

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Tennesseans in group delayed in effort to help feed Kurds

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist feeding operations for Kurdish refugees in Iran have gotten off to an uncertain start.

Twelve Southern Baptist volunteers in Iran have been permitted to set up only two of four outdoor kitchens flown in May 15 and 16 to feed Kurdish refugees in the Kordestan province along Iran's border with Iraq.

Another 12 Southern Baptist volunteers, including four Tennesseans, scheduled to leave the United States for Iran May 19 were asked to delay their travel and wait on standby status. The volunteers are at a Baptist campground near Dallas.

On hold in Dallas are Bill Skinner, layman and retired Southern Baptist medical missionary, Two Rivers Church, Nashville; James McPherson, pastor, Second Church, Clinton; Carl Lord, layman, Calvary Church, Lenoir City; and Pat Still, layman, Clearview Church, Franklin.

"(It's) a slow start," acknowledged Sam Yeghnazar, pastor of the Iranian Christian Fellowship in London and coordinator for Southern Baptists and Christians in Iran in an effort to feed some 100,000 Kurdish refugees a day.

Yeghnazar said he is waiting for

Iranian relief officials to signal whether the volunteers will be deployed to Kurdish refugee camps where needs are more critical than in the camp where the Southern Baptist feeding operations were initially targeted.

"In the neighboring states, there are many more refugees," Yeghnazar said, "and we're asking (Iranian officials) to give us permission to go."

The two kitchens now functioning in Iran in Kurdish refugee camps were delayed in opening when province officials declared an initial supply of rice purchased in Iran was unsatisfactory. Arrangements had to be made for a replacement supply, Yeghnazar said.

Authorities in Tehran are "very cooperative," he said, but problems have cropped up at the local level.

At the initial sites, the number of refugees has fluctuated, he said. Just before the Southern Baptist teams arrived, the numbers were high, but then dropped when many of the refugees left to explore whether they could safely return to Iraq or find better conditions elsewhere.

Yeghnazar said local officials may be apprehensive about the Southern Baptist volunteers because of the decreased need in the nearby refugee



**GROUNDBREAKING HELD** — Members of congregations from Robertson County Association met May 19 to break ground for an associational office building. The site is located in Springfield. From left, Mike Beshear, Ann Hancock, Clyde Dean and Jerry Oakley (chairman), building committee members; Frank Evans, director of missions; Ray Stonecypher, moderator; and Glynn Copeland, vice moderator. Construction begins this week.

camps as well as Iran's 12-year alienation from the United States stemming from the Ayatollah Khomeini's rise to power.

Six of the 12 Southern Baptist volunteers now in Iran were scheduled to leave the country May 22 as originally planned, Yeghnazar said. The other six were scheduled to leave May 26, also as planned. The latter team will train refugees to operate the outdoor kitchens provided by Southern

Baptists. Each kitchen, valued at \$15,500, includes ten portable stoves and a water purification system capable of processing 10,000 gallons a day.

Local officials have not permitted a Southern Baptist writer, photographer, and two-man video crew accompanying the relief teams to cover the feeding operation, Yeghnazar said. "I don't know why," he added.

(See Tennesseans, page 5)

## WMU group forms bonds during Filipino training

The Filipino woman was attending a Woman's Missionary Union half way around the world from the United States. She had come with friends even though she was Catholic. During a drama in which she was participating, she realized her need for God and

prayed for salvation.

Members of the WMU volunteer missions team to the Philippines said this woman's experience was one of the best events of their trip. The eight-member WMU team worked in the Philippines April 13-May 4 to support the Philippines/Tennessee Partnership.

"All of the women had made sacrifices to come to the meetings," said Doris June Large, team leader from Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville. Those attending the meeting in Cebu traveled all night by boat and then slept on the floor of a church. Many who gathered in Luzon traveled eight to ten hours to the meeting, Large noted.

The Tennesseans became partners with the Filipino women. They slept on the floor, although they had mattresses in missionary quarters, and ate fish and rice many days at each meal.

The team agreed bonds were formed even though members met and trained more than 650 women. Anne Towns of First Church, Franklin, became especially close to the Filipino partner who assisted each team member during workshops. The team's partners translated some of their presentations.

Most Filipinos study English in public schools but speak native languages.

Towns' partner took her on a tour of her church and community and to meet several friends. From the area of last year's devastating earthquake near Bagio City, she proudly reported on her church's response to earthquake victims. During a visit in a Filipino home, Towns was given a quart of strawberry preserves by a new friend.

"We experienced so much it was absolutely incredible," said Towns. "The people were extremely friendly and gracious to us, both men and women. ... We blended well with the nationals and they with us," she added.

One key to the team's success, according to Large, was its background of missions education. Towns agreed, noting that her understanding of the reserved nature of Asian people helped her adapt her teaching methods. She also relied on advice given by Charlie and Betty Hawkins of Dickson, former missionaries to the Philippines, who oriented the team.

Towns learned even the children were reserved. After they discovered she had given balloons to other children, they would come and stand near her but not say a word. She learned balloons were such an

(See WMU group, page 5)



**WMU CROSSES BARRIERS** — New friends made during the 10th annual WMU convention of Luzon join Doris June Large, third from left, and Anne Towns, third from right, to pose for a picture.

### Baptist messengers to hear George Bush

At press time Monday, the Baptist and Reflector learned that President George Bush will speak during the Southern Baptist Convention June 6 in Atlanta.

Although it was generally known that President Bush had been invited to address Southern Baptist Convention messengers, confirmation of his acceptance came through Baptist Press.

Several weeks ago news had been released by the SBC committee on order of business that it had invited Bush.

The President will speak to the closing session of the SBC in the World Congress Center, tentatively at 11:30 a.m.

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**Editorials**

# Nothing replaces the home where Christ is Lord

The period from May 12, Mother's Day, through June 16, Father's Day, is a celebration of Christian Home Emphasis.

We have never needed it more. Fifteen or twenty years ago, before the fiber of home life began to crumble severely, Christian Home Week held a special place on the denominational calendar.

Churches stressed the strength and moral character of the Christian home throughout the week. Seminars were directed in many churches toward helping and building Christian homes. Speakers based Christian homes message on Scripture. The virtues of Christian homes were explored and vindicated.

This remarkable emphasis is still on the Southern Baptist calendar, but churches and homes are not fully exploiting it.

On every hand the home is attacked. Satan is livid when a Christian home nurtures young lives through difficult days of childhood, adolescence, youth, young adulthood, to maturity in Christ. He is enraged at any success on the part of Christian fathers and mothers.

He attacks with "no holds barred." We note his successes in today's world. He has gathered his forces to impugn the core of Christian values and has flung every available weapon at the stronghold of morality.

True Christian homes have not retreated. Aided by courageous actions of the churches, Christian homes still stand steadfast. They must. The drums in the distance need not be the sounds of defeat.

One of the best ways to teach Christianity in the home — is to keep the world's ways out of the home.

It is tough to harness the energy of children in right channels. But it can be done; we are not alone. God will help parents who seek His face.

Parents must demonstrate Christianity at its best — in the home. We cannot turn over to the church the task assigned to us by God. The church can only enhance what parents do. Though parents cannot do all the spiritual teaching, it is our responsibility. Church and home must work together.

Parents must teach by leading — not by pushing or forcing.

Parents must be understanding, but unapologetically on the side of Christ.

Parents must be wary of magazines, videos, games, toys, books, television programming that have evil intent. We can't depend on the motives of the companies that produce them. All of these can warp a child's mind quickly into bad patterns.

Parents must love God, and each other. Parents must love their children — and demonstrate that love. This is not done with gifts and money payoffs, nor with applause when a child acts "cute." It is

done with displays of parenthood blessed by God.

Parents must teach children to live in the world without living like the world. One way to be successful in this is to give of ourselves continuously. Trying to understand children doesn't mean they are always right — or wrong. It means that they are children, still prone to mistakes.

Parents must never stop being parents. That doesn't imply that we manage an adult child's life, but that we are always ready to help.

Single adults and married couples without children can be "parents" as well. They can give and receive family love through cultivated friendships of the church community. No one should be left out.

Every family needs more love — and love is the key to parenting. Love teaches dignity and respect. Loving parents and friends teach discipline even as they love the children. In turn, children love parents.

Robert Frost wrote that, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." Better still, homes where prayers are prayed and life is loved — because of the presence of Christ, these homes are the strength of the nation.

God give us Christian homes. The altar teaches more than the world when it burns brightly with the flame of Christ's consuming love. — WFA

## Towering Oaks Church celebrates 100th anniversary

GREENEVILLE — Using the theme, "Touching Greenville for a Century, Looking to Jesus for Eternity," members of Towering Oaks Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the church on May 5.

Towering Oaks originally was known as Second Church, Greenville, and began as a mission of First Church, Greenville, a chapel on Buckingham Road, southeast of the city.

The first recorded service at the new chapel was held on the night of July 5, 1891. That date is considered to be the founding of the church although it was not until Aug. 5, 1894 that a church was officially recognized at the chapel, with the granting on that date of at least 24 "letters of dismissal" for First Church, Greenville, members who were to form the core of the church.

The first church building was a small white chapel of simple traditional style. It became known as the "little white chapel on the hill."

The "chapel on the hill" served the growing congregation for many years until 1947 when work began on a larger brick structure beside it. After the new

building was completed in 1948 the original facility was destroyed.

The church added an educational wing in the 1960s which allowed for additional growth, but by the 1970s more space was needed, yet the church lacked space. Members voted to obtain land farther out Buckingham Road and constructed the present church facility.

The congregation moved to the new building in 1980 and members decided to rename the church. Names under consideration included Church Street Church and Buckingham Road Church, but members finally decided on Towering Oaks Church because of the beautiful tall oaks fronting the church campus.

The new facility enabled the church to begin a Christian preschool and elementary school ministry — Towering Oaks Christian School. Approximately 200 students now attend this school.

According to the program, which included the church history, "Towering Oaks Church, while proud of its century of Christian services in its community, is even more mindful of the future and will continue, through its



**PAST AND PRESENT** — Towering Oaks Church, Greenville, celebrated its centennial anniversary May 5. Present for the occasion were five former pastors pictured above with current pastor James K. Pierce III. From left, Haven Lowe, Tim Alexander, Ronald Hicks, Pierce, Farrell Brown, and Omer Painter.

pastors Ronald Hicks, interim pastor, Gray Church, Gray; Foster, pastor, Bellevue Community Church, Nashville; Tim Alexander, pastor, Florence, (Ky.) Church; Omer Painter, director of missions, Tennessee Valley Association; Farrell Brown, retired, Johnson City; and Haven Lowe, retired, Johnson City.

Participating in the services were Pastor James K. Pierce III and former

pastors to all who will hear."

The day-long festivities May 5 included regular worship services, a fellowship dinner, a mini-concert by former pastor David Foster, and a service featuring testimonies by former pastors.

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# CLC files amicus brief to revise 'Lemon Test'

**By Louis Moore and Tom Strode**  
WASHINGTON (BP) — In an historic action, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission is asking the United States Supreme Court to revise a central element in its Constitutional analysis on religious freedom, known as the "Lemon Test," to accommodate religious pluralism in public schools in this country.

In an amicus brief filed May 14 at the Supreme Court, the CLC argues Lemon, which has been for the past 20 years the court's litmus test for Establishment Clause cases, has created a hostile, artificially secular public school environment when what has been needed was an acknowledgement and accommodation of religious pluralism in this country.

"One of the values which public schools should transmit is respect and tolerance for the religious choices of others," says the CLC's brief. "Pluralism is promoted by exposing children and adults to differing religious beliefs and practices in a community, in a respectful, accommodating way.

"When school officials show respect and tolerance for the religious diversity of the community, they promote this public value," the brief says. "This enriches the educational experience and builds understanding and respect. Just as racial harmony cannot grow in the soil of racial segregation, neither can religious harmony spring up in a system of 'religious apartheid.'"

The brief was filed May 14 in Lee v.

Weisman. That case resulted from two lower court rulings that said a rabbi's invocation and benediction mentioning God at a junior high school commencement exercise in Providence, R.I., formed an unconstitutional establishment of religion. The Court is expected to hear the case this fall or winter.

A cornerstone in the CLC's brief argues the ceremony was voluntary and thus did not violate the students' right to freedom of religious expression.

At issue in the court case and in the CLC's brief is the so-called Lemon Test, delineated in the Lemon v. Kurzman decision of 1971, as a basis for deciding whether a government activity violates the First Amendment's prohibition of establishment of religion.

The CLC's brief says the Lemon Test is flawed and should be replaced with a new formula that both protects against the establishment of any official religion while at the same time allowing freedom of religious expression.

Lemon has been praised by some who support the separation of church and state while others who also support the separation of church and state contend it has been irresponsibly used to strip the public arena of religious expression.

Lemon "will always favor those of no belief over those who do believe" said Richard D. Land, executive director of the CLC. "I have heard more than enough about the Lemon test as a longstanding bulwark of church-state separation," he said. "It's been around 20 years — only 20 years — and that's 20 years too long."

J. Brent Walker, associate counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said his organization will file a brief supporting the lower courts' rulings. The BJC's brief "will not defend Lemon per se" but "certainly the principle of neutrality imbedded in Lemon," Walker said. "We disagree with the Christian Life Commission's interpretation of the First Amend-

ment," he said. "We oppose casually discarding the time-honored Lemon Test for a water-weak standard of non-coercion. Lemon does not promote secularism in our society; it promotes religious neutrality in our government. And that's good for religion, not bad. Churches and synagogues do better when Caesar stays out of the precincts of religion. When Caesar comes in — even when trying to help — religion usually loses."

The CLC calls on the Supreme Court to replace the Lemon Test with one it proposes accommodates the "religious beliefs of the student community" but does not endorse "one form of religious belief over another." The CLC's proposed replacement is tougher than one proposed by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy and endorsed by U.S. Solicitor General Kenneth Starr, Land says, but more accommodating to religion than the Lemon Test. Some critics have said Kennedy's proposal endorses nonpreferential promotion of religion by the state.

"We're fearful that the Kennedy test is indeed a 'picket fence' that might easily be blown over by the strong winds of those who would seek an establishment or neo-establishment of religion," Land said.

The CLC's brief suggests the court replace Lemon with a standard based on the following guidelines adapted from a law review article by University of Chicago Law School professor Michael McConnell:

- "Does the official accommodation facilitate the exercise of religious beliefs and practices, adopted through private, family, church, and community influences, independent from state influence, rather than inducing or coercing beliefs and practices acceptable to the government?"
- "Does the accommodation interfere with the religious liberty of others by forcing them to participate in religious observance?"
- "Does the accommodation favor one form of religious belief over

another?" The Lemon Test requires any government practice survive a three-part standard to avoid being an establishment of religion:

- It must have a secular purpose;
- It can neither promote nor restrain religion;
- It must avert excessive entanglement with religion.

"The very formulation of the Lemon test seems to obscure the value of religious liberty," says the brief, written by CLC General Counsel Michael Whitehead.

## MSC volunteer joins student department

Bob Walden, retired associate in the division of student work with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, recently began work with the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Ministries Department as a Missions Service Corps volunteer.

He is endorsed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Walden's primary responsibilities is to serve as a liaison with the student ministries department of the Michigan Baptist Convention, said Ircel Harrison, TBC Student Ministries director.

He also will help identify needs for student work in Michigan and will secure Missions Service Corps student workers for Michigan, Harrison added.

Walden and his wife, Helen, are Tennessee natives and plan to live in Gatlinburg.

As a MSC volunteer, Walden receives no salary. Travel expenses are provided through the student missions fund of Tennessee BSU, Harrison said.



WALDEN

## Abortion issue study committee continues work

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's abortion issue study committee met May 14 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood to study its findings.

The committee, chaired by Anne Nolan of Signal Mountain, has been collecting information and resources for ministry in the area of human sexuality and abortion.

The committee, which was approved by the TBC Executive Board in November of 1989 and appointed by then Executive Board President Howard Olive of Maryville, has been determining what is being done throughout the TBC and Southern Baptist Convention, assessing Tennessee laws, identifying resources, determining what churches can do in response to the issue, and developing a methodology for the study that can be used by other state conventions.

The stated purpose of the committee is to study the abortion issue and bring recommendations to the Executive Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention concerning positive steps Tennessee Baptist churches can take to confront this issue. It was not intended for the group to be a political action committee.

Nolan said the committee has reached a consensus on what has been done and, after some rewriting, the committee hopes to bring recommendations to the Executive Board in September.

## HMB invites SBC messengers for 'celebration'

ATLANTA (BP) — A "Home Missions Celebration" will welcome Southern Baptists to the headquarters building of the denomination's Home Mission Board in Atlanta during the Southern Baptist Convention.

About 3000 visitors are expected to attend the celebration, carrying out the theme "At Home with Missions," on Wednesday, June 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. HMB President Larry Lewis urged

## Evangelists to meet during convention

ATLANTA — The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will meet here June 5 during the Southern Baptist Convention.

The conference will hold its 33rd annual session beginning at 2 p.m. in the Atlanta Baptist Tabernacle. Wednesday afternoon has no scheduled SBC sessions.

Program speakers include Rick Gage, Atlanta; Walter K. Ayers, Garland, Texas; and W. A. Criswell, Dallas. Special music will be presented by Daisy McGrew, Luke Garrett, and Greater Vision.

Baily E. Smith, Atlanta, is president of the evangelists' group.

Southern Baptists attending the convention in Atlanta to visit the Home Mission Board for the celebration Wednesday afternoon.

"This will be an opportunity to see first-hand your Home Mission Board at work, and to meet many of our missionaries, chaplains, and staff," Lewis said.

It will also be the last opportunity for the HMB to host convention messengers at its current building. HMB trustees have sold the property at 1350 Spring Street, with plans to move offices to a yet-to-be-determined location in metropolitan Atlanta in 1995, the next year the SBC meets in Atlanta.

The celebration will include four aspects: a reception where visitors can meet HMB missionaries, chaplains, and staff; a mission fair where visitors can see HMB materials and programs; an entertainment area featuring musical groups, clowns, and comedy acts; and a sit-down program in the HMB chapel where visitors can hear HMB missionaries tell about their work.

Three large tents will be placed on the HMB parking lot facing Spring Street where the mission fair, recep-

tion, and entertainment will take place. Entertainment will be presented in four 30-minute segments beginning at 2 p.m.

Chartered buses will run from the Georgia World Congress Center to the HMB.



**CP GIFT** — Earl Wilson, left, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, presents a check for \$155,632.70 to TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie. The check represents interest earned from trusts that were designated for the Cooperative Program. The amount represents a \$5000 increase over the same six-months period from last year.

# Our Readers Write

## Get together

The solution to our Southern Baptist problems may be very simple. Change the appointive powers of the president and in a very few years we could realize an enlarged tent and a balance of representation.

If the messengers at the SBC met in a state caucus and nominated two to four persons from which the president would appoint the Committee on Committees the broader representation and enlarged tent could begin almost immediately. This could be followed with a by-law change making each qualified state responsible for nominating their own members to the committee. There are details to be worked out, but it can be done. Such gainful action would:

- Depoliticize the office of president.
- Eliminate the necessity some feel to set up alternate funding and mission plans.
- Put the wisdom of the convention in

the hands of a broad representation from every state.

- Enhance the diminishing Cooperative Program receipts.
- Restore trust and integrity to all our boards, commissions, and agencies and improve the image of Southern Baptists before the world.

I wrote to President Chapman in April for his counsel but have not received a reply to date.

Reconciliation is far superior to division or disintegration. United we can still be more than we can be divided. There must be thousands of you who want reconciliation as I do. Let's become a vocal majority and do something to keep our denomination together.

P. A. Michel, pastor  
Belmont Heights Church  
Nashville 37212

## Needs hymnals

After growing up in East Tennessee with the huge smorgasbord of Southern

director of missions. Prior to coming to Beulah Association, George worked on the staff of the Michigan Baptist State Convention.

During the school, five classes were offered on singing techniques, children's choir leadership, music in worship, congregational song leading, and music reading. A congregational hymn sing also was held using the new Baptist Hymnal.

In addition to working with the approximately 40 "students" enrolled in the school, the team also utilized other skills. Doss used his training and experience as a piano technician to tune five pianos in four churches. Freed provided several trombone solos and Mrs. Cook served as accompanist for the school.

## Beulah musicians travel to Michigan

Five church musicians from Beulah Association continued the "Musicians on Mission" emphasis begun by the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board when they traveled to Flint, Mich., in April and conducted an associational singing school for Genesee Association.

The group was sponsored by Beulah Association and the home churches of the musicians. Making the trip were Fred Freed, First Church, Troy; Ken Parrish, Calvary Church, Union City; and Elwood Doss Jr., and Rev. and Mrs. Russell Cook of First Church, Martin. Freed, Parrish, and Doss are ministers of music at their respective churches.

The mission trip was coordinated by Doss, who also serves as associational director of music, and William George,

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

Baptist churches, it has been an adjustment moving to Germany where the nearest Southern Baptist church is 25 miles away.

God has brought several families who travel long distances together in our church, and we are now able to start a mission in our own neighborhood. We would greatly appreciate donations of any editions of the Baptist Hymnal. More importantly, we covet your prayers as we seek to minister to the thousands of American military members and their families who live in our area.

Becky Walker  
1146 Mountain View  
New Market 37820

## What's in a name

The Wall Street Journal of May 13 contains an interesting if not enlightening article on its front page regarding Second Baptist of Houston, Texas. The article describes this church as a "megachurch," the hottest thing in Protestantism. With a membership of 12,000, an auditorium seating 6000 with a choir of 400 voices, it is characterized as serving up a Christianity that is mostly conservative and to the point, stripped of most of the old hymns, liturgy, and

dogma that tend to bore the video generation.

Many of us have questioned whether control of the Southern Baptist Convention has in fact fallen into the hands of non-Baptists. Since many of the current SBC leaders are associated with similar churches, perhaps the answer is contained in the statement of the Rev. Charles L. Martin III, a staff member at Second Baptist who is quoted as saying — "I'm not so certain that if the church were started today the word Baptist would be in the name."

James W. Edwards  
106 Longview Ridge  
Hendersonville 37075

## North as speaker

What message do those who invited Col. North to address our pastors in Atlanta wish to convey? His excuse for his action regarding the Iran matter is based upon situational ethics. Certainly everyone is sometime guilty of justifying an act because of a desirable end, but I suggest this highly publicized invitation appears to give some approval to this principle by the Southern Baptist Convention.

If this was not considered, could the decision have been based upon the old adage: "Politics make strange bed fellows." Perhaps this is one example of why there should be an absolute separation of church and state.

Thomas A. Greer, Jr.  
P.O. Box 547  
Dunlap 37327

## Center Point Church calls Johnny Underwood

Johnny Underwood has been named pastor of Center Point Church, Charleston. He was pastor of Hilltop Church, Chattanooga.

Underwood also served as pastor of Burlington Heights Church, Cleveland. The native of Cleveland was ordained by the city's Chestua Church.

He is married to Ardonna Underwood.

## Going to Atlanta?

# Here are some helpful tips for the SBC

Many Tennessee Baptists will be attending the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 4-6 at the World Congress Center in Atlanta. The following information is supplied to help you during your stay in Atlanta.

### Medical

The Georgia Baptist Medical Center will be providing a first-aid center during the Southern Baptist Convention. J. David Baxter and David Anders will serve as medical co-directors. Both are board certified specialists in internal medicine at GBMC. They offer the following advice:

- If you have a known medical condition, make certain you bring an adequate supply of your prescription medications.
- Check with your personal physician before leaving home to see if you should take any medical information (e.g. a copy of a recent EKG) with you in the unlikely event you have problems while in Atlanta.
- Anticipate the amount of walking required at a convention. Make sure you bring comfortable walking shoes.
- Pack a small medicine kit with items like aspirin (or similar analgesic), bandaids, antacids,

decongestants, etc.

### Directions to World Congress Center

**From the North** — Take I-75/85 South, exit at Williams Street (Exit 99) and follow the Omni/WCC signs.

**From the South** — Take I-75/85 North, exit at International Blvd. (Exit 96-A) and follow the signs.

**From I-20 East or West** — Take the I-75/85 North exit, then exit at International Blvd. and follow signs. You can re-enter the expressway on Williams or Ellis streets.

### Transportation and Parking

**Marta — Downtown Shuttles**  
There are no special downtown shuttles scheduled for the SBC. The excellent MARTA rapid rail system serves the downtown area, most SBC hotels, and the airport. MARTA brochures are available at the SBC information booths in the WCC and the airport that list locations of many of the hotels and sites of interest. You may even find it easier to use MARTA to and from the airport than a cab or limousine. Most SBC hotels will be on the North-South line, the majority near the Peachtree Center, Arts Center, and Lenox stations.

The Omni/World Congress Center station is on the East-West line.

You may transfer from buses to

trains at no extra cost. MARTA tokens cost \$1 and may be purchased at windows or machines in the stations. It is recommended that you purchase a special MARTA pass available at the SBC information tables. Five days of unlimited travel is \$7. If you plan to park at a MARTA lot and ride the train to the WCC, remember that the north lots and Avondale tend to fill up early. Plan to pay \$1 (or a token) to park whether or not you have purchased a pass.

### Bus/RV/SBC Volunteer Parking

A secure lot at the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium has been reserved for local SBC volunteers, buses, and RVs. There will be a slight charge for buses and RVs. All bus and RV passengers should be dropped off at the WCC and the driver only should proceed to the special lot. Only drivers and SBC volunteers will be able to use the shuttle to the WCC. Buses and RVs can be parked in some of the lots near Marietta and Foundry streets, but prepare to pay for every space you use.

**TIPS:** Most lots charge between \$4 and \$9 per day, no in and out. Hotel lots, a couple of prime lots on Marietta Street, and lots nearer Peachtree sometimes are much

more expensive, many times charging by the ½ hour. Usually a daily flat fee is paid as you enter. Having several \$1 bills available can increase your options since many lots are self-serve. Park in a numbered space and place the appropriate charge in the slot corresponding to your parking space number in the big sign board. Note: They do check the boards and will tow if you have not paid. **Follow the parking rules.** Having your car towed can be an extremely frustrating and expensive experience.

**Handicap parking area** is behind the Omni, accessible by International Blvd. Many lots along Marietta St. also reserve several spaces for handicapped parking.

**Note:** Unauthorized vehicles are impounded from loading zones during truck loading hours. Also vehicles are impounded from taxi stands when the space is needed for a taxi and at the request of the taxi driver. Illegal parking charges range from \$10 for overtime parking to \$60 for parking in a handicapped parking space. Parking illegally in a restricted space or zone has a charge of \$25 and during the rush hours this charge is increased to \$40. — *The Christian Index*

# Porter takes early retirement to run for SBC office

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Lee Porter has announced plans for early retirement from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, a condition required for his quest for a 15th term as Southern Baptist Convention registration secretary.

Porter, 61, was told last October he could not be nominated as a convention officer in Atlanta in June and continue to be an employee of the BSSB. He said that restriction was "reaffirmed

by board management to me this week."

"Therefore, today (May 16), I am submitting my notice of early retirement (from the board) on July 1, 1991," Porter said in a statement released to Baptist Press. "On that date I will have completed 15 years of service (at the board). This early retirement may not be a wise, practical decision from a human perspective. From a financial perspective it may be a disastrous decision as I will

receive approximately 20 percent of my current salary in early retirement.

"But, as a moral decision, it is the only decision I can make and it is the decision of conscience I believe God is leading me to make."

Gary Cook, vice president for church programs and services for the BSSB, said Porter's decision was accepted with regret by the administration.

Porter said the board leadership was making a "radical change in policy" in not allowing him to be renominated for the SBC post.

"Since 1917, board employees Hight C. Moore, Porter Routh, Joe Burton, Clifton Allen, Martin Bradley, and myself have served a total of 85 years as convention officers. This decision by the administration and trustees ordering me not to even allow my name in nomination if I wanted to continue as an employee ... is a radical change in policy, which I must protest," said Porter.

"I will allow my name to be put in nomination for registration secretary ... In my time of service I believe we

## Tennesseans in . . .

(Continued from page 1)

speculating that they possibly hesitate to permit pictures of camps with dwindling numbers of refugees.

Yeghnazar said none of the Southern Baptist volunteers in Iran have been mistreated. "The difficulty is that ... we haven't been able to move as fast as we hoped," he said. The situation should become clearer in "another day or so. The picture changes so fast. I think things now are going to go towards the better."

have added a sense of integrity and confidence to the registration and balloting process. If the messengers at the convention believe that the cause of Christ, denominational harmony, and continued confidence in the integrity of the registration and balloting process could be extended with my serving as registration secretary and they vote to re-elect me, then I will be most happy to serve my convention and my Lord."

## Lawrence County calls J. C. Carpenter

J. C. Carpenter, program associate of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department since 1986 has been called as director of missions of Lawrence County Association of Baptists effective July 1.

Carpenter is a former director of missions of Duck River Association. He also served as pastor of Trinity Church, Manchester; Plano Church, Bowling Green, Ky.; Byrdstown Church, Byrdstown; and Memorial Church, Livingston. Additionally, he was county missionary in Louisa, Ky.

A native of Pineville, Ky., Carpenter is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Carpenter and his wife, Bettie, have four grown children.



CARPENTER

## WMU group forms bonds . . .

(Continued from page 1)

uncommon treat the children were careful not to let them burst.

Despite good preparation, reported Towns, a volunteer realizes he or she must pray for guidance and "go in the confidence of the Lord."

Flexibility was necessary, explained both Large and Towns, because of the differing needs. During the meeting on the island of Luzon, the team trained about 275 women gathered to celebrate a rather young anniversary of the organization — the tenth — so their conferences had to be foundational.

## Forum to meet prior to SBC

ATLANTA (BP) — The eighth annual meeting of SBC Forum will take place Monday, June 3, at Atlanta's Wieuca Road Church. The meeting will convene at 2 p.m.

Program leaders will include Dan Martin, former news editor of Baptist Press and now pastor of Ledger Church, Bakersville, N.C.; John Hewett, pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C.; Forum president and newly-elected moderator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; Carolyn Cole Bucy, outgoing president of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry and youth minister at Lake Shore Church, Waco, Texas; and Jerry Naff, minister of music at Smoke Rise Church, Stone Mountain, Ga.

Participants will receive a proposal from the Forum steering committee recommending the dissolution of SBC Forum, Inc., and the transfer of assets to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to assist in funding its annual convocation.

On Mindanao island, they attended with about 325 others the 17th annual meeting of WMU, which is more developed after 25 years of growth. On the island of Cebu, they participated in the inaugural gathering.

The first WMU team of the two-and-a-half year old partnership led the first workshops ever held for WMU meetings in the Philippines. Using the national materials, the trainers introduced conferees to participatory learning, said Large. During these events she learned many of the women cannot afford to buy materials. The Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds subsidize some of these needs, she said.

Large also got to participate in a commissioning service for a young woman who felt called during one of the meetings to do WMU work in Hong Kong. "It was another very high hour," she noted.

The team toured mission sites like the Baptist-sponsored Rural Life Center in Mindanao and the refugee center in Morang north of Manila. Missionary Doug Kellum leads a ministry at the refugee center which teaches computer science, construction, auto mechanics, and familiarity with a modern home.

Most of the team members met 63 Southern Baptist missionaries during the trip, reported Large.

Team members also included Betty Summers, First Church, Camden; Polly Cole, Second Church, Union City; Lola Byrd, Edgemoor Church, Powell; Carolyn Outland, Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro; Pam Ensley, Waterville Church, Cleveland; and Peggy Trammel, Shop Springs Church, Lebanon. — Connie Davis



TENNESSEANS NAMED — At a meeting of a Baptist group called the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Atlanta May 9-11, four Tennesseans were elected to represent the state on the Fellowship's coordinating council. From left, Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Church, Nashville; Annette Avery, First Church, Chattanooga; Roger Lovette, pastor of Second Church, Memphis; and Bill Savell Jr., First Church, Maryville. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

# One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

How easy it is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ when circumstances heal our wounds of differences and our minds are filled with his truths.

We embarked from the dock near the Galei Kinneret Hotel, Tiberias, on the Galilee's western banks. The air was exceedingly fresh, almost still; it was a quiet Sunday morning.

We, the small band of Christian journalists, were headed toward Capernaum on the north slopes — and then on to Dan, and Ceasarea Philippi, on the Golan Heights.

As the boat pushed along the Galilee's waters, each of us had moments for reverie. Left alone for a while, we pondered the Bible verses that spoke so clearly of days from the lives of Christ and his disciples — around Galilee.

Someone read to us about the stormy waves that pounded the sides of a little fishing boat two millenia ago — and how the disciples were frightened. But Jesus, the Master — Jesus slept.

They awakened him and expressed in less than calm voices their fears of death and disaster. He answered with assurance — and the wind died to a whisper. The waves that had so boisterously lashed the vessel subsided to a gentle lapping when he spoke, or perhaps raised his arms.

And then he talked with them about faith. I am guessing they felt remorse and embarrassment at such a quick seizure of panic. I believe they must have promised him, "Master, no

longer will we doubt."

In our own time we have opportunity to improve on the same faithlessness that sometimes enslaved the first disciples. After all, we know the Christ because they and many, many others have witnessed of Him to us. We are the beneficiaries of Scripture and prayer and witness.

We sang, with a group of English pilgrims — and some from Denmark, familiar Christian hymns.

Let's sing together number 858 from the song sheet (he had handed out), "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," the English leader said. We did sing it, even the Christians from Denmark loudly and with meaning.

We were one in the Spirit — American, English, and Dane. For a few minutes, three groups agreed on something — the Christian life in community.

We talked briefly and then we reached Capernaum. It was easy to sing with them, to talk with them, to renew our spirits with them — because we had commonality and there was no reason (or excuse) to divide or splinter apart. Too soon we returned to our own interests.

Jesus, our Lord, can and does calm the waves and the winds. But we have to be willing.



ALLEN

Record number go

# Spring break finds C-N students working across U.S.

By Nancy Tallent

JEFFERSON CITY — What do Muslims in Detroit, Canadian tourists in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Catholic nuns in rural Kentucky have in common?

They were among the many people whose lives were touched by the ministry of 140 Carson-Newman College students who shared Christ in ten states and the Bahamas earlier this year on spring break.

The students were divided into 13 SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) teams, an increase of five teams and 50 students over the previous year. It was the largest group ever sent out by Carson-Newman.

Five teams shared in inner cities including Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Nashville, Charlotte, N.C., and Detroit, Mich.

The team which traveled to Michigan was sponsored jointly by the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the student ministries department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. C-N was one of five colleges in the nation to participate in this project and the only Baptist school involved.

While in Detroit the students visited three mosques and the Islamic student center at Wayne State University. During the week students had opportunity to dialogue with Muslim religious

leaders and to share the Gospel one on one with Muslim teenagers, college students, and professionals.

The team was joined in Detroit by Fuad Shorrosh, director of language missions for Hamilton County Association, who provided training on Islam.

Three BSU music teams ministered in several states including South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

SPOTS teams also worked with three Baptist institutions: Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, Chattanooga; Georgia Baptist Children's Home, Baxley; and Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. Students on these teams witnessed through recreational activities, chapel services, and individual sharing.

One team worked with a newly-established Habitat for Humanity chapter in Phelps, Ky. The C-N group worked alongside Catholic nuns and members of the community to help convert an abandoned church into a bunkhouse for future work teams. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization which helps people build and repair their own homes.

The final group was a five-member team which conducted a week-long revival involving Baptist churches in Nassau, the Bahamas.

Three area churches — First Church, Jefferson City, First Church, Morristown, and Lebanon Church, Talbot — participated in co-sponsoring the teams by loaning church vans, offering financial support, and sending church members as laborers.

Other churches which provided financial support for students from their churches were Red Bank Church, Chattanooga; First Church, Madisonville; and First Church, Elizabethton.

An estimated 25 people made first-time commitments to Christ and many more rededicated their lives.

In addition, the lives of those C-N students who participated also were affected.

"I can't look at life the same way anymore," said Sean Lares of Morristown who participated in the Muslim project in Michigan.

Eric Stitts of Bayside Church, Harrison, participated in the revival in the Bahamas. He noted the experience "showed me how important missions really is." — Tallent is BSU director at Carson-Newman College

## Lyons Creek Church calls Kenneth Smith

Kenneth D. "Kenny" Smith recently accepted the call to become pastor of Lyons Creek Church in Strawberry Plains.

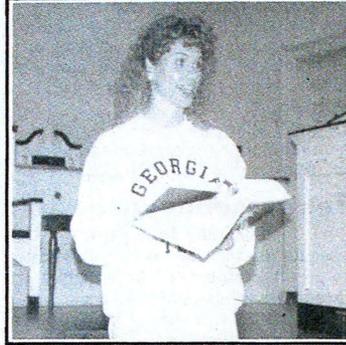
A graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Smith formerly was pastor of Springhill Church in Paris.

He also has been pastor of First Church, Ridgely, and First Church, West Melbourne, Fla.

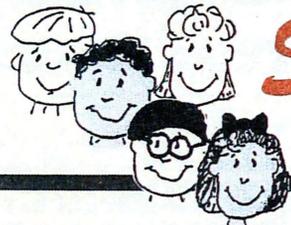
Smith and his wife, the former Susan Murphy of Trimble, have two daughters, Rachel and Amy.



**BSU LEADER** — Lorena Stitts, far left on back row, BSU president from Harrison, is pictured with residents of the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Baxley. Her dad, Bob Stitts, is pastor of Bayside Church, Harrison.

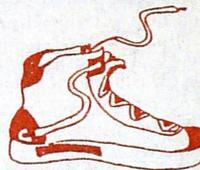


**TESTIMONY TIME** — Paula Insko shares her testimony in chapel at the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Baxley. Insko was sponsored by her home church, First Church, Madisonville. — Photos by Jennifer Jones



# Shoe Strings

"the kids' fun page"



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

### Use your Bible to match the Father(s) and son(s)

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Abraham | Moses          |
| 2. Zebedee | Jesus          |
| 3. Saul    | Jacob and Esau |
| 4. Amram   | Joseph         |
| 5. Isaac   | Solomon        |
| 6. God     | James and John |
| 7. Jacob   | Jonathan       |
| 8. David   | Isaac          |



- ANSWERS**
- |                            |
|----------------------------|
| 1. Abraham, Isaac          |
| 2. Zebedee, James and John |
| 3. Saul, Jonathan          |
| 4. Amram, Moses            |
| 5. Isaac, Jacob and Esau   |
| 6. God, Jesus              |
| 7. Jacob, Joseph           |
| 8. David, Solomon          |

### Brian goes fishin'

"It's time to get up," said Gramps. The fish are bitin'." Brian growled, rolled over, and found his Nikes. "Fishing! Where's the sun?" Gramps smiled and said, "It'll be up before we get to the lake."

As Brian's dad backed the mini-van out of the garage, Brian grabbed a pop tart. The drive to the lake was over in 35 minutes. When the mini-van stopped, Brian woke up. He stretched, yawned, and opened the tail gate to help the other "men" with the fishin' gear.

The sun peeped over the tree tops (just as Gramps said it would). Gramps climbed into the front, Brian sat in the middle, and Brian's dad pushed the old green boat into the water, just getting his toes wet.

After baiting their hooks the guys made three perfect casts (well Brian's worm fell off and he had to find a new worm.). Five then ten minutes went past, and nothing happened. Brian was getting bored when Gramps said, "I have a big one!" Brian helped Gramps land his big one (it was only four inches long... some big one!). Then a shout came from the back of the boat, "I have a bite," said Brian's dad. But, it got away. With all the excitement of helping Dad, Brian didn't notice his pole bending toward the water. Gramps and dad both said at the same time, "Brian you've got a bite." Gramps said, "It looks like a whale!"

The "whale" worked Brian for five minutes. Back and forth, inch by inch Brian brought the catch close enough for Gramps to use the net. Smiling and almost jumping out of the boat, Brian said, "It's not a whale, but it's minel! Pass me another worm!"

### Happy Father's Day

#### A Gift for Father's Day

Clip these coupons and give to your dad or step-dad. When he gives it back do the job cheerfully.

Give me a hug!  
 Good for many hugs.

Yard work.  
 Good for pulling weeds,  
 raking, and other things.

Trash is trash.  
 Take out all the trash!

The car is dirty.  
 Help wash the car.

Your clothes and toys  
 are not put away.  
 Clean up your room!

Leads state to third largest enrollment gain

## Discipleship Training team works, plays together

By Connie Davis, assistant editor

Johnnie Hall's office is filled with memorabilia. Among photos of his family and knick-knacks sits a Goo-Goo candy dispenser. On a bookshelf sits a commemorative bottle of Coca-Cola for the 1985 Southeastern Conference University of Tennessee football champions. Perched on his sofa is a picture of the 1962 Southern Baptist Convention meeting, his first.

Hall, director, Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department, began giving away Goo-Gos to honorees during the '70s. It has become his trademark as he has given away thousands of the Nashville-produced candy. Hall still loves Goo-Gos though he's on a sugar-restricted diet, but his love for the UT Volunteers dates back to his boyhood in Rogersville.

Known for sporting orange, even a solid orange sports jacket. Hall has received orange coveralls, overalls, pillowcases, a bath mat, and an autographed football from friends across the state.

"I've never let a Big Orange ballgame interfere with my loyalty to my work. ... I've been accused of it, but I haven't," he declared wryly.

Hall's sense of God's call also is bigger than the demands of work or misunderstandings among people.

That call became clear through a relationship with Charles Norton, former director now retired in Nashville. Norton and Hall both attended Judson Church, where they

*"I've never let a Big Orange ballgame interfere with my loyalty to my work. ... I've been accused of it, but I haven't."*

met. Part-time summer work for the TBC Department offered by Norton while Hall was a Belmont College student led Hall to discover his call.

During seminary training in Louisville, Ky., Norton's offer of part-time weekend work subsidized his family of four and affirmed his call, which Norton confirmed by hiring him full-time after graduation. Hall still serves the department 31 years later.

The department not only leads the state's Discipleship Training program in local churches. Church Administration, which includes pastoral, deacon, and secretarial training, and senior adult ministries are directed by Hall and his staff.

"Facets of the work are demanding, but exciting, because you're doing so many different things," he explained.

"I believe the Biblical imperative in Matthew 28:18-20 is not to go, but to make disciples as we go.

"If a church is going to become a New Testament church, training disciples is not optional because we have a mandate from God to disciple. We must train our disciples — those individuals we choose or those who commit their lives to Jesus Christ."

Rewards of his work are people's changed lives, said Hall.

In his work in church administration he meets with church staffs "who are hurting," said Hall. "It thrills me to help them by planning and holding a meeting that meets the need and gives them support in their calling to the



**DT TEAM** — The Discipleship Training team includes, from left, Mary Allen, youth director; Johnnie Hall Jr., director; Don Mauldin, adult director; and Cindy Franks, preschool/children's ministry.

He loves to work with senior adults. The annual senior adult conference which Hall began in 1974 has drawn as many as 1400. "They have so much to offer churches and associations. I have seen person after person put on the shelf. Because of their experience in the community, longevity, walk with God, they have so much to offer."

Another highlight of his work is summer camp, he added. "Ten or 15 years later they will remind you, 'Mr. Hall, it was at camp that God called me.' Nobody can take that from you. ... We (Baptists) may differ doctrinally or theologically, but the lives God allows you to touch, that's what's important."

Just as the convention has undergone changes through the years, Hall has viewed and participated in changes in the program — Baptist Training Union to Church Training and now to Discipleship Training. The curriculum includes short courses like equipping centers and MasterLife. And members are encouraged not to be restricted by the once traditional Sunday evening meeting time.

Through the years the state enrollment has fluctuated, but last year it increased by 20,000, ranking Tennessee third among states in enrollment increase.

"I don't want to take the praise. The staff, the churches out there did that. I hope I was able to motivate some a little bit," said Hall.

His staff, a close-knit group, includes Don Mauldin, adult director; Mary Allen, youth director; and Cindy Franks, preschool/children's director. On trips across the state they travel together, breaking up the hours with stops to visit favorite restaurants and stores. The group is even known to visit Sly, a ten foot python whose owner, Skinner, runs a flea market at the Linden exit of Interstate 40.

Mauldin, dubbed as the "K-Mart trooper" and jack-of-all-trades by the group, joined the staff in 1976 when Hall became director after the retirement of Norton. He is also known for his mission work. Mauldin has led three groups from his church, Woodmont Church, Nashville, to Sierra Leone.

The South Carolinian served as associate pastor/minister of education

Church, West Monroe, La., before accepting the TBC position.

Known for her jesting and self-effacing humor, she receives a great amount of feedback from youth with whom she has worked, reports her coworkers. Many are church leaders now, she reported. One former student called Allen while he was in Nashville on his honeymoon.

"I want to continue to make Discipleship Training exciting and interesting to youth and leaders," said Allen. She prepares something new for every conference to help her knowledge grow, she said. In her work with Sunday School she is promoting an improved youth curriculum.

Another Texan, Cindy Franks, is the risk-taker of the group, the members reported. She runs marathons, has an orange belt in Karate, enjoys western and English style horseback riding, health food cooking, and training her dog, Roscoe.

Formerly Franks was minister of preschool/children at Gambrell Street Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and First Church, Norcross, Ga.; and associate to minister of preschool/children, First Church, Orlando, Fla. Her father, James Franks, a pastor who is deceased, was from West Tennessee.

In addition to her age level responsibility and the department-wide work, Franks leads the Children's Bible Drill competition across the state, in which participation has been growing, she reported.

Her emphasis is training preschool/children's associational leaders and promoting the new Discipleship Training preschool curriculum which will be available Oct. 1.



The department team is rounded out by Garnette Hogan, administrative secretary for five years, Ann White, secretary at the TBC for 13 years; and Lois Sloan, secretary for nearly five years.

The motto of this group seems to be: The team that plays together stays together.



**MORE DT TEAM** — Also a part of the Discipleship Training team are, from left, Ann White, Garnette Hogan, and Lois Sloan.

# Carroll County churches hold tent crusade

**MCLEMORESVILLE** — Churches in west Carroll County can attest it's never too late for hope.

One year after the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's "Here's Hope" revival emphasis, several churches in west Carroll County decided to continue the Here's Hope theme.

The idea for an evangelistic crusade was developed by Billy Harris, pastor of McLemoresville Church in McLemoresville.

Harris enlisted the help of 12 other churches, including some from other denominations. The churches, the majority of which are small and have bivocational pastors, pledged support for the crusade which was held in April with evangelist John Bramlett of Memphis and music evangelist John Norvell of First Church, Bemis.

Bramlett, who starred in both football and baseball at Memphis State University, played professional football for several National Football League teams. He was twice a Pro Bowl player and was runnerup to Joe Namath in 1965 for Rookie of the Year.

Harris observed that a major goal of the churches was to reach young people in west Carroll County. "To our surprise we were allowed to take John Bramlett into four high schools and



**LOCAL LEADERS** — Helping carry out the recent crusade effort in west Carroll County were the following. From left, front row, John Bramlett, evangelist; C. E. Pipkin, Jimmy Scott, Malcolm Norton, John Rummage; back row, James Smith, John Penney, Thomas Barber, Aaron Summers, John Hill, and Billy Harris.

two junior highs," Harris said. He noted that Bramlett, because of his sports background, was able to get the young people's interest and was able to share how God had changed his life.

Bramlett also spoke to students at four area colleges, including Union University, and to inmates at the Carroll County Jail.

At the jail, Bramlett gave his testimony and preached about how Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected. Eleven inmates accepted Christ as their Savior, Harris said.

He noted that George Hill, director of missions for Carroll-Benton Association, and Buddy Chandler, associational Brotherhood director, recorded the decisions in order that they could be followed up later.

The crusade was held in a tent supplied by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department. Carl Allen of Murfreesboro assisted in setting up the tent.

The tent had a seating capacity of 475 inside with 150 seats around the tent. There was an average nightly at-

tendance of 525 people with a high attendance of 560, Harris noted.

An amazing thing is the attendance at the tent crusade was more people than who actually live in McLemoresville, Harris observed.

"God did a wonderful thing for our churches and community. We prayed, worked, served, rejoiced, and worshiped together as Christians.

"Today our Baptist, Methodist, Independent Methodist, and Presbyterian brothers and sisters, both black and white, realize a greater appreciation and respect for each other as we continue to serve the same Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," Harris said.

While acknowledging the churches did not meet all their goals in the five-day crusade, "we're closer than we were," Harris said.

The crusade netted 36 professions of faith and four rededications. Including the outside groups, Bramlett spoke 16 times to about 4522 people in five days.

Harris said he learned God "still works in the Bible Belt buckle area in small bivocational-led churches."

Leaders in developing the crusade, in addition to Harris, were pastors C. E. Pipkin, Mt. Ararat Church; Jimmy Scott, First Church, Atwood; Malcolm Norton, First Church, Trezevant; James Smith, Lavinia Church; John Penney, McLemoresville Methodist Church; Thomas Barber, Christ Chapel; Aaron Summers, Union Academy Church; John Hill, Reedy Creek Church; Billy Murphy, Howse Church; Don McCurley, Cool Springs Presbyterian Church; Lawrence Ragland, New Reedy Creek Church; and Joe Harris, associate pastor, McLemoresville Church.

## About 6000 attend crusade in Harrogate

The largest group ever to gather for the annual Greater Cumberland Gap Crusade — about 6000 — attended April 21-25. Additionally 231 people made professions of faith and 74 made other decisions, reported Director of Missions Bill Hazlewood. The crusade is sponsored by Cumberland Gap Baptist Association.

One of the reasons for the record crowd, explained Hazlewood, is the availability of the newly completed arena of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. The crusade is an

outreach to the tri-state area including Kentucky and Virginia, he added.

Rick Gage, evangelist and crusade speaker, addressed 18 other groups, mostly students, or about 10,000 other people.

Hazlewood, who has coordinated the crusade during his 22-year career as director of missions, described the crusade as the best ever held.

Revivals have broken out in several churches following the crusade, he reported.

"The movement of the spirit of God was supernatural. I can't explain it. ... It's like we've been climbing a mountain and we reached the top," said Hazlewood.

## Gallaher goes to Iron City

First Church, Iron City, has called Charles Gallaher as pastor from El Bethel Church, Shelbyville.

The Missouri native also has served as pastor of Oakland Church, Springfield; Eldad Church, Trenton; and churches in Missouri.

He and his wife, Wanda, have two children.

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Published on the 50th anniversary of Dr. H. Franklin Paschall's ministry, *The Gospel in Balance* contains 15 of his most significant sermons as delivered on special occasions. They range from his addresses as President of the SBC to a testimony of his personal faith in Jesus Christ. Ministers and laypersons alike will find these messages challenging as they seek to live a balanced Christian life. A brief introduction to each sermon establishes the context of the occasion for which it was delivered. These sermons represent the fruit of 50 years of preaching by a premier Southern Baptist. \$10.00 per copy.



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# TenneScene

...Starting at Bumpus Mills, down to Hurricane Mills, and on to Cypress Inn...

## Leadership ...

Don Stanfield is serving as pastor of Covenant Church, Cleveland.

First Church, Finger, recently called Paul Weaver as pastor. He formerly served the church as interim pastor.

Harold McNabb has been called as pastor of Unaka Church, Elizabethton. He was formerly pastor of Grace Church, Johnson City.

Samples Memorial Church, Cleveland, called Lee Ingram as pastor.

Edgemoor Church, Clinton, called Jerry Loveday as part-time minister of music.

Ronnie Sells is the new pastor of First Church, Crump.

Clifford Smith was recently called as pastor to Butler Church, Butler.

Wade Carver is now serving Grace Church, Ripley, as interim pastor.

Shady Springs Church, Oldfort, called H. A. Reagan as pastor.

## People ...

Scott Alan Rushing of Merton Avenue Church, Memphis, has been chosen as Belmont College's fourth Madden Scholar. The Madden Scholarship was established in 1987 in honor of Tom Madden, retired executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The four-year, full scholarship is awarded to an entering freshman who has a desire to prepare for pastoral ministry in Southern Baptist churches. Rushing graduated in May with honors from Raleigh-Egypt High School in Memphis.



RUSHING

Members of Eastland Church, Nashville, will honor Bertha Hall July 7 for her 100th birthday. Her friends

are invited to attend the celebration from 2-4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

## BSU ...

Joyce Rickman has been named to the newly created position of associate director of Baptist Student Ministries in the Chattanooga area. She has been serving as interim Baptist Student Union director at Chattanooga State Technical Community College since 1989.

## Revivals ...

First Church, Rickman, will hold revival May 22-25. Ken McMillen will be evangelist.

Henry Linginfelter recently spoke at revival at Ridgeview Church, Knoxville. There were 29 professions of faith, and two people joined the church by letter. In addition, several people rededicated their lives.

## Ordinations ...

Park Avenue Church, Nashville, ordained Steve Lunch, David Thompson, Steve Arsenault, Johnny Hines, Eddie Hales, Doug Owen, Eddie McGill, and Craig Holloway as deacons May 15.

## Churches ...

Members of First Church, Clifton, recently dedicated their remodeled sanctuary and new youth Sunday School classroom.

Members of Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, will celebrate homecoming May 26. The speaker will be Tom Mosley, former pastor. Luncheon will be served at noon with special music following. Also the sanctuary has been redecorated with new carpet and pew cushions. The church has a new public address system.

The congregation of Dallas Bay Southern Mission, Hixson, will move into a new church building by the end of summer. The new facility includes a sanctuary, which will seat 250 people; education space, and a fellowship hall.

## New Union honors church pianist

New Union Church, Medon, recently honored church pianist Velma Tims on the occasion of her 90th birthday and for serving 64 years as church pianist.

Born April 11, 1901, Mrs. Velma, as she is affectionately known, played for her first church service on a pump organ when she was nine years old at Grand Junction Methodist Church in Hardeman County. She began playing at New Union in 1927.

In 1932 she married Chester Tims, who died in 1971. Tims served as New Union's music director, and together the couple provided music for literally hundreds of funerals, weddings, and revival services, both within the church and throughout the area.

"It is a rare occasion when Mrs. Velma misses a service, and then it is only to visit her sister or brother, both of whom live out of town. She plays for every Sunday and Wednesday service and for every revival. She's truly amazing," said Danny Moss, pastor of New Union.

Church organist Wayman Barker



**TENNESSEANS RETIRE** — Cecil and Jean Thompson, who served as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries for almost 35 years, were honored recently at a farewell banquet. They first served in Argentina, and since 1977, were at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas. They began a six-months furlough in May prior to retirement on Nov. 1. They are staying during furlough in a missionary house provided by First Church, Concord, in Knoxville. Mrs. Thompson was reared in Knoxville while her husband is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. They are pictured with their daughter, Becky.

An education addition and multipurpose room have been added to the building of Meadowview Church, Georgetown.

The congregation of Bethlehem Church, Greenfield, began a building program to add fellowship space and a new sanctuary.

## Belmont promotes Suzanne Matheny

Suzanne Matheny has been promoted from associate dean to dean of students at Belmont College, Nashville.

Matheny has served as associate dean of students and director of counseling at Belmont since June 1, 1985. She served as director of Belmont's Baptist Student Union from 1981 until 1985, when her responsibilities were expanded.

From Knoxville, Matheny is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

She was assistant dean of students at Carson-Newman from 1971-1978.

added, "Mrs. Velma has been my inspiration since I was a child. She seldom has to open a hymnal. She can play any hymn in any key. She says, 'Just tell me the starting note.'"



**90 YEARS YOUNG** — Danny Moss, pastor of New Union Church, Medon, presents a certificate to Velma Tims on the occasion of her 90th birthday and 64th anniversary as church pianist.

# TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Do you know the person who directs the work of your local Baptist association? They were once called associational missionaries, but we now call them directors of missions.

They are important people in the work of the Lord. They lead the associations to develop and carry out programs that grow the churches and reach the lost. They help put in place ministries that meet special needs in the area covered by the association. They assist churches and pastors in times of crisis. They are advocates for state, home, and foreign missionaries among the churches. They encourage churches to be truly



LOWRIE

missionary in their outlook and priorities.

Do you pray for your director of missions? They do not have a church to hold them up in prayer like a church will hold up their pastor. Their names do not appear on the list of home and foreign missionaries that we pray for daily. Yet they bear the burden of the churches. They need someone to pray for them.

As a pastor I prayed for the staff of our association by name every week. I extended my own ministry as I enabled their ministry through prayer. I am now praying regularly for every director of missions in our state by name.

Let me encourage you to make a prayer commitment to them during our associational missions emphasis. Your prayers will enhance the work of your association.



**GROUND BREAKING** — First Church, Blountville, broke ground April 28 for their Family Life Center. The new building will house youth and children's education space, kitchen, stage area, as well as fellowship and recreation space. The project will also include renovation of the existing education building. Pictured above are, from left, Clay Austin, pastor; John Mize, chairman of the building committee; Lee Roy Arwood, chairman of deacons; Pete Perry, chairman of the Arise and Build steering committee; and Tal Thompson, director of missions, Holston Association.

# Poll shows what pastors should know about 'average' Americans

**By Mark Wingfield**  
 NEWARK, N.J. (BP) — Every pastor needs to know at least seven things about the average American, the nation's best-known pollster said. George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the board of the Gallup Organization of Princeton, N.J., spoke to a group of Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries at an urban ministries conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Drawing upon data gathered from various national polls, Gallup listed seven needs the church should strive to meet for Americans.

1. The need for shelter and food. Gallup said this is the most basic need of all people and therefore must rise to the top of the list.

2. The need to believe life is meaningful and has a purpose.

Gallup said 70 percent of Americans believe it is important that life is meaningful and has purpose, yet as many as two-thirds of people interviewed believe most churches and synagogues are not effective in meeting this need.

"The fact is, significant numbers of people find churches irrelevant, unfulfilling, or boring," he said.

3. The need for a sense of community and deeper relationships.

Gallup said "radical individualism" is taking hold on Americans, causing them to be among the loneliest people in the world.

4. The need to be appreciated and respected.

"As many as one-third of American people have a low sense of self-worth or self-esteem," Gallup reported.

"Significantly, we discovered the closer people feel to God, the better they feel about themselves. They're more satisfied with their lives than others, they're more optimistic and lead healthier lives. Experiencing a closeness with God is a key factor in people who forgive themselves and forgive others."

5. The need to be listened to and be heard.

In one survey the unchurched were asked what would be most likely to draw them back. The answer, Gallup reported: "If I could find a pastor, priest, or rabbi with whom I could

share my religious needs and doubts." Additionally, Gallup said, laity desire more significant leadership roles in the church. "If churches want to keep the laity in the church, ... they need to be given leadership roles. The clergy need to listen more carefully to what the laity is saying.

"Religion of the future is more likely to be shaped from the bottom up than from the top down," he declared. "Americans overwhelmingly think the future of the church will be shaped by the laity more than by the clergy. Not only do they believe it will happen, they believe it should happen."

6. The need to feel one is growing in faith.

"People do not like to suffer periods of spiritual stagnation," he explained. "Seven out of 10 Americans say they

have experienced a change in faith during their lifetimes.

"Churches need to pay close attention to the passages people experience in their faith lives. They need help understanding the significance of these changes."

7. The need for practical help in developing a mature faith.

"The clergy often make assumptions about the depth of religious commitment of members of their churches," Gallup said. Clergy assume their parishioners have more fully developed prayer lives and higher levels of knowledge about the faith and traditions of their denomination, he added.

"Clergy therefore often find themselves trying to win support for programs and causes from a laity that is spiritually listless and uninformed."

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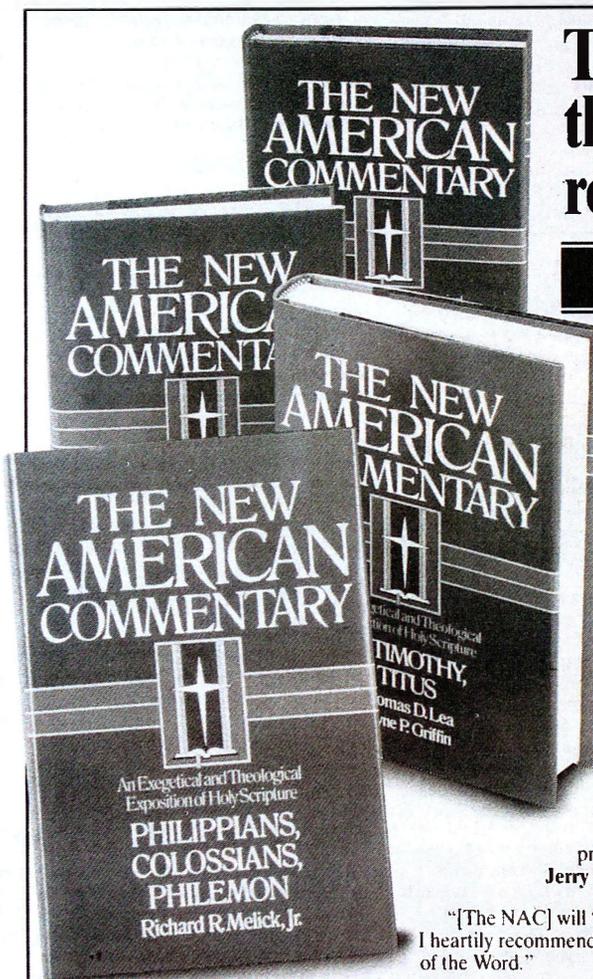
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# Absalom's revolt

By Robert Armour, retired director of missions; Troy

A person without a little ambition is almost worthless to the kingdom of God and to the people around him. But a person with an ambition run wild is a tragedy waiting for a place to happen. This was the case with Absalom. In order to have the feeling of importance that he just knew he deserved, he hired 50 men to run ahead of him as he traveled with horses and chariots.

Absalom gains the people's favor  
Absalom was so ambitious he could not wait to inherit the kingdom from his father, David. He just had to follow his ego to the kingship. While following his super-ego, he arose early every day and went to the city gate. When a person was traveling to have an audience with the king, Absalom would suggest that the king had not appointed anyone to hear his case, but that he was right

about the matter and Absalom would kiss his hand — as though to honor him. Absalom was not interested in what was right. He just wanted to gain the people's favor. Some of the soldiers saw through this type of deception and followed David into exile.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
May 26 Lesson  
Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 15:1-16:14

David flees Jerusalem (15:13-14)  
David told his family and all who worked for him that they must flee. Absalom would probably come after them if they did not flee and might even follow and catch up with them anyway. Therefore, they got out of the city the fastest way possible. Absalom had come to the point in his ambitions

that he was very cruel and heartless in fulfilling his desires for attaining the kingdom.

David plots to regain his kingdom (15:27-30)

David began his plans to regain the kingdom by asking Zadok and Abiathar to return to Jerusalem to become his eyes and ears among the followers of Absalom. They carried the Ark of the Covenant back into the city with them as David had requested. David knew that Absalom probably would not harm the priests.

Zadok had a son named Ahimaaz who had a reputation for being a very swift runner (18:27). He was going to be David's messenger between himself and Zadok. David appointed a definite place where the messenger could find him. There is some question about what is meant by the "plain of the wilderness." It possibly could be read in the Hebrew to mean "fords" in the wilderness, in which case it would refer to a convenient crossing of the

Jordan. If plain is correct, it would refer to a deep valley through which the Jordan river flows.

David and his people went up the Mount of Olives, weeping all the way as they looked back at their city behind them. When they arrived at the top of the Mount of Olives, they worshipped. While they were worshipping, David's old and trusted adviser, Hushai, came to David in deep sorrow and was told to return to Jerusalem. He was to pretend to join Absalom's rebellion to counteract Ahithophel's wisdom (15:30).

So often all of us need to learn from David that when our friends turn out to be our enemies we still must show humility and self-control. This is so vividly shown by David's treatment of Shimei, a relative of Saul who was shouting that David was getting just what he deserved (16:5-13). David prevented Abishai from killing Shimei on the spot.

# The grace of giving

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

"We are not under law but grace." That is exactly right; therefore our Christian giving is not determined by how little we can get by with, but by the grace principle of how much is needed and how much I can give. In the first nine verses of II Corinthians 8, Paul mentioned grace no less than four times in reference to giving.

An example of generosity (8:1-5)  
Paul cited the generosity of the members of the churches of Macedonia as a prime example of Christian giving. We know there were at least three churches in Macedonia at that time, at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.

Their generous giving was prompted, first of all, by their personal experience with God. They gave sacrificially to others because they had received God's grace and given themselves to the Lord. Since God had met their greatest need, they had committed themselves to Him and were deeply concerned about the needs of

others. When we give ourselves to God, we also will give what we have.

Unlike the church at Corinth, the Macedonian churches had from their very beginnings experienced severe persecution and hardship. Even those who had been quite well-to-do had given up much and they all were very poor. But despite their circumstances they had an abundance of joy and found even more joy in sharing what meager material goods they had. They proved that sacrificial giving is a product of the spirit, not a result of circumstances. They gave all they had to give ("to their power"), and God blessed them so they could give "beyond their power."

They gave, not because of coercion, but out of concern. True Christian giving is done willingly and freely. Because of God's grace in their hearts, the Macedonians took the initiative and begged Paul to allow them to participate in the offering for the poverty

stricken Christians in Jerusalem. They considered it a desirable privilege to share in the fellowship of giving for a worthy cause.

An appeal for faithfulness (8:6-15)

Apparently the Corinthian church members responded graciously to an appeal that Titus made a year earlier in behalf of that offering, but they neglected to follow through. Perhaps the dissensions in their church distracted and side-tracked them, as dissension has a way of doing. Paul urged them to live up to their earlier concern and commitment.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**

May 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: II Corinthians 8:1-9:15

Paul placed Christian giving on the same level as faith, witnessing, teaching, enthusiasm, and love. Real love is not just something you feel; it is something you do. Paul did not command them to love, nor to give, but he urged them to prove the sincerity of their love for God and others by their faithful giving.

Of course, the greatest example of love is the gracious sacrificial action of Christ. No one was ever richer than He, and no one ever gave up more. Philippians 2:6-8 expresses it vividly. And He did it "for your sake" that "you through his poverty might be rich." Faithful giving is never self-centered.

Paul urged the Corinthians to give because all Christians are interdependent and their mutual sharing benefits each other. Faithful giving matches resources with needs. Its purpose is never to make it hard on some and easy on others, but to be fair for everyone.

In the second half of chapter 8 Paul assured the Corinthians he had taken every precaution to ensure their offering would be handled in a trustworthy manner. He left no room for even the appearance of impropriety. He concluded chapter 9 by thanking God for His generous gift, which he said is indescribable. He probably was referring to God's gift of Christ, but he may have been thinking about the precious privilege of Christian giving.

# Experiencing God's fullness

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

Many Americans will spend their entire lives gaining material possessions so they and their families can "have it all." Even some Christians get so caught up in this materialistic trap they use God's tithe to help them achieve this goal in life. Though it's true that "times have changed," it's also true that humans haven't changed much with regard to trusting our hordes of "things" to bring fulfillment in life.

Paul obviously realized this fallacy was present in and around the lives of the Ephesian Christians. He tried to help them understand that true fulfillment can come to God's people only when we experience His fullness in our lives.

Sometimes we hear folks pray for God to grant old so-and-so the "desires of their heart." This may sound "spiritual" and give an immature prayer something to say, but it most likely is a futile prayer against the will of God because as our old nature wars within, we allow it to cause us to desire the lusts of the eyes and flesh. Paul did not pray that we have all the

"things" we want in life, but that God would develop our "inner man" (v. 16). He obviously knew from experience that only with God's strength can we bear the sometimes harsh realities of Christian life.

Second, Paul prayed that "Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (v. 17). The word "dwell" here (Greek-katoikeo) does not mean to live as in a cabin on the river or in a summer home. The word carries the idea of "to dwell fixedly in a place" (Vines) or to "settle down and feel completely at home in" (Wuest). This again reminds us that we should continue to grow in discipleship and our relationship with Christ throughout our Christian life.

**LIFE AND WORK**  
May 26 Lesson  
Basic Passage: Ephesians 3:14-21

Third, Paul's prayer was that we "being rooted and grounded in love" (v. 16) may understand the fullness of "the love of Christ" (v. 19). It is important to note that this comprehension of Christ's great love will be attained

communally "with all the saints" (v. 18), and not as individual Christians "doing their thing" for God. Each of us has been given a finite measure of understanding and only as we share this within the body of Christ will we all be brought to grasp the "breadth, and length, and depth, and height" of His love.

The fourth thing Paul requested of God was that we be "filled with all the fullness of God" (v. 19). Someone once said "Shoot for the moon even if you hit the streetlight!" Here is a place where that is applicable. Even though we know we shall never (this side of eternity, anyway) encompass all of who God is, we should strive continually to allow His Spirit to fill our lives with His power and blessings.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Indeed a time for a doxology! Paul realized and praised God that He was not only able to answer this prayer, but also "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (v. 20). As Christ is given "glory in the church" (v. 21) and allowed to carry out His purpose in the

world through her, the church will become a display case for the power and glory of Him. The lost world then will be drawn to Him instead of us. "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

## Tennessee couple attends orientation

RICHMOND — A Tennessee Baptist couple is among 21 people who are attending an orientation program May 15-30 to prepare for work overseas through the International Service Corps (ISC) program.

Mark and Debbie Murphy of First Church, Cleveland, have been assigned to Malawi for two years.

Murphy, formerly a staff officer with the United States Department of Agriculture, forest service, will serve as a recreation program minister worker. Mrs. Murphy was assigned as a church and home outreach evangelism worker.

ISC assignments last from six months to two years.

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Romanian president tells Baptists: 'We need you'**

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romanian President Ion Iliescu has asked Baptists to help rebuild Romania and "restore the moral values in our people." Iliescu met with 12 Romanian and European Baptist leaders May 4, reported European Baptist Press Service. The meeting came during the May 3-5 Congress of the Union of Christian Baptist Churches of Romania, the first unrestricted meeting of the congress in nearly 50 years.

The Baptists gathered in Bucharest's Palace Hall — the site of Romanian communists' last congress in November 1989, just before the revolution that overthrew communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Baptists and other Christians participated in the revolution.

Romania has "truly changed," since Ceausescu's fall, Iliescu told the church leaders. "Just the fact that Baptists can have a congress here is already evidence of the change."

But he described Romanians as disheartened, discouraged, and suffering from a lack of morals and values after decades of repression. "The deepest crisis we face in this country is not economical or political, but moral," he observed. "It is in this area that we can see the positive role religion should have in Romania. The church has an important role to play in the future of our nation. We hope you as Baptists can help us rebuild our nation and restore the moral values in our people."

**New Orleans Seminary announces distinguished alumnus**

NEW ORLEANS — Jerry L. Breazeale will be honored as New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary's Distinguished Alumnus during this year's alumni meeting and luncheon to be held in Atlanta next month. The award, given annually by the seminary's faculty, will be presented during the alumni luncheon in the Thomas B. Murphy Ballroom of the Georgia World Congress Center immediately following the conclusion of the morning session of the SBC Wednesday, June 5.

Breazeale retired last year as director of the seminary's School of Christian Training. He holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College, as well as the bachelor of divinity, master of theology, and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

The meeting will include special music, as well as a report by Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president. Tickets for the luncheon are \$12 per person, and are available by mail from The Office of Alumni, New Orleans Baptist

Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126-4895. Tickets purchased from the office after May 17 may be picked up at the seminary's booth at the Southern Baptist Convention. Tickets purchased at the seminary's booth will be \$15 each.

**CLC joins NRLC in Supreme Court brief**

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined the National Right to Life Committee in a friend-of-the-court brief asking the United States Supreme Court to rule the Civil Rights Act of 1871 cannot be used by abortionists to sue pro-life groups such as Operation Rescue for blocking access to abortion clinics. The 120-year-old law, known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, was intended to protect the constitutional rights of black persons, not the rights of abortionists or women seeking abortions, the brief says.

"It is a perversion of statutory construction to treat pro-life protesters like KKK members who had committed violent crimes," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the CLC. "KKK members treated blacks like nonpersons, and this law prohibited that practice. It turns the statute on its head to allow it to be used by groups who treat unborn babies as nonpersons." The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1871 to protect blacks, who recently had received constitutional citizenship, from harassment by KKK members. Under the act, victims were granted the right to sue private offenders in federal court.

Bray v. Alexandria Women's Clinic is reportedly among about 25 cases in the United States in which courts have issued injunctions under the KKK Act to prohibit Operation Rescue and other pro-life groups from blockading abortion clinics. In the case, Jayne Bray and other Operation Rescue members were enjoined from blocking access to Alexandria Women's Clinic and other abortion clinics in northern Virginia.

**Christians in Soviet Union still praying for Gorbachev**

RICHMOND — Despite the Soviet Union's woeful economy, Christians there are praying Mikhail Gorbachev will stay in power, according to a Baptist leader from the Soviet republic of Kirgizia.

Christians in the Soviet Union remain grateful for Gorbachev, said Alexander Sipko, pastor of a 1500-member church in Frunze, capital of Kirgizia, and superintendent of Baptist churches in the Frunze area. The Soviet president has given religious groups so much freedom "it's unbelievable," Sipko said in a May 6 interview at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond.

Why has Gorbachev — currently the target of both hard-line and reform-minded critics in the Soviet Union — been so friendly to religion? Sipko replied by citing a Biblical passage: "The heart of the king is in God's hands" (Proverbs 21:1). "If he (Gorbachev) is really a human being," Sipko added, "he must be a friend of all human beings."

Religious freedom in the Soviet Union continues to grow, Sipko said, citing recent permission given by authorities in Frunze to conduct an evangelistic campaign in the city's main soccer stadium in August.

**Poll reveals Americans' lack of knowledge about abortion**

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — About 90 percent of Americans do not understand the extent to which abortion is legal in the United States, according to the results of a Gallup poll recently announced.

The survey, commissioned by Americans United for Life, found only 11 percent of those interviewed knew abortion is permitted for any reason at any stage of pregnancy.

The survey also revealed Americans by a vast majority oppose abortion for reasons other than the life and health of the mother, rape, incest, and fetal deformity, even during the first three

months of pregnancy.

The results of the Abortion and Moral Beliefs Survey were announced by AUL, which is recognized as the legal arm of the pro-life movement. It was described by AUL as "the most comprehensive and ambitious study of American public opinion on abortion ever released to the general public."

"After 18 years, Americans are still ignorant of the full extent of the abortion policy decreed in Roe v. Wade, yet they oppose central tenets and claims of that policy," said Laurie Ramsey, AUL's vice president for public affairs. "The vast majority of Americans are opposed to 95 percent of the 1.6 million

abortions done each year."

"In many cases, it appears that people who consider themselves 'pro-choice' simply don't know what they're supporting," said Victor Rosenblum, law professor at Northwestern University and vice chairman of AUL.

Ramsey said the survey's results show Americans, "when properly informed and wisely led, will reject Roe and protect the unborn and empower mothers to make the choice of childbirth."

In the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand throughout pregnancy.

At least 66 percent of respondents in the survey found the following reasons for an abortion unacceptable during the first trimester:

- Tests reveal the baby is not the sex the couple wants (91 percent opposed);
  - Use of abortion as a repeated means of birth control (88 percent opposed);
  - Unplanned pregnancy that would interrupt a woman's career (77 percent opposed);
  - Woman has been abandoned by father of baby (68 percent opposed);
  - Another baby would create heavy financial burden (66 percent opposed);
  - Pregnant teenager would have to drop out of school (66 percent opposed).
- Approval for abortion in such cases shrinks in about half after the first trimester, the survey shows.
- Vast majorities of Americans "most favor" the following legislative prohibitions or regulations on abortions:

- 86 percent support requiring women to receive information on the unborn child's development and alternatives to abortion before undergoing one;

- 84 percent approve of health and safety standards for private abortion clinics;

- 73 percent favor a ban on abortion after the third month of pregnancy unless it is necessary to save the mother's life;

- 69 percent support the necessity of parental consent before a girl under 18 can obtain an abortion.

The survey was based on in-person interviews with 2174 adults of voting age by the Gallup Organization in May 1990.

**Hymnal sales top \$5 million**

NASHVILLE — Total sales of The Baptist Hymnal have topped \$5 million and almost 800,000 copies, according to figures released in late April by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Allen Adcox, senior manager of inventory management/distribution systems for the board, said 790,568 hymnals have been sold to churches, Baptist Book Stores, and other trade accounts, for a total of \$5,097,373.

April figures indicate hymnal sales for the first month after publication were about \$1 million. Prepublication sales topped \$4 million.

Orders for the hymnal may be placed through local Baptist Book Stores or through the Sunday School Board's toll-free, corporate order number, 1-800-458-BSSB.

**Hymns Baptists sing**

*"I Know Whom I Have Believed"*

Daniel Webster Whittle served in the Union Army during the Civil War and at the close of the war was promoted to Major. He was known as Major Whittle the rest of his life. Active in Sunday work, he became an evangelist in 1873, with the encouragement of D. L. Moody. P. P. Bliss, a talented musician, worked with Major Whittle in his revivals.

Another gifted musician, James McGranahan, had been inspired by Bliss to engage in full-time evangelistic singing. When the news of the tragic deaths of Bliss and his wife reached Chicago, Whittle and McGranahan, who yet had not met, arrived in Ashtabula, Ohio, the site of the train wreck in which Bliss and his wife perished.

As they stood with sad hearts,

they felt a common bond. Returning together to Chicago, they both prayed together and McGranahan accepted Whittle's invitation to take Bliss's place.

For a decade Whittle and McGranahan were active in evangelistic endeavor throughout the United States, and in 1880 and 1883, they worked in England.

The two men collaborated in writing a number of Gospel songs, none more popular than "I Know Whom I Have Believed," written in 1883. The tune is named El Nathan, the pen name Whittle used for many of his texts. — *By William J. Reynolds, professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.*