cause and kindle the fire of missions vision" in their states to be "the greatest work I know of in this earth."

"Magnify Your Missions Vision" was introduced as the new theme for World Missions Conferences at the Orlando meetings, as were new materials for use by state leadership, associational staff, and local churches in planning and promoting the conferences. WMCs are associational missions education events that bring Southern Baptist missionaries into Southern Baptist churches to raise awareness and understanding of missions. Every church hears two foreign missionaries, two home missionaries, and one state or associational missionary.

New churches more efficient in evangelism

ATLANTA — New Southern Baptist churches are more efficient than older churches in evangelism and per capita giving, but older churches provide more

of the denomination's financial base, a Home Mission Board study reveals. Additionally, the 1980s could be the second-greatest decade of church starting in the Southern Baptist Convention's history, the study says.

The study on the contribution of new churches to the SBC was compiled by Clay Price of the HMB's program research department. Price analyzed data from 1989 Uniform Church Letters to compare the influence of churches constituted in the 1980s with that of churches started in other decades. Southern Baptists added an estimated 3300 new churches during the 1980s, Price says. That number is second only to the 1950s, when more than 4800 churches were added.

New churches are more efficient than older churches in reaching people through baptisms, the study says. New churches baptize 7.5 people for every 100 people enrolled in Sunday School. The national SBC average is 4.5 baptisms per 100 enrolled in Sunday School. The ratio of baptisms to Sunday School enrollment declines as churches grow older. The convention's oldest churches, those organized before 1940, average 3.8 baptisms per 100 enrolled in Sunday School.

New churches report the highest per capita giving, but older churches pass more of their money on to associational, state, and national causes, the study shows.

In 1989, new churches reported receipts of \$510 per person. The SBC average was \$310 per person. However, new churches require more money for local expenses than older churches.

Minority advisory committee suggested by consultation

NASHVILLE — Participants in a race relations consultation sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission are asking SBC President Morris Chapman "prayerfully to consider appointing a multi-ethnic advisory committee to assist him and/or the Committee on Nominations to help achieve" the goal of "significant (more than token) multi-ethnic representation" on SBC boards and professional staffs.

Such a committee would help the 15-million-member denomination achieve racial and ethnic balance in its power structures, said consultation participants. During the meeting April 22-23 in Nashville various participants pointed out what they believe is a lack of blacks and ethnics in key positions within the SBC.

Former Convention President Jerry Vines told the consultation he and other recent convention presidents have deliberately sought minorities to fill SBC leadership positions, but found it difficult to obtain names of qualified candidates. Nevertheless, he said he believes an examination of the past 25 years of SBC presidential appointments would show a marked increase in the number of ethnics and blacks appointed within the past decade. Vines, who attended the meeting as Chapman's representative, said he would suggest to Chapman he seriously consider appointing the proposed multi-ethnic and black advisory committee.

Church starts highest among ethnics, blacks

By Ginny Whitehouse

NASHVILLE (BP) — Compared to the number of predominantly white Southern Baptist church starts, a significant percentage of new churches are ethnic or black, recent studies showed.

An estimated ten percent of churches started between 1983 and 1988 have a majority of ethnic or black members, according to a study by Kirk Hadaway of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Penny Long Marler of Hartford Seminary.

But in 1990 approximately 20 percent of the new churches — not counting older churches affiliating with the SBC — were ethnic or black, the Uniform Church Letter stated.

Meanwhile, non-Anglo churches made up only 5.5 percent of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The study, "New Church Development and Denominational Growth: Symptom or Cause?," examined 38 years of growth statistics in five leading Protestant denominations in the United States.

The study revealed new ethnic and black churches also grow faster, and Hadaway said they are therefore "more likely to survive."

More than 40 percent of all Hispanic, Asian, African-American, and Native American churches — new and existing — grew by more than ten percent during the past five years. Just

under 30 percent of the predominantly white churches grew by the same amount.

Demographics played a part in these numbers as a shrinking percentage of Americans trace their ancestors to Europe. But these trends do not totally account for the church starts. In contrast to the SBC, the United States "is not 95 percent Anglo," Hadaway said.

Southern Baptists fared poorly in the number of ethnic and black church starts compared to the other denominations in the study. Approximately 65 percent of the new American Baptist churches, 28 percent of the new Assemblies of God, and 26 percent of the new Presbyterian Churches (USA) were predominately non-Anglo.

"We're reaching beyond the white Southern population. We are starting a number of Anglo churches, but proportionately there are more ethnics,"

Hadaway said.

About half of new Southern Baptist work — that includes churches, special classes, and mission congregations — is being conducted in a language other than English, said Chuck Padilla, Hispanic church growth consultant at the board.

The number of Hispanic congregations in the United States has increased 87 percent in the last decade, Padilla said.

Ho Kil Kahng, Korean church growth consultant at the board, said two or three new Korean congregations are formed each month.

"Anglos have had the Gospel all this time and have become satisfied with the way they are. A person from the West living in the South does not have the same missionary spirit. The Gospel is new to language groups. The freedom we feel in receiving the Gospel is tremendous," Padilla said.

Midwestern Seminary's annual luncheon set

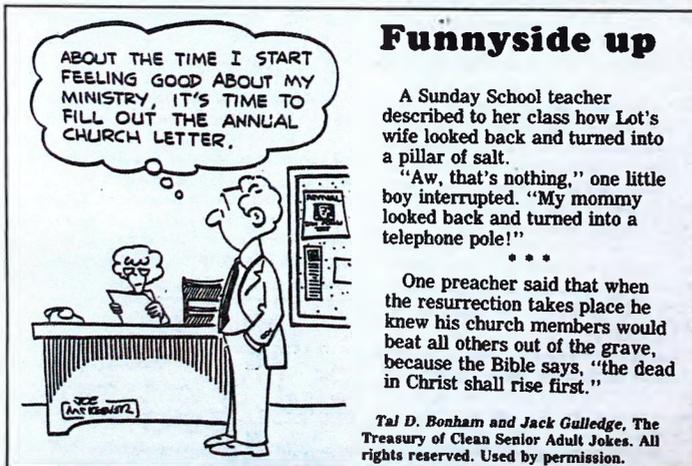
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The alumni association of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will meet for its annual luncheon in Atlanta, Ga., during the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The luncheon will be held June 5 at 12:45 p.m. in the American Hotel — Best Western, 160 Spring Street.

Alumni and friends of the Kansas City-based seminary are invited to attend the event, which will feature MBTS alumnus Maurice Graham as keynote speaker.

Graham, a 1975 master of divinity

graduate of Midwestern, and his wife, Laurie, were Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Kuwait. They and their two sons took shelter in the U.S. Embassy compound there when Iraqi troops invaded the country last August.

Advance tickets for the luncheon are \$10 per person. During the convention, tickets may be purchased in the exhibit hall at the seminary booth for \$13. Luncheon tickets may be reserved by writing to the Office of Seminary Relations, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo. 64118; or by calling (816) 453-4600.



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