

# Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 157/NO. 23/JUNE 5, 1991

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Messengers witness in Atlanta prior to SBC

ATLANTA — Before sitting for five days of preaching and business, several hundred Southern Baptist Convention messengers, including some Tennessee Baptists, put feet to their faith in a variety of evangelistic ministries.

Street witnessing, door-to-door visitation, and feeding the homeless were the main thrusts of Crossover Atlanta, a preconvention project coordinated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Crossover Atlanta was the vision of SBC President Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas.

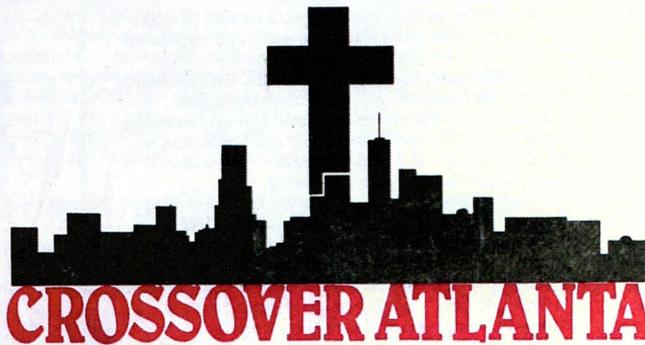
For the past two years messengers to the annual SBC meetings have done door-to-door witnessing in the host cities. This year's preconvention project was expanded for the first time.

Tennessee Baptists preregistered for participation in Crossover Atlanta were: Frank Blevins, Bluff City; Herschel Woodburn, Chattanooga; J. C. Lewis, Gallatin; Reuben Trussell, Memphis; Shelby Smith, Nashville; Mark Coppenger, Franklin; Kent Spann, Ooltewah; Glenda Roach, Rutledge; and Paul Tirey, Waverly.

Evangelism and ministry came together at Woodland Hills Church,

Atlanta. The church participated in the Saturday evangelism project, as well as hosting a feeding site Saturday and Sunday.

Crossover Atlanta ministry of any church in the city. Members began their work Saturday by driving around Interstate 285 that circles the city.



"I met a man who was out of work and another man on disability income. I invited them to come eat with us. If they don't show up, I'll take food back to them, said John Thompson, pastor of Gilbert Creek Church, Baisden, W. Va.

Woodland Hills had the largest

"We prayed for God to break down the walls of resistance as people witnessed today," explained Irene Cannon, a member who participated in the drive.

A total of 77 local churches participated in the One Day Soul Winning Encounter Saturday, teaming with

volunteers from churches across the nation.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday prior to the convention, 83 volunteers preached on Atlanta's downtown streets and recorded 135 professions of faith.

Mobile disaster relief units from five states fed the homeless four meals over the weekend, a time when many ongoing local feeding programs do not operate. Baptist Men from Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Alabama worked alongside local volunteers.

Ernest Robert of Parkway Church in Duluth, Ga., served food with the Mississippi unit near Techwood Baptist Center, where Southern Baptists have an extensive ongoing ministry. Just six days earlier, Robert had been baptized at Parkway.

The church, which recorded 31 in Sunday School attendance that Sunday, brought 28 members to help with the feeding. "It's something we wanted to do as a church," he explained, "getting out in the community in an area where there's a need."

At another downtown site where Arkansas Baptist Men were serving sloppy joes and fruit, one of the recipients expressed his delight with the free food.

"If I hadn't come here I wouldn't have eaten at all today. I don't have a job and have nowhere to live. This is really a blessing."

In two days, the five disaster relief units expected to serve 14,000 meals. Volunteers were also on hand to distribute Scripture portions and tracts and give a spoken witness.

Street witnesses took a different approach, using music, drama, and preaching to draw crowds at busy public places such as parks and mass transit stations. — *Mark Wingfield and Sarah Zimmerman*

## Volunteers work to restore Camp Linden after flood

Camp Linden, the Tennessee Baptist Convention complex in west Tennessee near Linden, was flooded May 27 causing water damage to most of the buildings and facilities. However, summer camps scheduled to begin with GA Camp June 10-14 will be held, reported Jim McDonald, Tennessee Baptist Convention Business Office director.

Quick action by about 30 Brotherhood disaster relief workers will even make it possible for staff training to be held June 3-7. Disaster

relief volunteers worked May 29-June 1 to prepare the camp.

The only facility damaged beyond use is the residence for the managers and staff. A reassignment of facilities has been made to vacate that building.

The Buffalo River, which overflowed, is about 50 feet from some of the facilities. McDonald noted since the camp was opened in 1950 the river has risen close to the top of its banks several times. The camp was not insured against flooding because of a ruling by the Corps of Engineers, said McDonald.

A damage estimate would not be determined for several more weeks, he said. Preliminary reports suggest the area will not receive government disaster relief aid.

The flooded area included Linden, Centerville, and Lobelville.

The managers' and staff residence was flooded by about four feet of water. Other serious damage included a mud slide which collapsed a retaining wall and a wall of the Mockingbird Lodge, loss of perishable food from a lack of refrigeration, and destruction of part of the fishing pier.

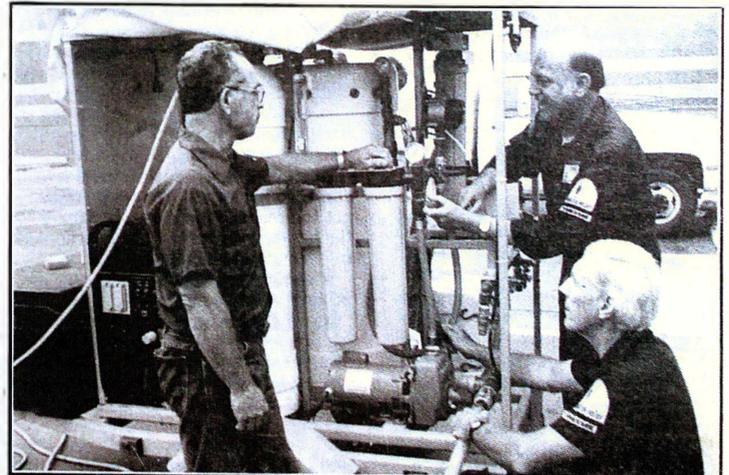
Volunteers included workers from Hardeman County, Gibson County, ALPHA, and Nashville associations. The team worked out of the disaster relief unit, preparing its own meals.

### Convention covered in next week's issue

The Baptist and Reflector has a team of journalists at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta this week.

Related groups meet during the week, some beginning as early as Saturday, June 1. Convention sessions are June 4-6, with President George Bush scheduled to speak at Thursday's closing hour.

The Baptist and Reflector staff reports will be included in the June 12 issue of the paper — covering SBC sessions, related meetings, preconvention witnessing efforts, and impressions with a Tennessee flavor.



RECEIVE TRAINING — Three Tennessee Baptist disaster relief volunteers recently received orientation in Dallas on a water purification unit intended for use in Iran. Volunteers are, from left, Carl Lord, Calvary Church, Lenoir City; Jim McPherson, pastor of Second Church, Clinton; and Pat Still, Clearview Church, Franklin. The volunteers have returned to Tennessee and are on standby if needed for Kurdish relief work in Iran.

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

900-00410-0127 Historical Commission, SBC  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, Nashville, Tennessee  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

## Editorials

## Deep roots make for sturdy trees — the associations

The week of May 20-26 was designated as Associational Emphasis Week, but that really is not enough.

It is good to recognize the importance of our associations, but a continuing emphasis is more appropriate.

Holston, organized in 1786, is the oldest of the 68 associations in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. This East Tennessee group of churches wrote in the first book of minutes that:

"We hold it necessary to association together in council in order to give counsel to the respective churches that compose this association, in order to maintain Christian fellowship."

Perhaps some of those church representatives had read that this was not a unique action. There certainly was precedent. A document published in London in 1644, called Confession of the Seven Churches, carried this statement as one of its important tenets:

"Although the particular congregations be distinct and several bodies, everyone as a compact and knit city within itself; yet are they all to walk by one rule of truth so also they, by all means convenient, are to have counsel and help of one another, if necessity requires it, as members of one body in the common faith, under Christ their head."

In 1689 messengers from a hundred churches met in London to form the London Assembly. They outlined a work program which specifically included evangelism, ministerial education, and aid to needy churches.

The two earliest Baptist associations in America, Philadelphia in 1707 and Charleston in 1751, reflected their concerns for the churches. Each carefully guarded the independency and autonomy of the churches and sent them annual "circular letters" which encouraged and exhorted.

The philosophy of associational missions exists for the benefit of the churches, and encompasses a fundamental missionary principle.

As for Tennessee, independence and individualism manifested in the plans of the first association in the Volunteer State is in keeping with the spirit of freedom enjoyed on the frontier. It has been characteristic of Baptists through the years.

In 1803, the Tennessee Association was formed. Along with Holston, these two took in practically all of East Tennessee. The Cumberland followed in 1803. First in the west was Western District, 1822, formed soon after the district was purchased by the state from the Chicksaw Indians for \$300,000.

According to the Fred Kendall's History of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, by 1837 practically

all of east and middle Tennessee was covered with Baptist associations.

Kendall: "As the churches multiplied, additional associations were formed to make the areas smaller, to render a more efficient service, and to afford a better opportunity for fellowship."

Associations rendered much service to the local churches, he said. "A unique feature of the associational annual meeting was that of local churches sending a 'query' to the association, seeking an answer to some problem. Usually a committee of some of the ablest brethren was appointed to consider the queries and to report back an answer to the association and to the church."

Associations also worked out a means of communicating with each other, he said, and appointed fraternal messengers to visit one another.

The ribbons of highways and roads, the telephone system, and the advent of efficient and multi-purpose computers have hastened change. Perhaps there is less of the visiting back and forth, less of the interchange of circular letters — but associational goals basically are the same.

Associations still work to unite churches in winning the lost to Christ and to organize churches in new communities. They still are learning from one another, and they still build fellowship. They place witnesses on beaches and in mountain resorts, they preach and teach to all groups of peoples, they undergird the work of the pastor, work to strengthen church life, emphasize missions and evangelize, educate, plan for the future, and work diligently in the present.

One primary reason Baptist churches banded together in associations is for strength in growth and fellowship. In his book on Baptist Polity, James L. Sullivan wrote, "They (the churches) must have known also that the longer they went their separate ways as remote, separated congregations without communications that the differences among themselves would grow larger and more exaggerated, making future cooperation more difficult..."

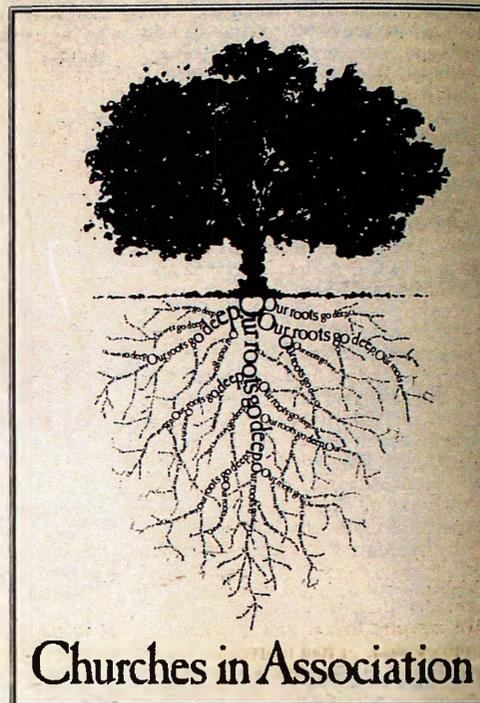
We need strong associations in Tennessee. We have geographical and demographical boundaries — and churches united in association work can negate those boundaries.

Bonded in associations, the churches realize the responsibility for sharing Jesus Christ and intensifying efforts worldwide, fostering ministry and missions.

The mighty work of the New Testament church can be better accomplished when we work together. The associational structure embodies the best

features of New Testament evangelism and missions.

Hiwassee Association has seven churches — Knox County has 152. New Salem has nine, and Shelby County has 123. Many are rural and suburban; some are metro. But in 1989 these 68 associations and 2920 churches baptized 26,065 people and contributed \$24.9 million undesignated for missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program.



So, we salute the 68 associations, their churches, and their directors of missions. The association's roots are sunk deeply into the soil of Biblical principles. Acts 15 offers a model of interchurch cooperation. The Jerusalem Council provides a precursor to today's Baptist association.

Historically, theologically, and Biblically, the Baptist association has deep roots, which translates into a staunch heritage and a future with limitless promise. — WFA

## Church growth depends on priorities, not gimmicks

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Getting people into a church building through gimmicks is not Biblical church growth, Darrell Robinson said.

Robinson, vice president for evangelism with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, spoke at the HMB's first School of Evangelism and Church Growth at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

"You cannot grow a church simply on gimmicks," the veteran pastor said. "You have to build a foundation."

Robinson admitted he used a few attention-getting gimmicks as a pastor and might use some again to get people in church. However, he said persistent use of gimmicks will not result in true church growth.

"I am concerned about church growth at any cost," he declared. "Anybody can attract a crowd with gimmicks, but that is not church growth."

"When we become goal-driven we are likely to do unethical and unbiblical things."

Instead, a pastor with a passion for

evangelism and ministry who clearly states these priorities to laity will foster church growth, he suggested.

Robinson listed five techniques he sees in the book of Acts that the early church used to reach unbelievers:

- **Public proclamation.** While the early church proclaimed the Gospel publicly, the modern church proclaims it in a building where only believers come, Robinson said. "We've either got to proclaim the message outside the building or get the people who need to hear it inside the building."

- **Caring affirmation.** Citing the Biblical ministry of Dorcas, he said, "One of the most powerful techniques for reaching people is ministry-evangelism."

- **Mighty works.** Robinson cited the Biblical account of Peter and John healing a blind man at the temple gate, gathering a crowd and seeing 5000 Christian commitments. He urged pastors to look for "God's mighty works" and use them as a witness.

- **Geographic saturation.** Robinson suggested churches should provide a "caring touch" for every resident of

their communities every six months. "Not many people are saved through saturation," he said, "but it creates a climate for evangelism."

- **Personal confrontation with the claims of Christ.** No matter what

church growth techniques are used, the unchurched must be personally confronted with the Gospel in a way they can understand it, he said.

More than 300 people attended the Glorieta school.

## Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention  
Established in 1835

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

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper  
Susie Edwards, Administrative Secretary  
Mary Nimmo, Production Assistant  
Connie Unstead, News Assistant/Church Pages Coordinator

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

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

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

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

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

# Honeycutt optimistic after accrediting teams visit

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Following a fact-finding visit from an accrediting evaluation team, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt expressed optimism about the outcome of an investigation related to the seminary's accreditation.

A four-member team representing the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools made a "focused visit" to the Louisville, Ky., campus May 21-22. The team met with seminary administrators and faculty and trustee representatives.

Honeycutt described the sessions as "constructive, positive, and cordial." "I do not wish to presume on the report of the evaluation team," he said, "but I am optimistic."

ATS officials indicated a report from

the visiting team may be completed in time for consideration by the agency's commission on accrediting at its meeting June 10-12.

The "focused visit" was authorized by the commission on accrediting following a review of an ATS staff member's report on a preliminary fact-finding visit to the seminary campus last November.

Accrediting issues raised in that report dealt primarily with two 1990 actions of the seminary's board of trustees: adoption of the Southern Baptist Convention's 1987 Peace Committee Report as a guideline for employment, promotion, and tenure of all faculty and approval of a policy allowing use of tape recorders in all seminary classrooms. In both cases, the ATS staff report questioned whether the board had moved beyond

its normal policy-making function and potentially damaged the school's academic environment.

At its annual meeting in April, however, the board effectively rescinded both actions. Trustees voted overwhelmingly to replace the Peace Committee Report with a "Covenant" document drafted by a special committee of trustees and faculty. The document had received faculty approval two weeks earlier.

In an effort to ease tensions between faculty and administration and a conservative majority of trustees, the covenant plots a more conservative course for the 132-year-old seminary. It pledges the seminary will seek "balanced representation" on the faculty through "intentional employment of conservative evangelical scholars for future openings."

At their meeting, trustees also voted to drop the requirement that tape recorders be allowed in all classes, opting instead to leave decisions about a tape recording policy in the hands of the administration. The seminary previously had no policy prohibiting use of tape recorders, leaving the question to the discretion of the professor.

"In addition to the specific actions of the board in April, I think the commitment by both trustees and faculty to work together to resolve our differences has been evident," Honeycutt said. "I am aware that the covenant is only a beginning, and it will require a lot of nourishment to make it work. Yet I remain hopeful about the opportunity we have to deal honestly and creatively with the issues before us in ways that will strengthen rather than harm this seminary."

## Representatives pleased with reception upon return to Gaza, Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (BP) — Southern Baptist representatives returning to Gaza and Jordan, after tensions surrounding the impending Persian Gulf war forced most to evacuate in January, report warm receptions from local communities.

"It's been much better than we ever thought. We were really surprised," said Southern Baptist representative Keith Summey, who returned to Amman, Jordan, in April with his wife, Tammy, and 1-year-old son, Luke. The Summeys are from Charlotte, N.C. "We expected to see a lot of anger," Summey said. "I had feared having to face that anger. But we haven't seen

it. That's not to say it's not there. But in spite of all that has happened, we've seen Jordanians able to draw a line between governments and individuals."

Many observers feared the rage of Palestinians and other Arabs over American involvement in the war would cause a backlash against American Christian workers in the region — particularly in Jordan and Gaza, heavily populated with Palestinians.

The Summeys were one of the first Southern Baptist families to return to Jordan. Nine of the 18 Southern Baptist workers assigned to Jordan before the

war have returned. In mid-May, the group grew to ten with the arrival of a new Southern Baptist worker, Vicki Smith of Fredericksburg, Va.

Six workers temporarily have transferred from Jordan to other areas in the Middle East and Europe. That's added an extra strain on the group in Jordan, Summey said.

"Most of the leadership in our group has left. Our whole structure is going through dramatic change," he said. "We are working to rebuild and most of us are taking on new responsibilities. Things are upside-down in terms of our group, but it's still good to be back together."

In Israeli-occupied Gaza, local residents also warmly welcomed back the Southern Baptist workers. Ten Southern Baptist representatives returned in late May. Three other representatives assigned to Gaza have not yet returned.

Gaza, a 125-square-mile strip of land, is situated next to the Egyptian border. About 630,000 Palestinians, almost all Muslim, live in the territory. Israel took control of Gaza from Egypt during the 1967 Six-Day War.

"Everyone has been very happy to see us back," said Southern Baptist representative Dean Fitzgerald of Tulsa, Okla., who returned to Gaza April 21. His wife, Dona, of Bartlesville, Okla., joined him a few days later.

"Frankly, I was worried about what I might find in the way of a reception," said Fitzgerald, a physician who works at the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.

"I even had a dream the night before (coming back) that I was mobbed as I came into town. There's this school on the road that always has lots of people in front of it; I dreamed that I was mobbed there. So I was very relieved when I came to that point in the actual trip and nobody was there."

It's still too early to tell how the war has affected area ministries, he said.

## Court ruling termed 'victory' for pro-life movement

WASHINGTON (BP) — The federal government can prohibit tax funds from use in abortion counseling, referral, and promotion, the United States Supreme Court has ruled in an opinion that may have far-reaching implications.

The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision announced May 23 is a major victory for the pro-life movement. The opinion in *Rust v. Sullivan* supports regulations preventing Planned Parenthood and other clinics from using funds under Title X of the Public Health Service Act in "programs where abortion is a method of family planning."

"I'm delighted with this decision," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Southern Baptists should be greatly encouraged that federal tax dollars will not be used to support abortion counseling," he said. "However, we must be prepared to repel the efforts of proabortionists who will seek to pass legislation in the U.S. Congress overturning this landmark decision."

Abortion rights supporters immediately called for a legislative remedy to the Court's decision.

"We urge the Senate and House to

reauthorize Title X, stripping the program of these injurious regulations and committing the necessary funding to the program's implementation," said Faye Wattleton, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "In affirming the Reagan/Bush administrations' Title X 'gag rule,' the Court has given government the green light to impose censorship on doctors and women and has re-established separate and unequal justice in America: quality health care for those who can afford it, second-class care for those who cannot."

The Court's opinion upheld rules issued by the Department of Health and Human Services near the end of the administration of Ronald Reagan. The regulations were continued under President Bush by HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan. Court challenges prevented the regulations from being enforced.

The Court, with Chief Justice William Rehnquist writing the majority opinion, said the regulations were permissible because:

- The HHS secretary's regulations were a justifiable interpretation of Congressional intent in passing Title X legislation;
  - The rules are not a violation of the free-speech rights of Title X recipients and their patients;
  - They do not infringe upon a woman's right to an abortion.
- Rehnquist was joined in the majority by justices Byron White, Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and David Souter. It was Souter's first vote on an abortion-related case.

## Belmont hosts ministers' school

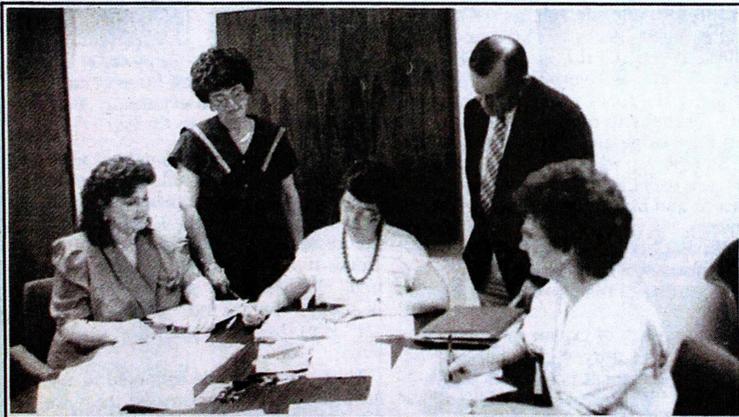
Belmont College will host its annual Ministers' Conference June 24-26 in Nashville.

Guest preachers include John Sullivan, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville; James E. Jones, pastor, Campbellville (Ky.) Church; Jimmy Terry, pastor, Tabernacle Church, Clarksville; and Jere Phillips, director, Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. on June 24, followed by a luncheon at noon with Sullivan as speaker. The three-day event will include Bible study and conferences.

Cost of the conference is \$25 per person (for those staying on campus). For those not staying on campus, there is a charge for the various meals.

For information, contact Belmont's office of church relations at (615) 385-6435.



**PLANNING FOR SECRETARIES** — Officers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Secretaries' Association and the Discipleship Training Department staff, from left, Martha Taube, Highland Heights Church, Memphis, vice-president; Garnette Hagan, Discipleship Training Department; Sarah Farmer, North Johnson City Church, Johnson City, president; Johnnie Hall Jr., department; and Evelyn Benson, North Etowah Church, Etowah, secretary-treasurer; meet at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, to plan the association's April 13-15, 1992, conference.

# Our Readers Write

## Long overdue

With great joy and excitement I have learned the wonderful news about Belmont College's becoming Belmont University. For many years Belmont has been "dear to the hearts" of Middle Tennessee Baptists. Belmont College has been an academic giant in the South. The music industry, education, business, you name it, and the world respects "Little Belmont College." Now a giant step forward has been taken to raise Belmont University to a status that is long overdue. We have stopped "marking time" and are stepping up and forward. God is blessing Belmont with the leadership (trustees, executives, faculty, and staff) to lead our school into the next century. Thank you trustees, chaired by George West, for leading out in an action long overdue.

Jim Growden, pastor  
(Class '76)  
Madison Heights Church  
Madison 37115

## Speaker questioned

I am very disappointed and disturbed to read Oliver North was to address our pastors' conference at the Southern Baptist Convention. Is he Baptist? How much are we paying him?

I feel our forefathers would be as upset as I am. I believe I have every right to protest this, as I am Southern Baptist and a combat veteran of the Korean War.

I would have felt even worse if the mine that tore into my body in 1952 and put me into Army hospitals for a year had been American made and sold to North Korea.

I am happy I live in a country where men freely give their lives so I might have my say, and belong to a denomination that provides the press.

Harold Holloway  
P.O. Box 305  
Jasper 37347

## Soviet churches

Your recent article about Soviet Baptist immigrants in Tennessee included a wonderful account of a dedicated Christian family. However, it also contained some misleading points as to the larger picture.

The article implied that Soviet authorities do not allow churches to function, yet, it described in detail the worship practices of Baptist churches there. I believe the confusion stems from failure to specify time periods.

Particularly during the 1930s, and again in the 50s and early 60s, Soviet authorities persecuted believers and closed many churches. In more recent years, however, Christians who register their churches have been allowed to worship openly, in services that often include children and young adults.

Since Gorbachev came to power, Christians in most areas have experienced a degree of freedom never before known in that country, even to the point that religious observances and sermons have been televised. New churches are being built, and Soviet Baptists are organizing a seminary. Many of those who still wish to leave — apparently including the family in the story — have been allowed to do so.

We should continue to press the Soviet government to remove all restrictions on church life. We must also recognize and rejoice in the progress that has been made, and avoid perpetuating stereotypes that hinder further progress.

T. J. Walsh  
67 Madison Ave.  
Memphis 38103

## Correction made

The statement in the article by Baptist Press on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in the May 15 Baptist and Reflector that "the coordinating council is virtually a self-perpetuating board" is very misleading. Whether intentional or through misunderstanding, it needs correcting.

Simple participation in or observation of a state meeting, like that of the 370 or so of us from Tennessee, would have made it obvious that the council cannot be self-perpetuating. While the first nominating committee was selected by the interim steering committee as an expedient in getting organized, hereafter members of the nominating committee are chosen by the state meetings from those they have nominated for the council.

Further, no one can serve consecutive terms. The organization is designed to be democratic as can be for a group so large, and to foster fellowship, participation, and a trust that long since disappeared from SBC meetings. It was very good to be there with fellow Christians of like mind.

For me one of the highlights of the sessions was Walter Shurden's presentation of the "Address to the Public from the Interim Steering Committee." It is an excellent statement of the "reason for being" of the Fellowship; and I would encourage all Baptists to study it carefully.

Jim Summerville  
507 Barrington Road  
Signal Mountain 37377

## Hospital agreement

I read the article on the "TBC Executive Board and Hospital Ten Point Agreement" with much chagrin and frankly, disbelief. The most undiplomatic, but perhaps honest way to characterize their "agreement" is to crassly call it what it appears: a cosmetic payoff. We've lost our hospital at a bargain price when it was not for sale. No trustee involved in this decision should be appointed or approved to another board under any circumstances. Furthermore, it might be well advised for some involved in this matter to refamiliarize themselves with the parable of Jesus in Matthew 21:33-38.

Leland E. Lyon, pastor  
Euclid Avenue Church  
1954 Euclid Avenue  
Knoxville 37921

## Questions asked

I read that a 25-year-old trustee of Southern Seminary before attending his first meeting, published in some 65,000 mailed copies a 16-page attack on seminary president Roy Honeycutt. I estimate that a mailed publication of such magnitude could cost more than \$65,000. Who financed this, and who told him to do it?

I have been in Southern Baptist churches (ten) all of my 63 years, including eight years at Bellevue, Memphis. (From 1960 to 1968, Ramsey Pollard was pastor, my husband was a deacon, and I was superintendent of the young peoples' department.) Before 1978, I do not remember ever hearing the word "inerrant" uttered in a Baptist church, including Bellevue.

I have never known a Baptist ("conservative," "fundamental," "moderate," or "liberal") who did not believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God. Isn't that good enough? Why does the word "inerrant" have to be used?

What did Lee Porter say at the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention that justified his demotion at the Sunday

School Board, and what did they want him to be quiet about?

Is the meeting in Atlanta a Southern Baptist Convention or a Republican Convention? Speakers at various meetings include President George Bush, Colin Powell, Ollie North, Chuck Colson — not to mention W. A. Criswell, Adrian Rogers, Paige Patterson, Paul Pressler, Charles Stanley, et. al. Has "Republican" become synonymous with "Christian"?

Ruth O'Leary  
700 W. 4th St.  
South Pittsburg 37380

**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.**

## Changing names

The purpose of Belmont College's becoming an instant university may have nothing to do with academic excellence. There are federal and private grants, loans, and other monies that are available only to institutions that bear the "university" name, however de facto that moniker might possibly be.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools does not initiate name changes, according to its executive director, B. E. Childers, from his office in

Decatur, Ga.

It is also remarkable, is it not, that Belmont College, founded by Tennessee Baptists in 1951, would be "celebrating" its centennial only 40 years after it began classes with 136 students?

Owen Meredith Smaw  
1612 Sixteenth Ave., South  
Nashville 37212

**Belmont College President William E. Trout was given opportunity to respond to points in the letter: "Belmont's university status represents years of hard work and a strong record of achievement. We are not aware of special private or federal grants that relate to university status. Belmont does not accept direct federal funds."**

**"SACS did not initiate our name change. A visiting SACS committee did recommend we consider changing to reflect comprehensive offerings and graduate programs."**

**"Belmont's centennial reflects 100 years of higher education on the campus. The Tennessee Baptist connection in 1951 named the new institution Belmont College."**

## Pastor search

Kitzingen Baptist Church, a congregation of 65 people located in Kitzingen, Germany, approximately 65 miles south of Frankfurt, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with the American military.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a missions setting, please contact: Jerry P. Davis, B-103rd MI BN, Box 67, APO New York, N.Y. 09036-5000.

Jerry P. Davis  
Kitzingen Baptist Church  
8710 Kitzingen  
Germany

# One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Are you ashamed to have people pray for you? Do you pray for folks you don't really like?

The validity of our relationship to Christ can be tested by how real prayer is in our lives.

Prayer at times is a very private time — between God and the prayer. The attitude of prayer is as much truthful, honest, as the prayer himself.

What are Christian friends for — except to pray for one another? What are brothers and sisters in Christ up to — unless they bathe it in prayer.

In Philippians 1 verses 9-11, Paul writes, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment."

"So that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

"Having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Though much of prayer is a private matter, Paul's prayer is a "burst of feeling, a heartbeat prolonged, an impassioned ideal for every Christian," (Daniel Russell.)

I believe he would have every heart filled with a specific love that abounds in the subtle knowledge called insight. This kind of Christian learns how and when to pray.

It is not an admission of guilt to ask

for prayer — for you or family. And even if it were, Paul suggests that old-fashioned goodness matters much — so he prays for that goodness for his friends.

It is not necessary nor desirable to wait until you reach "rock bottom" to ask for prayer. Patient, fervent prayer is an energizing force of successful living. It will eventually lead to being "put right" with Christ.



ALLEN

The Psalmist reminds us that God will not be before us unless we set Him there by resolute, persistent, habitual prayer. "I have set the Lord always before me." And, he says, "My mind (inner man) instructs me in the night." He does not say that the Lord is always "before me," but "I have set" Him there. Prayer is the reason why.

Then, should we be ashamed to ask for prayer? Can we pray for those we don't like?

Christ has the answer. "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint," — Luke 18:1.

Prayer is a release of energy — and none of it is lost. Yes, we ought always to pray, and not to cave in.

**In Ethiopia**

# Southern Baptist missionaries stranded by invasion

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Six Southern Baptist missionaries, including a father with his three young daughters, were stranded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as of May 28 by rebel armies who invaded the city.

Live reports from Addis Ababa on the British Broadcasting Corporation said the fighting was concentrated in and around the presidential palace and life in the rest of the city of 1.5 million seemed relatively calm. Residents reportedly were walking the streets openly and many were watching the firefight at the presidential palace.

The missionaries' two main options for leaving are either for rapid progress in the U.S.-brokered peace talks in London between the government and three rebel groups or for the rebels to allow charter flights to continue air-

lifting expatriates to safety.

The first option dimmed May 28 when Ethiopian Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka announced he would not participate in the talks until rebel troops completely withdrew from the city.

As for the second option: "I have authorized any of our people to get on any plane flying any direction anytime they can," said John Faulkner, the Foreign Mission Board's area director for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. The missionary personnel are in regular telephone contact with Nairobi, and have radio contact with the American Embassy in Addis Ababa.

They are Rob Ackerman of Wheaton, Ill., and his three daughters (9-year-old Bethany Nicole and 6-year-old twins,

Melody Rene and Krista Joy); John and Mary Lou Lawrence of Jonesboro, La., and Amsterdam, Mo.; Sam and Ginny Cannata of Houston and Hollandale, Miss.; and Jerry Bedsole of Foley, Ala.

Patty Ackerman, of Albuquerque, N.M., and Rosie Bedsole, also of Foley, Ala., were in Kenya attending a training conference when Ethiopian president Mengistu Haile Mariam fled the country May 21 and rebel forces completed their rout of the government army. They remain in Kenya along with David and Debbie Brownfield of Bozeman, Mont., and Columbus, Ohio, who also were out of the country on vacation when the civil war reached this apparently final stage.

Sam Cannata and Jerry Bedsole will remain, but the Lawrences, Ginny

Cannata and Ackerman and his daughters will leave if possible. The Lawrences left Ethiopia April 30 but returned in mid-May when the civil war seemed to settle into yet another lull. But when Mengistu suddenly fled to Zimbabwe May 21 the government lines melted and the rebels surged to Addis Ababa.

"We're getting conflicting stories about whether the airport is open — but it really doesn't make any difference since no commercial flights are operating," Faulkner said. "The only way out is if they (the missionaries) can get space on a charter flight, and they're in contact with the American and British embassies to see if that can be arranged. Almost certainly any flights like that will have to be negotiated with the rebel armies

# Tennesseans graduate from Southern Baptist seminaries

Five of the six Southern Baptist seminaries graduated students with Tennessee ties in May. All but Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., had Tennessee graduates.

Graduates who did not provide photographs include: Mary B. Benson-Jones, Knoxville, Southern Seminary, master of arts in Christian education; David L. Bluford, Lenoir City, Southern Seminary, doctor of ministry; James L. Haun, Knoxville, Southern Seminary, doctor of ministry; Walter E. McDonald, Sale Creek, Southern Seminary, master of arts in Christian education; John A. Owston, Kingsport, Southeastern Seminary, doctor of ministry; Randy L. Rinehart, Memphis, New Orleans Seminary, master of divinity; Thomas Stubblefield, Buchanan, Southern Seminary, master of divinity in Christian education; and David R. Tullock, Loudon, Southern Seminary, doctor of ministry.

Those pictured appear in alphabetical order.

*(See additional photos on page 8.)*



**Joy C. Anderson**  
Brentwood  
Southern Seminary  
master of arts in  
Christian education



**Shirley K. Boatman**  
Gallatin  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Wayne Bryant**  
Athens  
New Orleans Seminary  
master of divinity



**G. Trent Bullock**  
Gleason  
New Orleans Seminary  
master of divinity



**Christopher Caldwell**  
Nashville  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Steven P. Canada**  
Oak Ridge  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity



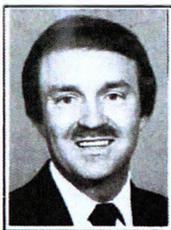
**James R. Dean**  
Nashville  
Southern Seminary  
master of arts in  
Christian education



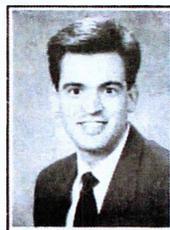
**Doug McDurham**  
Brownsville  
Southern Seminary  
master of social work



**Armetta J. Fields**  
Elizabethton  
Southeastern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Greg Frizzell**  
Memphis  
New Orleans Seminary  
doctor of ministry



**Steven A. Fultz**  
Harrogate  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity  
with Biblical languages



**Stanley E. Griffin**  
Savannah  
Midwestern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Michael Hammonds**  
Humboldt  
New Orleans Seminary  
master of divinity



**Susan L. Hansen**  
Bartlett  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of arts in  
communication



**Lewis E. Hardee**  
Lenoir City  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Karla L. Hearon**  
Oak Ridge  
Southern Seminary  
master of  
church music



**James M. Henry**  
Johnson City  
New Orleans Seminary  
doctor of ministry



**Robert E. Hensley**  
Memphis  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Donald Hicks**  
Nashville  
Midwestern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Mark Hill**  
Knoxville  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity  
in church music



**Barbara J. Horton**  
Grandview  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Gregory S. Johnson**  
Seymour  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



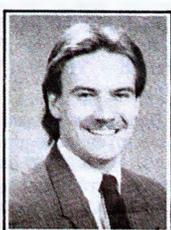
**Deena M. Jones**  
Bethel Springs  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of arts  
in religious education



**Keith Kincaid**  
Memphis  
New Orleans Seminary  
master of divinity



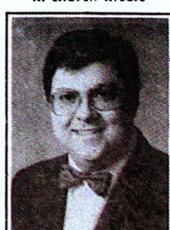
**David W. Landrith**  
Seneca  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity  
with Biblical languages



**G. Anthony Lewis**  
Nashville  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of arts  
in religious education



**J. David Lones**  
Niota  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Mark W. Mangrum**  
Fairview  
Midwestern Seminary  
master of  
divinity - correlated

## About home missions

## Tennessee HMB trustees gather 'first-hand' information

SEATTLE — Five days in the Pacific Northwest reminded two Tennessee couples of the vital role the pastor plays in church growth and the need for diverse ministries to reach the unchurched.

"Where there is a soul winner, there is a measure of growth throughout the years," said Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church of Hixson in Chattanooga. Phillips was one of 29 Home Mission Board trustees who participated in an awareness tour to gather first-hand information about home missions.

Phillips said he would like to see a large church grow in Oregon and Washington to serve as a model for other churches and to train leaders for smaller congregations. He said he would also like to see churches like his develop partnerships with smaller churches in the Northwest Baptist Convention.

Bill Delaney, retired pastor and member of Brainard Church, Chattanooga, said he was impressed with the innovative ministries he observed.

"I saw a great diversity in the preachers' style and their worship ser-

vices, but all of them are meeting real needs," Delaney said.

Delaney also commented on the pastoral leadership in the Northwest. "It used to be that people who went to churches up there were people who couldn't hack it here. That's not true now. These pastors are sharp and energetic."

One pastor Delaney described as "one of the great saints of our time" is Allen Elston. He and his wife, Juanita, have worked on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, east of Portland, Ore., for 31 years.

"It was our 18th year before the first Indian man decided to join the church and stay with us," Elston said. "We now have five men who are worship leaders. Never before have they had Indian men who were Christian leaders."

Leadership is the biggest need throughout the Northwest Baptist Convention, which includes 375 churches and missions in Oregon, Washington, and part of Idaho.

"We're constantly looking for those God would send to this area," said Cecil Sims, the convention's executive director. "Our main emphasis is starting new work, and we have to discover and develop leaders for the new work."

Testimonies of pastors in the Northwest reveal the myriad of ministry possibilities.

In the last 18 months, James Hays, pastor of South Hill Church, Puyallup, Wash., baptized 170 people, Sunday School attendance increased from 80 to 260, and attendance at worship services grew to 350.

"A lot of people here have never heard how to receive Christ," said Hays. "Yet there is an excitement and enthusiasm here. New Christians are telling their lost friends about Christ. Pray that even more of our people would be soul winners."

Trustees also saw products of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. One example is Elston's home on the Indian reservation which was built with money from the annual home missions offering.

In 1974, \$10,000 from the offering was invested in starting a Korean church in Tacoma. It now has 400 in Sunday School and 700 people in worship. In June, the congregation will begin three Sunday morning worship services. In 1990, it led the Northwest Convention in baptisms.

The tour included trips to a seaman's ministry and Navy submarine base in addition to visits with convention and associational staff.

"When I think that we have only seen a small number of missionaries, it just boggles my mind to think we could multiply this by thousands," said Ron Gaynor, trustee from Tucker, Ga. "We just saw the tip of the iceberg."



**TENNESSEANS ON TOUR** — Four Tennessee residents were among 56 people visiting mission sites in Oregon and Washington as part of an awareness tour for Home Mission Board trustees. They include Bill and Mabel Delaney, left, and Ron Phillips, and his daughter, Kelli. They are pictured with Cecil Sims, center, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

## Big Hatchie Association churches become 'proud parents'

Churches ought to be the result of "planned parenthood" rather than "backseat theology," says Ira Perkins.

For the first time in 30 years Big Hatchie Association is expecting a new church that is not the result of a church disagreement which resulted in a split congregation. All 33 churches of the association are the proud parents, he reported.

Plans for the offspring began many years ago as Perkins, director of missions, Big Hatchie Association, watched growth of metropolitan Mem-

phis spill north into Tipton County. The population of Tipton County has grown from 28,000 in 1970 to a projected 40,700, cited Perkins.

Several years ago Perkins learned about plans for the Blaydes Estate subdivision between Highway 51 and 14 north of Millington. It had 690 lots zoned for homes and enough land for an additional 700 lots. The subdivision developer, an acquaintance and a Christian, was eager to help the association. Although one acre was selling for \$20,000, the man offered the association almost six acres on the main road of the development for only \$45,000.

"All things are possible through God's grace," said Cliff Sweat Jr., associational moderator. "Folks read about missions in other countries but they don't do it at home. What greater pride can they have than to carry on something at their own backyard."

The association applied for a grant through the Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. It received \$22,500 from the Golden State Missions Offering. The final \$22,500 needed to buy the property was borrowed through the Tennessee Baptist Foundation's loan program for churches. The deal was completed in May.

Big Hatchie Association churches have already begun giving toward the land. About \$3000 has been given and Perkins predicted the loan will be paid off within the three-year free-interest period.

Sweat and Perkins agreed the association's churches have caught a vision of church planting that overrode desires to remain debt-free or a lack of missions experience.

"Pastors who have visions of their church being the biggest church around, they're not going to try to start new churches. They're afraid they'll lose members. . . . A church never ventures out in faith when the Lord doesn't give what is given back and more," said Perkins.

Plans to begin the church include holding Backyard Bible Clubs and home Bible studies in the subdivision,

which is already being occupied.

Perkins also is recruiting volunteers from all of the association's churches to form the nucleus of the new congregation.

"I want all of the churches to be sponsors rather than just one church because of the blessings they are going to receive from cooperating. There's no use in all of the gravy going to a few," said Perkins. —Connie Davis

## Brook Hollow Church calls Pierce McIntyre

M. Pierce McIntyre has been called as pastor of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville.

McIntyre is a native of Chattanooga and was ordained by Brainerd Church in that city.

He graduated from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

McIntyre returns to Tennessee from Salinas, Calif., where he served as pastor of Bolsa Knolls Church.

He is the son of Ralph McIntyre, retired director of Baptist World Alliance and former director of the Sunday School Division of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

McIntyre and his wife, Mary Ann, have two daughters.



**MCINTYRE**

## Union sets program for preachers' school

JACKSON — Inspirational preaching by Frederick Sampson of Detroit, and Atlanta evangelist Jesse Hendley will highlight the West Tennessee Summer Preachers' School July 8-12 at Union University.

Sampson has served as pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Church in Detroit since 1971. Hendley is director of the Radio Evangelistic Hour.

In addition to these speakers, Robert Hamblin of Tupelo, Miss., will teach Southern Baptists' January Bible Study, which features the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Hamblin, a Union graduate, is a full-time evangelist and director of the L. D. Hancock Foundation.

A panel of speakers has also been enlisted to teach seminars throughout the week, said John Adams, vice president for religious affairs.

Stephen Olford, president of Encounter Ministries in Memphis, will present a seminar on expository preaching. Lamar Cooper and Louis Moore, both associate directors with the SBC Christian Life Commission in Nashville, will conduct a session on "Dealing Effectively with Moral and Social Issues."

Terry Peck and wife Diane will lead

two morning seminars. The first, titled "For Pastors' Wife Only," will be presented on Tuesday and Wednesday of the week while the second, for both ministers and their wives on Thursday morning, will be titled "Growth in the Minister's Marriage."

Peck is pastor of Scottsville Church in Kentucky, and Diane Peck leads conferences in ministers' families' relationships.

Rob Finley, president of Prayer Resources in Memphis, will wrap up the week with his Friday morning seminar on "The Pastor and His Prayer Life."

Tapes will be available on all conference topics for a nominal fee, Adams said.

Pastors desiring to stay on campus will be charged \$18 single and \$25 per couple for lodging and 13 meals. Children's meals will be extra.

Because of limited housing, those interested should register immediately.

Tim Wheat, Baptist Student Union director, will provide activities for children and youth of family members attending the conference.

For more information, contact the college's office of religious affairs at (901) 668-1818.

# BSSB concludes centennial celebration

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — "A parade of great and ordinary people who have literally changed the face of the denomination" distinguishes the 100-year history of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Grady Cothen said during "Employees' Day," the first of three days of chapel services May 22-24 concluding the board's centennial celebration.

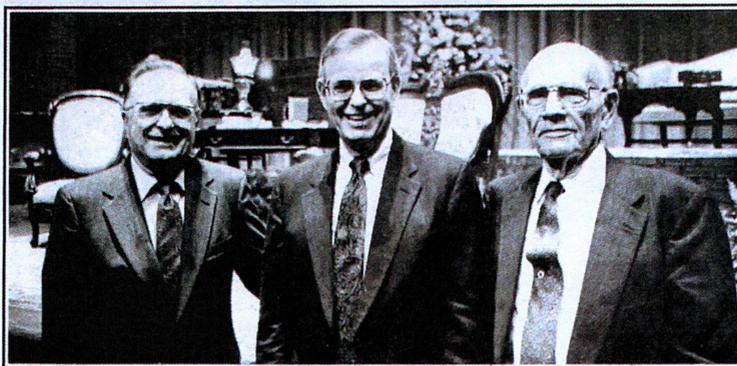
Cothen, who was president of the SBC church programs and publishing board 1975-84, contrasted the opening of New York City's Carnegie Hall in May 1891, with the meeting the same month where messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Ala., voted to establish the Sunday School Board.

"The hall was about arts and pleasure. This institution was about the Book (Bible) and the Christ and the needy people of the world," said Cothen.

Through its literature, the board has contributed to denominationalizing and unifying the denomination in its doctrine, heritage, polity, and evangelism, said Cothen.

"I cannot recall a day in my 70 years that there has not been some Christian literature from this board in my home," he said.

Through the sale of its literature, the board not only has supported itself but "has supported virtually every good cause the denomination has sponsored, helping to start many of them," said Cothen.



**LEADERS** — Three presidents of the Baptist Sunday School Board were among those participating in the board's centennial celebration May 22-24. From left, Grady C. Cothen (1975-84), Lloyd Elder (1984-present), and James L. Sullivan (1953-75). — Photo by Jim Veneman

He cited contributions toward carrying out board-related programs in state conventions and to SBC support, gifts for buildings and agencies, and seminary endowments, support of two national conference centers, and provision of liaison professors in the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

"During the days of turbulent controversy, income has continued to grow. All of the funds have been invested in the work of the churches and the denomination," said Cothen.

James L. Sullivan, president of the board 1953-75, said during the second service, "Retirees' Day," in the past 100 years, "God has proven to us He is with us every step of the way."

Sullivan compared the board's

history to the Pony Express carrying the mail from the East Coast to the West Coast.

He characterized the administrations of Frost, Bell, Van Ness, and Holcomb, then "Just when we got to the Mississippi River, it was my turn. Grady Cothen got the plains, and he took off like a rocket. Dr. Elder (current president Lloyd Elder) not only had the highest hill, but he got a bucking bronco as well.

"But we will ascend the mountain," said Sullivan. "We'll go through the valleys of California. We'll deliver the message when we get to the Pacific."

He urged all associated with the board to "keep at the task before us. If we can keep in focus, we can ride out the storm. We'll march through the valley of the shadow into eternal day on the other side. We haven't arrived yet at the promised land, but we're on our way."

Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church, Nashville, spoke at the



*Celebrating Heritage and Hope*

closing service, "Anniversary Day," held at the church where the organizational meeting of the board was held in 1891. Noting the issue of establishing the board had been the source of a six-year denominational controversy, Paschall said, "The challenge of dissent may have given the Sunday School Board stronger structure and fiber than it would have had otherwise." Paschall announced he is giving his library to the board's E. C. Dargan Research Library. The library includes Paschall's books and those of his predecessor at the church, W. F. Powell.

During the service, James D. Williams, executive vice president of the board, presented Elder with a framed print of the painting by First Church member Burnard Wiley depicting the arrival of the first trustees at the church in 1891. The three services marked the formal conclusion to the observance which began with a pageant at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last year.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS The Sunday School Board

The 100-year history of the Sunday School Board stands as a monument to a saying which Southern Baptist statesman John Broadus was fond of repeating, "Watch the beginning of things!"

- 1891 — Sunday School Board begins operation with one publication, *Kind Words*
  - 1898 — First book published
  - 1908 — Sunday School Standard of Excellence
  - 1908 — Church Architecture Department
  - 1918 — Baptist Young People's Unions become part of Sunday School Board
  - 1918 — Baptist Book Stores
  - 1920 — Vacation Bible School
  - 1924 — Student Ministry transferred to Sunday School Board
  - 1928 — Book publishing ministry named Broadman Press
  - 1934 — *Open Windows*
  - 1937 — *Broadman Hymnal*
  - 1940 — *Home Life*
  - 1947 — Glorieta Baptist Conference Center
  - 1952 — Church Recreation Program
  - 1954 — Church Administration Department
  - 1958 — Church Study Course
  - 1959 — Life and Work Series
  - 1966 — Bible Book Series
  - 1978 — A.J. Holman Bible Co. purchased
  - 1979 — Centrifuge youth camp
  - 1979 — MasterLife discipleship course
  - 1980 — Korean Sunday School materials
  - 1984 — Black Church Development Section
  - 1985 — Preschool-children's Sunday School materials in Spanish
  - 1986 — Toll-free ordering
  - 1988 — First Broadman 24-Hour Counselor tapes
  - 1988 — *The Baptist Hymnal*
  - 1991 — First volume of *The New American Commentary*
- BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School literature improvements

## 1891 convention saw birth of BSSB

NASHVILLE — A mixture of tension and expectancy accompanied the opening of the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting as messengers arrived hoping to see the resolution of a six-year-old controversy.

The city was Birmingham, Ala. The time was May 1891. The issue was whether the denomination would establish an agency to publish its own Sunday School literature.

The major players were:

- J. M. Frost, a 42-year-old soft-spoken pastor driven by the conviction that the idea for a Sunday School publishing board was not his own but had been given him by God;

- J. B. Gambrell, the fiery, outspoken editor of the *Baptist Record* of Mississippi, who opposed the establishment of a publication board; and

- John A. Broadus, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who in the 1860s had helped to spearhead a denominational publishing board that had failed.

A record 855 messengers registered for the convention, which named a 13-member committee chaired by Frost to bring a proposal regarding the publication of Sunday School literature. The committee commissioned a two-man subcommittee, Frost and Gambrell, to prepare its report.

The two met in the Florence Hotel, initially adversaries, but jointly committed to the belief that the outcome of

their work would affect their beloved denomination for years to come.

Gambrell offered to let Frost write the report and name the board's location, provided that Gambrell could write the closing paragraph. Frost agreed, with the provision that he be allowed to write the closing sentence.

In his paragraph, Gambrell recommended "that the fullest freedom of choice be accorded to every one as to what literature he will use or support."

Frost then urged "all brethren to give to this board a fair consideration and in no case to obstruct it in the great work assigned it by this convention."

With Frost and Gambrell in agreement, the committee unanimously adopted their report. Hurrying from the committee to convention session meeting in the O'Brien Opera House, Frost had to be lifted in a window to make his way through the crowds to the platform.

Messengers on both sides of the issue waited, speeches in hand, for Frost to complete his report. When Frost had finished, Broadus began to speak — a brief, impassioned appeal for peace.

In silence, the report was then adopted with only 13 dissenting votes.

The Sunday School Board was begun with one task — to publish literature for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools — and with a mandate to be self-supporting. The board has never received funds from the denomination.

(Continued from page 5)

## — More Tennessee seminary graduates



**Emily C. Martin**  
Signal Mountain  
Southern Seminary  
master of  
social work



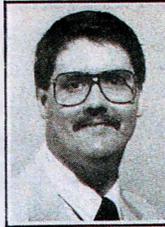
**William R. McCartney Bradford**  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity  
with Biblical languages



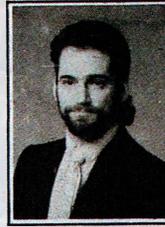
**Timothy McGehee**  
Lewisburg  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity  
with Biblical languages



**Patrick McGill**  
Trenton  
New Orleans Seminary  
master of arts  
in Christian education



**Kelly McGinnis**  
Memphis  
New Orleans Seminary  
associate of divinity  
with church music



**Jay Mullins**  
Knoxville  
Midwestern Seminary  
master of  
religious education



**Steven S. Nelson**  
Memphis  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity  
with Biblical languages



**Elizabeth S. Only**  
Collierville  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Ann T. Ower**  
Brentwood  
Southern Seminary  
master of arts  
in Christian education



**Charles Pegram Jr.**  
Memphis  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of arts  
in religious education



**Phyllis A. Platt**  
Elizabethton  
Southern Seminary  
master of  
social work



**Gregory Qualls**  
Nashville  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Wheeler Renshaw**  
Sevierville  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Richard C. Seymour**  
Chattanooga  
Southeastern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Para D. Smith**  
Erwin  
Southern Seminary  
master of  
social work



**Robert R. Stevenson**  
Shelbyville  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity  
in Christian education



**Edward Sunday-Winters**  
Rockwood  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Stanley Waffer**  
Memphis  
New Orleans Seminary  
master of divinity



**Pam Washburn**  
Statesville  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Craig A. Webb**  
Nashville  
Southern Seminary  
master of divinity



**Pamela G. West**  
Chattanooga  
New Orleans Seminary  
master of  
religious education



**Timothy W. West**  
Hornsbey  
Midwestern Seminary  
master of  
divinity - correlated



**Fred M. Williams**  
Chattanooga  
Southwestern Seminary  
master of theology



**Carmon S. Wood**  
Nashville  
Southern Seminary  
master of arts  
in Christian education

## ACTS broadcasts SBC events

FORT WORTH, Texas — A combination of live and delayed coverage of selected portions of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to be held in Atlanta June 4-6 will be broadcast on the ACTS (American Christian Television System) network.

The Call to Spiritual Awakening will be broadcast live Wednesday, June 5, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The event will last two hours and 40 minutes.

Also scheduled to be broadcast live is the Baptist Hour 50th anniversary program Thursday, June 6, at 10:45 a.m. (EDT) followed by a message by President George Bush, which will close the convention. The Baptist Hour program and the address by President Bush will be broadcast live both on ACTS and FamilyNet, also operated by the Radio-TV Commission. Bush is expected to speak at 11:45 a.m. for about 15 minutes, according to White House officials.

ACTS is primarily a cable-delivered

### McDaniel accepts call

Eddie McDaniel is serving as pastor of Stephensville Church, Englewood. A bivocational pastor, McDaniel also works at a furniture manufacturing company. He was ordained Jan. 20 at Bethlehem Church, Madisonville, his hometown. He and his wife, Rita, have seven children.

network and is carried by more than 750 cable systems across the nation. FamilyNet is carried by more than 70 independent television stations.

Speaking of the Call to Spiritual Awakening, Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and chairman of the group planning the event, noted that the ACTS live broadcast "will provide churches the opportunity to participate in the service with their own prayer groups and to hear the messages and the music."

Churches with satellite dishes that can be tuned to get the program would receive it on Galaxy III, transponder 7 (seven). The Galaxy III arc position is 93.5 degrees west.

Convention highlights to be taped and broadcast later — all on ACTS — and dates and times of the broadcasts (all EDT) are:

- The President's address by Morris H. Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas; June 5, 1-1:30 p.m.
- The convention sermon by Tom D. Elliff, pastor, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., Thursday, June 6, 1-1:30 p.m.
- Rebroadcasts of the Baptist Hour anniversary program; June 13, 1-1:30 p.m. and 8:30-9 p.m.
- Rebroadcasts of Bush's address, June 6 at 8:30-9 p.m. and June 7 at 1:00-1:30 p.m. and at 8:30-9 p.m. — BP

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

**VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627  
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

**CHURCH FURNITURE**  
Finest Construction  
Lowest Prices  
Free Estimates

Plain or Padded BAPTISTRIES, STEEPLES, WINDOWS  
"Refinishing, Upholstering, Cushioning Your Present Pews"

**CISCO**  
P. O. Box 1068  
Lewisburg, TN 37091

Toll Free  
1-800-365-2568  
615/359-3075

# NONDRINKERS

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

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

Call the following offices in Tennessee:

Chattanooga (615) 899-6033    Kingsport (615) 288-6711  
Knoxville (615) 524-1201    Memphis (901) 795-6872  
Maynardville (615) 992-0474    Nashville (615) 367-9157  
Morristown (615) 587-9327

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

PREFERRED RISK GROUP Home Office West Des Moines, Iowa

# TenneScene

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

## Churches ...

**Bethlehem Church, Whiteville**, will hold homecoming June 9. Franklin Tennyson will be the speaker.

A homecoming celebration will be held June 23 at Hatchie Church, Hornsby.

Members of **First Church, Concord, Knoxville**, dedicated a new family life center May 5.

## People ...

Retired Tennessee pastor **Floyd Harlow** and his wife, **Jessie**, of Mosheim, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 17. Prior to his

retirement in 1975, Harlow was pastor of churches in Sweetwater, Madisonville, Loudon, Rutledge, and Mosheim. Mrs. Harlow is the former **Jessie Miller** of Tellico Plains. They have two children, **Carol Caines** of Jacksonville, Fla., and **Jeanette Harlow** of Oak Park, Ill.

**Sylvia Murphy**, wife of **Dan Murphy**, pastor of Paint Rock Church in Hiwassee Association, died May 10 of a heart attack.

## Ordinations ...

**Grace Church, Elizabethton**, ordained **James W. Presnell** to the Gospel ministry May 12. Presnell is associate pastor at River Community

Church, Wichita, Kan. He graduated from Milligan College, Johnson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

**Immanuel Church, Nashville**, recently ordained **Melanie Dover**, **Felix Montgomery**, **Phillip Russell**, and **Lynn Woodall** to the deacon ministry.

## Leadership ...

**J. Rush Harrison** has been called to First Church, Livingston, as minister of music and youth, effective June 16. He most recently served West Shiloh Church, Stantonville, and is a graduate of Union University, Jackson. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry May 26 at First Church, Savannah.



HARRISON

**South Seminole Church, Chattanooga**, called **Steve Roach** as minister of

students and activities. He will assume his duties June 9.

Also, **Mark Granlund's** responsibilities have been changed to minister of music and administrative assistant.

**George Weaver** has been called as interim pastor to New Bethel Church, Middleton.

## Revivals ...

A crusade sponsored by Gibson County Association will be held June 23-28 at the Gibson County High School gymnasium. **Fred Wolfe** will be the speaker and **Ed Keyes** will be the music evangelist.

## Missions ...

**Ray and Ruby Fleet**, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field and may be addressed at Caixa Postal 18345, 04699 Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil. He is a native of Memphis.

Missionaries to Nigeria **Chris and Gwen Wilkinson** may be written to at Baptist Dental Centre, Box 424, Enugu, Nigeria. She is the former **Gwen Smith** of Fayetteville and Ardmore.

# TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Every study on church growth highlights the key role that the pastor plays in this. Growing churches have effective pastoral leaders.

But does this mean that plateaued or declining churches have ineffective pastoral leaders? Evidently some churches have interpreted the information this way. I know of a church that is trying to get rid of a man I would judge to be an effective pastoral leader. The reason they give is that the church is not growing; in fact it has been declining. Maybe we need to be reminded that the pastor is not the only element in a growing church.

Growing churches also have a core lay leadership group that is committed to growth. They are ready to try new things. They are ready to venture forth

in faith. They are ready to follow bold pastoral leadership.

Growing churches are praying churches. Even the best of pastors cannot experience church growth if the people do not seek the enablement of God through prayer.

Growing churches have a warm, caring atmosphere. Some churches are so cold they can freeze out any new person attracted by the ministry of the pastor.

Before you fire the pastor, make a careful study. Is he really the problem? Will your class be willing to divide if the church has a new pastor? Will the leadership become a praying group? Will the lost in your community become any easier to reach?

Thank God for the churches that I served. They were always ready to accept me with all my weaknesses, and were ready to help me become the pastor they needed. Why don't you write your pastor a note of appreciation this week, and then pray for him.



LOWRIE



**SERVICE AWARDS** — Four Tennessee Baptists were honored recently for 20 years or more of service at Belmont College. From left, **David Driskill**, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville; **Norma Baker**, First Church, Nashville; **Betty Wiseman**, Brentwood Church, Brentwood, 25 years; and **Stephen Campbell**, Crievewood Church, Nashville, 20 years.

Call For Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT**

TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE 1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO. 3511 HINSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37413

**WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?**

Age	\$100.00	\$250.00
30	8.30	14.30
40	10.20	16.80
50	14.30	24.30
60	20.30	41.80
70	54.30	121.80

PLEASE CALL **ROY NAPIER** (KNOXVILLE, TN) TOLL FREE 1-800-274-0778 • 9-5 Mon.-Sat.

Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, KY. Newlife graded premium life insurance form #76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 65 and then remain level. Female rates (first rated above).

**PEW UPHOLSTERING**

REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS  
PEW REFINISHING  
STAINED GLASS  
LIGHTING  
CARPET • PEWS

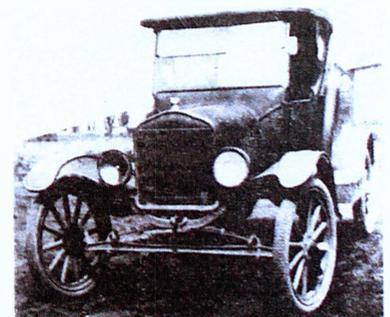
We have upholstered pews in over 1500 churches totaling over 600,000 lineal ft. We can reupholster and repair any pews on site for less cost than the original manufacturer.

**Church Interiors Inc.**

Leading the Nation in Church Renovations  
P.O. Box 5346 • High Point, NC 27262  
Call Toll Free: 1-800-BUY-PEWS (1-800-289-7397)

## BYPU BTU REUNION

Ridgecrest  
July 20-26, 1991



THIS REUNION IS FOR YOU . . .  
If you ever belonged to BYPU or BTU

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE . . .  
If you ever wanted to revisit the good friends, great times, and happy feelings of your youth

For Registration and Cost Information, contact:  
Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center  
Box 128  
Ridgecrest, NC 28770  
704-669-8022

For Program Information, Contact:  
Reunion  
Discipleship Training Department  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
127 9th Ave., N.  
Nashville, TN 37234  
615-251-2842



REGISTER BY JUNE 15

BRING A CAR LOAD!

# SBC Conference for the Blind plans annual meeting

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Conference for the Blind will hold its second annual meeting June 21-23 in Nashville and is expected to hear a proposal seeking program recognition from the Home Mission Board.

Although no official figures are available, there are probably 300 to 400 blind people in Southern Baptist churches, according to Charles Couey, president of the conference organized in New Orleans last year. Couey said

he hopes 50 to 100 will attend the Nashville annual meeting.

The conference is open to blind persons and persons ministering with blind persons, said Couey, 44, who was elected president last year. Couey is a computer programmer for the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration.

Couey is a member of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, and serves as a consultant for the blind with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The schedule is still being completed, Couey said, but will begin on Friday at 1 p.m. at the Sunday School Board's Van Ness auditorium. The session will have a "spiritual emphasis and inspiration," said Couey who will bring the president's message. There will be no Friday evening session.

Saturday and Sunday sessions will be held at Park Avenue Church, Nashville. Woody Parker, manager of the special education section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak at 9 a.m. Saturday on how blind ministries fit into the Sunday School Board's structure.

Following a break, the 10:30 session will hear Ann Putnam, associate director of the HMB's church and community ministries section, tell where blind ministries fit into the HMB structure.

It is hoped the HMB would provide materials, upon request and on a cost recovery basis, for the blind/visually-impaired person, Couey said. The

BSSB had provided Sunday School literature in Braille in the past but has since discontinued that service.

The Sunday morning session will be a joint worship service with the Park Avenue congregation with Couey as the speaker.

There is no registration fee but Couey said he needs to know who is coming in order to provide transportation to/from motels, the BSSB building, etc. For more information or to register, call Couey at (615) 741-4991 (office) or (615) 331-6098 (home) or send mailed messages in Braille, print or tape to 103 Brenda Lane, Antioch, Tenn., 37013.

## C-N to host Tennessee ministers

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College will host the 62nd year of Preachers' School June 24-28. Several pastors from around the nation and their wives will lead in the week-long conference.

D. L. Lowrie, executive director treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will serve as the preacher of the week and will lead sessions on the pastor's role in church growth. Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries through the Home Mission Board, will lecture on "Revitalizing and Evangelizing - Ministry of Local Church."

Mrs. D. L. (Alice) Lowrie will lead sessions for pastors' wives on "Chosen" and "Consider the Lilies."

Other speakers for the conference include:

Jerry W. Lee, professor of Old Testament for Florida Baptist Theological College, will teach Isaiah, the January Bible Study book for 1992;

Bob and Sydnor Money of First Church, Knoxville, will lead sessions on "Marriage, Grace and Work." Gene Riley of Saginaw Valley Church, Saginaw, Michigan will serve as the music evangelist.

The annual school is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention through the Golden State Mission Offering and Carson-Newman College. Housing, meals, and programs for school-age children are available. For more information, contact the Church Relations Office at 471-3245.

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

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

LIGHTING CARPET

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES  
 STEEPLES - CROSSES  
 WATER HEATERS  
 PEWS-PULPIT FURNITURE  
 CARPET-LIGHTING FIXTURES  
 FREE COLORED BROCHURE

**LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO.**  
 Box 518 / Orange, Texas 77630  
 DIAL TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

**WOLFE BROS. & CO.**  
 PINEY FLATS, TENN.

Manufacturers of DISTINCTIVE  
**CHURCH FURNITURE**  
 Since 1888 Write for free estimate.

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

# MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

BELMONT COLLEGE • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

June 24-26, 1991

### Guest Preachers



Dr. John Sullivan  
 Executive Director  
 Florida Baptist  
 Convention



Dr. James E. Jones,  
 Campbellsville  
 Baptist Church  
 Campbellsville, KY



Rev. Jimmy Terry,  
 Tabernacle Baptist  
 Church  
 Clarksville, TN



Dr. Jere Phillips  
 Director, Missions  
 Department, TBC  
 Brentwood, TN

### Program Leaders

Bruce Grubbs  
 Doyle Hayes  
 Bill Hines  
 Fred Kendall  
 Jerry King

Larry Kirk  
 Don Mauldin  
 Roy Miller  
 Charles Mullinex

Bob Norman  
 Wesley Pitts  
 Jim Powers  
 Steven Simpler  
 Archie Thorpe

### Schedule

**Monday, June 24:**

Registration — Begins at 10:00 a.m. in Heron Hall Lobby  
 12:00 — Luncheon - Dr. John Sullivan  
 1:30 — Conferences  
 4:00 — Bible Study  
 8:30 — Mr. Charles Mullinex, Business Executive, Tupelo, Mississippi

**Tuesday, June 25:**

8:30 — Bible Study  
 9:00 — Conferences  
 5:30 — Banquet - Dr. James E. Jones

**Wednesday, June 26:**

8:30 — Bible Study  
 9:00 — Conferences  
 11:45 — Sermon - Rev. Jimmy Terry

### Cost

For those staying on campus (payable upon arrival): \$25 per person  
 For those not staying on campus (payable at time of event): Breakfast, \$3.25;  
 Lunch, \$4.00; Dinner, \$4.25; Tuesday night banquet, \$7.50

For other information, please call: Office of Church Relations, (615) 385-6435.

April 26 thru October 26

**THE GREAT PASSION PLAY**  
 EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Experience the re-enactment of the Life,  
 Death, Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus Christ.

**CURTAIN TIME:**

8:30 p.m.; after Labor Day 7:30 p.m.

**TICKETS:**

\$8.00, \$9.00 & Pre-Paid \$11.00 Seats

Group Rates Available

No performances on Monday & Thursday

**501-253-9200**

## The Great Passion Play Video™

Churches and families across the nation are taking advantage of this SPECIAL VIDEO OFFER . . . ONLY \$20.00 including tax and shipping (\$44.00 Value). This 90 minute video is ideal for church programs, an inspirational evening at home or as a gift. Order yours today!

**ALLOW 2 to 4 WEEKS for DELIVERY**

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of The Great Passion Play Video at \$20.00 each.

Total Order \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Circle One: VHS or BETA

Payment Method (check one)  Check  Money Order  Visa  MC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Card Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (as shown on credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Elna M. Smith Foundation • The Great Passion Play Video  
 P. O. Box 471 • Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

FAX Number: 501-253-8261

PHONE: 501-253-9200

# Absalom's death and David's grief

By David Brown, pastor; Mine City Church, Ducktown

Well did the writer of Proverbs state (ch. 31:30, NIV) "charm is deceptive." Absalom's physical grace and cunning heart combined to successfully "[steal] the hearts of the men of Israel." His aristocratic bearing, diplomacy, and beauty gave Absalom the added qualities needed to lead a revolt against his father's throne.

The wages of David's sin with Bathsheba were carrying out their far-reaching consequences. Absalom's self-centeredness lent itself to the unfolding drama of Nathan's prophetic description of those consequences. God does not always excuse those who sin from reaping results; although the repentant heart is forgiven.

David humbly accepted what he brought on himself and what God sent,



BROWN

including the hurt and heartache. God did not abandon King David because of sin, for David was surrounded by friends as he fled from his capital. In gratitude for his wise reign and generous deeds, these friends functioned as his spies and protected his interests as much as possible. Especially used of God was Hushai, who thwarted the plan for immediate attack which had been suggested by Ahithophel, formerly one of David's most trusted counselors. We must take care not to become disillusioned with fellow servants who do what is expedient instead of what's right. We must keep our eyes on Jesus who keeps His eyes on our interests as we remain true to Him.

The delay of attack, made possible by Hushai's counsel, provided David's forces enough time to gather strength and plan their strategy. David's army was probably much smaller than Absalom's. David, however, had the advantage of battle-wise leaders who

**BIBLE BOOK**  
June 9 Lesson  
Basic Passage: II Samuel 17:24-19:10

divided the army into three fighting units and apparently attacked from three different directions, intentionally dividing Absalom's army and scattering them over a wide area. Evidently Absalom's forces, fleeing in fright, became, entangled in thick vines, ran into dense foliage, and were unable to get back together. Verse eight says the forest devoured more soldiers that day than the sword. David had chosen his battle site at the forests of Ephraim wisely. It was in this battle that Absalom's head was caught in the branches of a tree and "he was taken up between heaven and earth; and the mule that was under him went away." David's powerful general, Joab, then thrust three darts into Absalom's heart and the soldiers who were with him "compassed about and smote Absalom,

and slew him."

When the news of Absalom's death reached David he was overcome with grief. Perhaps his grief was compounded because he knew his own sin had played a big part in leading Absalom astray and because he had not made any effort to win Absalom back to himself.

Though David's grief was great, he was still king. Word of David's mourning spread among the soldiers, and they felt rebuked and frightened. Absalom's death was tragic, but many supporters had risked their lives for David. David alone could show them gratitude. Joab went to the king and spoke sternly with him, alerting him to now his behavior was affecting the soldiers. Being a friend, Joab demanded David pull himself together. The king then proceeded to carry out his kingly duties of congratulating the soldiers for their faithfulness and sacrifices, and thanked them for saving his kingdom. We too need friends who love us enough to be truthful with us. Life must go on even after very tragic events in our lives.

# The foundation is laid

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

In response to King Cyrus' benevolent decree, many of the Jews who had been in captivity in Babylon went to their homeland of Judah to start life anew and rebuild their temple. Ezra 2:64-65 indicates there were more than 42,000 of them.

God's people worship (Ezra 3:1-6)

Just as soon as all these Jews resettled in the land of Judah they turned their attention to the corporate and public worship of God. Regardless of the circumstances, God's faithful people always place a high priority on worship. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus urged His followers to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). The writer of the book of Hebrews told us we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (10:25). Verse 1 records that the



PAINTER

repatriated Jews "gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem." Certainly they were mindful of Cyrus' order to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, but it was their faith and deep-seated desire to unite in worship that drew them together.

Even before they began rebuilding the foundation of the temple, the Jews rebuilt the altar. They got their new beginning off on the right foot by going back to the basics. To make sure they did the basics and everything else right, they carefully consulted God's Word. Despite, or possibly because of, their fear of the unsympathetic people about them, they eagerly united in devotion to God. Surely this is the most prudent course for God's people in any age. As New Testament believers, we do not need a literal altar, but we do need to be united in our commitment, worship, and service (cf Romans 12:1).

God's people work (Ezra 3:7-9)

Sincere worship always leads to sacrificial service. After their worship had been re-established, the returned exiles turned their attention to the

urgent matter of rebuilding their worship center, the temple. There have been times when the challenge of rebuilding a house of worship that has been destroyed by storm or fire has united and rallied God's people to a greater work than ever before.

This account is very reminiscent of the record of the building of Solomon's temple. (I Kings 5; I Chronicles 22; II Chronicles 2). Seldom, if ever, is it possible to carry out an extensive work for God without finances. Workmen had to be hired, and materials had to be purchased. This apparently was done with donations from the Jews themselves and from a monetary grant by King Cyrus. The question sometimes arises about the advisability of accepting "tainted" money from "questionable" donors. One is reminded of the oft-quoted response that "the devil has had it long enough; let's use it for the Lord." Of course, God's people must beware of any strings attached to donations for God's work.

Zerubbabel and Jeshua, who led in the building of the altar, organized and directed the work of rebuilding the foundation and the rest of the temple.

Progress in God's work often depends heavily on dedicated and capable leadership. But leadership alone can-

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
June 9 Lesson  
Basic Passage: Ezra 3; Haggai 1:1-2:8

not get the job done. There must be willing and faithful cooperation.

God's People Celebrate (Ezra 3:10-13) The Jews did not wait until the whole building project was completed to celebrate and praise the Lord. Facilities are very important for God's people if they are used to facilitate worship, fellowship, training, ministry, and outreach. From its earliest stages this building was not a burden, but a blessing. Their celebration had the desirable combination of planning and spontaneity. It was also both traditionally Biblical and freshly contemporary. It surely appealed to both the old and the young. Some were moved to tears and others to shouts of joy. Though we may have different approaches and responses to worship, it is important that the world sees us as united for God and His work.

# Live the new life

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

From time to time I meet up with folks I have not seen since high school. After they describe how utterly shocked they were to hear that I became a "preacher," they often remind me of just what I was saved from by describing to me, (as if I don't remember!) what my old life-style was like before I accepted Christ ("got religion"). The apostle Paul helped the Ephesian believers understand that the Christian life is a new life and reminded them first from what they were to be separated (vv. 17-19).



HOLLOWAY

The "vanity of their mind" caused a sort of "snow-ball effect" of moral wrong in their old lives (v. 18). This immorality progressed in their lives until they had "given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness," (v. 19). By this we can understand that the life of these "other Gentiles" was lived to commit sin.

In stark contrast to the old life-style, Paul then pointed out what the new life-style should be (vv. 20-24). We note that the main point of these four verses is that Christ entirely recreates a person, including his or her mind. This is not just a remodeling job, but a new creation. The mind that was once darkened by sin and hardened is recreated. The one who has "put on the new man" and is "renewed in the

spirit of your mind" is now not only conscious of sin, but is repulsed by it. To "put off" old sinful habits and ways is not enough. A person must "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Here is one more place that a salvation by works is refuted. "Wherefore" or because we have "put on the new man," there are things that must be changed in our life-styles or "put off" (vv. 25-31).

**LIFE AND WORK**  
June 9 Lesson  
Basic Passage: Ephesians 4:17-32

These last verses read almost like a checklist of sins of which we should be careful to dispose. Lying, anger, stealing, corruption, bitterness, wrath, and evil speaking all grieve the Spirit of God "whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Lastly, Paul admonished his readers

to do some things that are much easier to do after the burden of the old sinful lifestyle is put off (v. 32). "Forgiving one another" is much easier when we are "kind one to another" and "tenderhearted." These are not traits that are appreciated in our macho-man society today, but then, who asked society? We can put on these new traits because after all, we have put on the one with whom these traits originated.

Just like Paul instructed the Ephesian Christians, we are to discard the old life-style of sin while developing and growing in a new life-style in Christ.

**Baptist Heritage Month**  
June 1991

To obtain free guidelines and materials, write the Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, Tenn. 37203-3620. Or call 615-244-0344

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Wave of disasters washes away mission relief fund**

RICHMOND — Response to a wave of world disasters has depleted the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's general relief fund. "This is the first time in the 14 years I have been here that we've found ourselves totally depleted," said John Cheyne, who directs the Foreign Mission Board's relief efforts.

World disasters dropped the general relief fund from \$297,000 in January to zero in May, when the board sought to respond to needs of cyclone victims in Bangladesh. Administrators had to pull \$225,000 for Bangladesh from a special \$1 million contingency fund originally set aside for relief response to the Persian Gulf war's aftermath. Only the mission agency's general relief fund is empty. The board has two relief accounts: general (or non-hunger-related) and hunger relief. The hunger relief account still has funds but is ten percent below last year's total, Cheyne said.

Donations to the hunger or general relief fund may be sent to the Foreign Mission Board through local Southern Baptist churches or directly to P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

The relief squeeze also has affected other groups. The Baptist World Alliance's relief work feels the effects of the recession, said Lee Hickman, secretary of the organization's Baptist World Aid office in McLean, Va.

**BSSB buys building; completes remodeling**

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has completed the purchase of an office building near its downtown Nashville headquarters, for \$750,000. The building will be used for office expansion and possible conference space.

The building acquisition, a \$320,000 project to reconnect the board's property to a downtown viaduct that has been replaced and a \$3.75 million facelift for the Operations Building, are part of a master properties plan approved by the board's trustees in 1987 for the Nashville facilities.

Earlier phases of the plan, now completed, include the expansion of warehouse space beneath the Operations Building, adding 105,000 square feet of space and moving shipping and receiving docks, and the construction of a \$15.5 million office/conference tower atop the Operations Building.

The purchase of the Eighth Avenue building, formerly leased by the board, adds 37,400 square feet to the publishing institution's already existing one million square feet of downtown building space. The building is adjacent to the board's complex and is directly in front of the Southern Baptist Convention Building. Connection of the board's buildings to the Church Street viaduct is expected to be completed within two months, returning to employees and visitors access to the board's parking roof from the north side of downtown Nashville.

**Bulgarian Baptists celebrate at first congress in 40 years**

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Bulgarian Baptists gathered in a theater in Sofia May 15 to celebrate their freedom and participate in their first national congress in more than 40 years. The 28th Congress of the Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Bulgaria highlighted Jesus' words, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," as 115 delegates experimented with the democratic process, gave thanks for their new freedom, and remembered past leaders who valiantly defended their faith.

The "new" democratic election process confused some. Many delegates had never attended such a meeting. But they elected Teodor Angelov as president and Boshidar Igov as general secretary, filled other positions in the union's structure, and discussed new missions goals.

Vasil Vasilev, a pastor within the union for many years, was named full time evangelist. He is responsible for the five local congregations which he started, and he will start others as quickly as possible.

According to reports from the churches, Baptists have experienced rapid growth since the government granted religious freedom last year. Previously, nine churches with about 850 members constituted the union. Now 26 churches and missions report 1350 baptized members.

**HMB reintroduces WIN for lay evangelism**

GLORIETA, N.M. — WIN schools for lay evangelism are being reintroduced by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Also known as Lay Evangelism Schools, the program was first introduced in 1971.

During 1971 and 1972, about 11,000 Southern Baptist churches nationwide held Lay Evangelism Schools using the WIN materials. The number of baptisms recorded in the Southern Baptist Convention rose 9.1 percent in 1971 and 12 percent in 1972. Southern Baptists have yet to surpass the total of 445,725 baptisms recorded in 1972.

Howard Ramsey, HMB director of personal evangelism, said he believes there is a connection between the increased baptism rates and WIN schools. In the climate of the Jesus Movement and other positive spiritual forces at that time, WIN schools equipped the laity to share their faith, he said. Some churches have continued to have Lay Evangelism Schools, but the program has not been emphasized widely since its heyday in the early 1970s.

In preparation for a nationwide emphasis on personal evangelism in 1995, the HMB has reworked WIN materials. The updated program was introduced during the School of Evangelism and Church Growth at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in May.

There have been some changes in the program, Ramsey said, but there "has not been a major overhaul. I tell people who have used the materials before,

'You're going to appreciate the old and like the new.'"

WIN is a means of equipping lay people in personal evangelism that does not require as much time and memorization as Continuing Witness Training, Ramsey explained. It is a flexible program that can be taught over four nights or one weekend.

**Language Scripture distribution planned**

MIAMI — During two months next year, Southern Baptists will be asked to deliver Scriptures in languages other than English to every ethnic person in their communities.

A recent study shows people from at least one ethnic group reside in every Southern Baptist association in the United States, said Tom Wright, director of the Home Mission Board's language church development department.

The Scripture distribution is set for September and October of 1992, but Wright said churches should begin planning for the project now. Participating churches need to include money to buy the language Scriptures in their 1992 budgets and begin identifying ethnic groups in their neighborhoods, he said. A guide for interested churches is scheduled to be available from the Home Mission Board customer service center by July 1991.

The Evangelistic Language Scripture Distribution plan was announced during a conference for catalytic home missionaries in Miami.

**Christian Life Commission publishes public policy newsletter**

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has published its inaugural issue of a public policy newsletter designed to help Southern Baptists increase the effectiveness of their influence in the federal government.

The first issue of Salt was mailed on May 15. The newsletter, which is scheduled to be published four times in its first year, originates in the CLC's recently expanded Washington office. Salt addresses the public policy aspects of the moral, social, ethical, and religious liberty concerns assigned to the CLC. The first issue deals with topics as a Supreme Court case on prayer at public school graduations and government funding of sacrilegious and sexually explicit art. There also is a summary of legislation being considered or to be considered in Congress that includes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act as well as bills on sports gambling and parental notification for abortions on minors.

Light, the CLC's 16-page magazine, will continue to be produced quarterly. Persons who receive Light also will receive Salt. The names Salt and Light are derived from the CLC's theme on its logo, "You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world," taken from Matthew 5:13-14. The newsletter may be received by sending requests to Christian Life Commission, P.O. Box 25266, Nashville, Tenn. 37202-5266.

**George Worrell resigns SEBTS vice presidency post**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Saying "life is too short not to do the will of God," George E. Worrell resigned as vice president of external affairs for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will be pastor of the Lawndale Church in Greensboro, N.C. Worrell has been the church's interim pastor since January.

In a departmental meeting May 20, Worrell told the external affairs division leaving Southeastern had been an extremely difficult decision for him.

"For 21 years I have served in various convention posts. I felt that I was expanding my ministry beyond the local church. It is evident now that God has called me back to my roots.

**Brotherhood concludes three-year training cycle**

LINDEN — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission ended an experimental, three-year cycle of training conferences May 19 with the conclusion of the National Brotherhood Certification event at Camp Linden Baptist Assembly. The three-day gathering attracted more than 200 Southern Baptists involved in church and associational Brotherhood work across the United States.

In all, more than 700 Brotherhood leaders have been trained for service since the cycle began. "We offered training at Royal Ambassador University for RA leaders in 1989 and at Baptist Men's University for those involved in men's work last year," said James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president. "This cycle has been so rewarding for the trainees and so informative for the staff that we've already decided to start it again next year."

Royal Ambassador University is scheduled for May 28-31, 1992, on the campus of Rhodes College in Memphis.

**Eight-year strategy planned to evangelize ethnic America**

MIAMI — Beginning with Hispanics in 1992, Southern Baptists will concentrate evangelistic efforts on a specific language group each year through 1999. Strategy for "Language Thrust A.D. 2000" was explained during a conference for catalytic home missionaries in Miami. The eight-year thrust is a joint venture of the Home Mission Board's language church extension division and evangelism section.

Ethnic leaders will help develop strategy for their groups, said Oscar Romo, HMB language church extension director. For example, he said Hispanics are considering crusades in the fall of 1992, but other groups may take different approaches to their evangelistic thrust.

Romo said he expects the strategy to produce new churches, additional ministries, and church growth. "We're excited about this, and we believe it's an overdue process," said Ken Carter, associate vice president in the HMB evangelism section. "By focusing on one group a year, we will have a consistent plan."

The thrust is designed to train people for evangelism leadership and develop materials specifically for language groups that can be used in future years, Carter said. Focus groups for each year are: Hispanic, 1992; Caribbean and deaf, 1993; Filipino, Korean, and Pacific Islander, 1994; Indochinese, Middle Eastern, and Sub-Sahara, 1995; Asian Indian, Chinese, and Japanese, 1996; American Indian, 1997; Eastern European, 1998; and Western European, 1999.