

# Baptist and Reflector

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NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

At July 18 meeting

## Draper to be nominated eighth president of BSSB

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — James T. Draper Jr. will be nominated to become the eighth president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

A special meeting of the 93-member board of trustees will be called for 1 p.m. Thursday, July 18, in Nashville to consider the nomination of Draper, 55, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, and 1982-84 president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The meeting will continue Friday morning, July 19, if needed.

Wayne Dubose, chairman of the search committee and pastor of Summer Grove Church, Shreveport, La., said Draper was the unanimous choice of the ten-member committee.

If elected, Draper will succeed Lloyd Elder, who has been president since 1984 and who reached agreement with trustees Jan. 17 to retire by Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after election of a successor. The agreement was reached after a lengthy dispute between Elder and trustees about Elder's leadership at the board.

The search committee was formed Feb. 4 during a regularly scheduled trustee meeting.

Dubose said June 21 the search committee received nominations from about 70 Southern Baptists. They also received other kinds of suggestions from many, including about 170

employees of the board.

In late April, Dubose said the committee conducted a telephone poll of a cross-section of about 100 Southern Baptists.

"We shared the names of the seven or eight persons most recommended to the committee and asked them to give their first, second, and third choices among these eight," Dubose continued. "It was significant to our committee that our nominee was the one most desired for the job.

"Jimmy Draper is well thought of by Southern Baptists across this land and is recognized as a person of integrity. Dr. Draper possesses many outstanding qualities that will enable him to give us dynamic leadership as we enter the 21st century," he added.

Draper told Baptist Press he and his wife, Carol Ann, reached a decision June 14 to allow his nomination.

After an initial meeting with the search committee in early May, Draper said he began to see "tremendous possibilities and the potential of impacting Bible teaching and ministries of the board into the future. We began to pray, and God gave us peace. We had a growing awareness of God's leadership in this possibility."

Draper said church literature produced by the board "is the best there is." Meeting the challenge of competition from other publishers "is a matter

of working our strengths and aggressively going out after the market."

He said he believes the 100-year-old church programs and publishing in-

to the assignment of the board to produce the best possible teaching material. I think that will meet the needs of the churches," said Draper.

If elected, Draper, who has been characterized as a reconciler, said he would like to be a unifying force in the denomination.

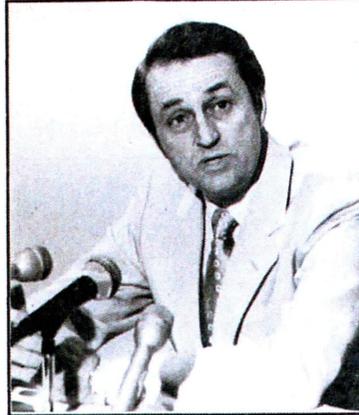
"I like to think I can help people find common ground and do it without compromise of anyone's convictions. We can find ways to work together, to magnify things to keep us together," he added.

Trustee Chairman Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Church, Clearwater, Fla., said he will officially notify trustees about July 5 of his intention to call a meeting for July 18-19. Bylaws specify a called meeting must be held within 15 days of notification.

However, Anderson, who served as an ex officio member of the search committee, said Dubose gave trustees informal information in his letter about meeting dates to enable them to make plans to attend.

Anderson said the called meeting also will include a recommendation to move the Aug. 19-21 scheduled meeting of trustees from Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to Nashville. That meeting would include an installation service for Draper, if he is elected.

(See Draper, page 5)



JAMES DRAPER — nominee for Sunday School Board presidency

stitution with more than 1800 employees and 17 SBC-assigned programs of work can meet the needs of churches aligned with both sides in the denominational controversy.

"If we stay true to giving adequate exposition of the Word of God, I think we will meet the needs of all factions (in the denomination). If we stay true

## 'Crossover Japan' nets 345 professions of faith

By Michael Chute

TOKYO — A "Crossover Japan" evangelistic thrust led 345 people to faith in Jesus Christ, reported leaders of 42 Southern Baptist volunteer teams from the United States — including 24 team members from Tennessee — that worked in the partnership crusade.

One of the largest evangelistic crusades ever planned by Japanese Baptists, the May 20-June 3 effort involved 139 Southern Baptists from 20 states who worked in 41 Japanese churches and mission congregations. It grew out of Japanese Baptists' goal to increase their churches and mission congregations from 238 to 500 and membership from 28,000 to 50,000 in the next ten years. The Japan Baptist Convention matched up the volunteer teams with churches.

Leslie Atkins of Leawood Church, Memphis, said his team "saw revival come" to the Hino mission church in Tokyo where missionaries Max and Flo Love are working. "We saw seven people come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. There were many rededications and some we didn't hear about, but we could just see it in the

faces and lives of the other people."

At Tokyo Baptist Church, where Fred Ogilvie of Fairfield Glade, worked, nine people became Christians during the services. Ogilvie related these spiritual decisions focused the congregation on several different countries. A young man from Bangladesh told of the thousands of people killed in the recent cyclone there. The ambassador to Japan from Liberia said he is without a country and hasn't received any salary since last August because of turmoil in that country. A man from Ethiopia can't go back home because he's on the wrong side of the new government and is afraid.

Ernest Holloway, Clearview Church, Franklin, called the crusade "a very special time." He explained that Shouji Okamura, the pastor he worked with at Simura Baptist Church in Tokyo, was a member of an English Bible class Holloway had taught back in 1949. Later, Okamura became a Christian, a pastor, and eventually president of the Japan Baptist Convention.

Working at Chofuminami Mission Point in Tokyo, Bill Smith and his wife, Susan, of Bellevue Church, Cor-

dova, said, "Many seeds were planted. The mission will constitute into a church this Sunday (June 16). We learned much about Japanese culture. It has been great and we praise God for everything that's happened."

"'Crossover Japan' exceeded any expectations we had," said missionary Bill Walker, who helped mission volunteer Dub Jackson coordinate the crusade. "It proved that an individual's testimony is still one of the most powerful tools Christians have. Regardless of cross-cultural difficulties, the power of the living Gospel translates."

The first in a series of annual "Cross Overseas" crusades sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the project involved pastors and laypeople from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The annual partnerships will parallel the "Crossover America" campaigns, coordinated by the SBC Home Mission Board. Both emphases came from suggestions made by SBC President Morris Chapman.

In "Crossover Japan," each partnership team included a preacher and two or three laypeople, such as secretaries, seminary students, businessmen, and retirees. Several former missionaries to Japan returned as team members.

Walker said three former missionaries reported that at least 30 people accepted Christ in their assigned church during the week. Returning

missionaries said they "sensed a real change in Japan, a new openness to the Gospel, a new warmth in the churches," he said.

More teams went to new church planting situations than is usually the case because 33 missionaries in Japan are directly involved in church starts.



PREACHING IN JAPAN — Fred Trexler, associate pastor of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, preaches at the Meinohama Baptist Church in Fukuoka.

About a fourth of the teams were involved in new church situations.

Jackson, a former Japan missionary who spent the past year in the country planning "Crossover Japan," invited (See 'Crossover,' page 5)

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## Editorial: Prayer is the answer for spiritual renewal

Patriotism, politics, and the presidency grabbed most of the headlines about the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta June 4-6. But prayer and the power of God's Holy Spirit set a pristine standard with a Call to Prayer for Spiritual Awakening.

It happened on Wednesday night of the meeting, this call to prayer, and it was one of those rare occasions when lofty expectations come to pass.

There was no official estimate of numbers — but possibly as many as 25,000 Baptists participated. Thousands more joined with Southern Baptist missionaries and Christian friends around the world — praying during those moments for spiritual awakening in America.



**BANNERS REFLECTING**  
various Biblical names for Jesus were displayed during the June 5 service call for prayer for spiritual awakening in America.

Those who stood, sat, or knelt in the main hall of Georgia World Congress Center experienced that renewal first, they said, in their own hearts.

Registration at the beginning of the prayer service was 23,428 — but no doubt there were many more Baptists who came as interested visitors. It was perhaps the largest Wednesday night congregation in Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings.

Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, and former SBC president, was keynote speaker. He noted that disease, violence, evil leaders, and a spirit of confusion are among the ways by which God judges a nation.

"We cannot separate what is happening in this nation from God," he said. "We are the ones who have chosen evil leaders to rule our nation and our cities. When you read what goes on in Congress, you have to ask yourself, 'How could people be so confused?' We desperately need a spiritual awakening. We desperately need a fresh encounter with God."

Opening the prayer service, Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., called messengers to

pray for spiritual awakening, in an effort "to bring us together as a denomination."

"I believe with all my heart that God wants to do something extraordinary through Southern Baptists," convention President Morris Chapman said. "I believe God wants to bring us to a new power and to set our hearts ablaze that we might have a fresh touch from God.

"I'm trusting God to empower me and empower you," he said. Chapman added that Christians in more than 171 countries made allowance for time differences and joined with the convention in prayer for spiritual awakening. Members of 23 denominations were asked to pray also, he said.

For more than three hours the

congregation prayed, sang, confessed sins to each other, heard Biblical exhortations and sermons — seeking that fresh encounter with God referred to by their leaders.

"By fresh encounter I mean a spiritual confrontation with God that brings us to a point of recognizing the holiness of God," Stanley said, "and our sense of sinfulness before Him, and offering our lives to the mission to which He has called us."

Spiritual awakening, he said, is "the gathering of the people of God for the purpose that God might visit us and ignite our hearts one at a time and send us back to our churches.

"Let the Spirit of God blow upon that single ignited flame, and then watch God begin to do something all across America." He said God judges a nation when the people reject the messages of God and become morally depraved, when men of God begin to destroy the faith of the people by false doctrine, and when the people do not fear God.

Only God's grace can bring this nation from under God's judgment, he said. "When the men of God stand behind the pulpits of God and

proclaim the truth of God without compromise, there is a strong moving of the power of God's Spirit amidst the people and the conviction of the Holy Spirit does such a mighty work there is a cleansing that continues in that society," he said.

Stanley said his greatest fear is sin in the nation. "I don't fear what other nations will do to us, but what we are doing to ourselves day by day."

Referring to the call of prayer, Stanley told the congregation, "We can't orchestrate an encounter with God, but we can position ourselves to ask God to deal with our hearts."

The congregation stood early as banners bearing the names used in the Bible to describe Jesus were paraded into the meeting area. Church choirs provided music for the procession.

Henry Blackaby, director of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening for the Home Mission Board, gave a call to humility and repentance. "Our nation stands in deep brokenness and crises, but God's people are God's answer to a nation," he said. "From the Northwest to Florida, from the Ozarks to the inner city of Detroit, God's people have suddenly been hearing the awesome voice of God calling them into His presence.

"Our Lord wants to bless, but He can't until we have humbled ourselves and prayed, sought His face, and turned from our wicked ways in His presence," he continued.

"My prayer is that we will hear God say, 'I have heard your voice and I have come to save you and heal your land.'"

A shofar called participants to attention for the reading of the Bible throughout the service. (The shofar is a ram's horn trumpet blown by ancient Hebrews in battle and religious observances, and at other times in synagogues).

The sound of nails being driven into a great wooden cross signaled the end of prayer sessions — by individuals and small groups. In the prayer times, people were encouraged to confess sins related to not loving God, not loving others, and living unholily lives.

In a call to the cross and sacrifice, Dan Yeary, pastor of University Church, Coral Gables, Fla., told the congregation that the true test of sacrifice is whether or not it pleases God.

"It is possible to have a correct theology of sacrifice and not have the stomach for it," he said, "for the test of God is whether it pleases God, not how we feel about it, not what it costs us."

The sacrifice must be living, loving, and unlimited, he said, and always done in the Spirit of God and Jesus Christ.

The validity of sacrifice can be tested in several ways, Yeary said:

- Whether I am willing to love my enemy and turn the other cheek.
- Whether I am willing to go the second mile to love my brother, to forgive those who have wronged me.
- My willingness to hunger in

my heart to be only Christlike.

• Being willing to live my life always remembering why I needed to be saved.

Jim Henry implored the congregation to make a covenant with God to be life-givers and channels for God's love.

Chapman closed the spiritual awakening service by leading a responsive reading of covenant renewal based on Joshua 24:14-24, and 27.

Interspersed throughout the evening's program were Scripture readings, leader-led prayers, testimonies, exhortations to meditation and prayer, congregational hymn singing, and songs by musicians. Participants had opportunity to sign a personal commitment based on Philippians 2:5-16, Romans 12:1-8, and Ephesians 3:20-21.

The congregation read as the closing words, "God forbid that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods . . . for He is our God."

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, led a prayer of dedication and the congregation sang, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

The Home Mission Board relinquished time for its annual report "so messengers and friends can experience what God has in store for us tonight."

The call for spiritual awakening cannot cease with the special one-night service. We pray it will spread like wildfire across the United States and around the world — that everyone may have opportunity to know and experience the immense love and saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Listen to Tennessee Baptists: "It was a time of refreshment and encouragement to me." — *Ken Hartley Jr.*

"It was an opportunity for recommitment to our basic responsibility as Southern Baptists." — *James Smith*

"My wife and I wept before God in the midst of it." — *Jerry Glisson*

"It marked the milestone in my relationship to the Lord." — *Marion Arbuckle Jr.*

"Spiritual awakening will make many of our problems seem insignificant." — *C. Ben Mitchell*

We would also pray that all Southern Baptists would feel the burden of prayer for spiritual awakening as do our prayer coordinators. — *WFA*

### Baptist and Reflector

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# FMB trustees adopt criteria for location change

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approved six criteria June 19 to be applied if the board ever considers a change of location.

The trustees also acted on several matters relating to trustee-staff roles. They referred for study a motion asking for expanded trustee involvement in the missionary appointment process, adopted recommendations outlining procedures for quick trustee-staff response to unusual "Green Alert" world situations, and heard a report from a committee studying how staff and trustees relate in developing and revising policy and operational regulations.

They appointed 43 missionaries, heard an update on Southern Baptist ministries in the Persian Gulf, and received a report from FMB President R. Keith Parks on results missionaries have achieved worldwide.

The board also named area directors for mission work in Brazil and the Caribbean and in west Africa. They named Ron Wilson area director for the work of nearly 500 missionaries in Brazil and the Caribbean, and Bill Phillips to oversee almost 450 missionaries in west Africa.

Wilson has been the board's associate area director for the north-west Caribbean since 1986. He succeeds William Richardson, who will take another FMB position.

Phillips has worked for 13 years as a missionary in Africa and succeeds Bill Bullington, who is new vice president for Africa.

The six criteria for considering a location change call for:

1. Evidence the cost of relocation could be amortized through operational savings within ten years.
2. Potential of an alternative location that would be equal or superior to the current location in work environment, transportation, skilled labor force, and parking.
3. A viable proposal for maintaining

the program of the Missionary Learning Center, the board's 238-acre orientation facility in nearby Rockville, Va.

4. Sufficient funds for the move from sources other than the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to avoid using money that otherwise would have been used overseas.

5. No projected increase in the proportion of the budget spent in the United States.

6. No expectation of long-term carrying costs before current facilities could be sold.

The criteria, which grew out of a motion last October by trustee Ron Wilson of California, were recommended by the trustee administrative committee "to be used to judge the stewardship of a move of the Foreign Mission Board from Richmond." Board leaders said the criteria also could be used to judge merits of a move within the Richmond area. They were among ten criteria suggested in a report by FMB Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener, whom the administrative committee had asked to study the board's facilities.

Board leaders said the criteria will be put aside and used only if a concrete proposal for a change of location should materialize. They said they know of no such proposal, although Wilson speculated in an interview such an offer will probably come "at some point in time." But he said he did not know from whom such a proposal would come.

Wilson reiterated earlier comments that his original motion was not intended to set the stage for a move from Virginia, as some had speculated, but only to have criteria in place if they are needed.

The motion related to trustee involvement in the missionary appointment process came from trustee Bill Sutton of McAllen, Texas. It was referred to the trustees' mission personnel committee at his request.

Sutton's motion requested a study of the missionary candidate interview process, with a view to changing or expanding it to allow "the trustees the opportunity to meet and interview the candidates personally" earlier in the appointment process.

A joint committee of trustees and staff completed a year-long study of the appointment process in 1989, and the trustees voted to affirm the board's current process, which also was reaffirmed in 1983.

That process delegates the role of recommending of missionary candidates for appointment to the mission personnel committee, made up of 45 of the board's 91 trustees. Two mission personnel subcommittees review the candidates' qualifications in meetings with personnel staff before approving them, but do not talk directly with candidates until the week of their appointment. A mission personnel subcommittee reviews the process each year.

Parks, in his address to the trustees, saluted the call, commitment, doctrinal integrity, expertise, and evangelistic results of more than 3900 missionaries around the world.

He urged Southern Baptists to continue to pray for and support missionaries as they face difficult and dangerous situations. "We need to pray for them in times of discouragement and burnout and temptation and exhaustion and depression, and in times of victory, enjoyment, and excitement," he said.

On doctrinal integrity, Parks pointed out only two missionaries have been dismissed among the 4000 long- and short-term personnel named in his 11 years as president. "For anyone carelessly to make generalized derogatory statements about these missionaries and their commitments or beliefs is a sin against God, as well as fellow Christians. It is seriously un-

Biblical besides being detrimental to the cause of world missions."

Speaking of the evangelistic zeal of missionaries, Parks pointed out mission field baptisms show a ratio of one baptism for every 12 church members, compared to a ratio of one for every 42 in Southern Baptist churches in the United States. The ratio among Baptists in Europe is one to 31.

Parks also noted 2.6 million overseas Baptists showed a net growth of 2880 churches in 1990, whereas 15 million Southern Baptists recorded a net growth of 189 new churches.

The "Green Alert" procedures adopted by the board establish a formal structure through which either trustees or staff may initiate requests for rapid response to unusual opportunities for evangelism, Christian education, and church-planting created by military, social, or cultural revolution around the world. The board already has a rapid response procedure for such human needs as hunger and disaster relief.

The ad hoc committee reviewing policy matters, which has met five times during the past year, reported it will continue to collect and classify policies that trustees have passed over the years. It said it will recommend any needed changes after reviewing both the procedures by which the trustees adopt and revise policy and by which the staff develops and reports to trustees any operational guidelines built on board policies.

Approval of the 43 missionaries, including 37 new appointments and six reappointments, brings the board's total mission force to 3920 in 121 countries, with work extending into several other nations.

Reporting on Southern Baptist response to opportunities in the Persian Gulf, Tim Brendle told trustees to date the Foreign Mission Board has spent more than \$1.6 million to help meet the needs of Kurdish refugees.

## FMB appoints missionaries with Tennessee ties

RICHMOND — Four couples with strong Tennessee ties were appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during its June trustee meeting at Tabernacle Church in Richmond.

James and Sammie Crawford were reappointed as missionaries to Venezuela where they had served before for 20 years. Crawford will start and develop churches and work with theological education by extension. Together, they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1990 Crawford has been professor of Old Testament and religion at Union University in Jackson. They are members of Poplar Corner Church, Bells.

Both Oklahoma natives, the Crawfords will return to Venezuela in August.

James and Janice Johnsonius were appointed missionaries to Argentina, where he will promote and teach music in the Baptist Institute in Parana. The couple also will be involved in outreach ministries.

A native of Paris, he considers First Church there his home church. Most recently he has served as minister of music at First Church, Dyersburg.

Johnsonius holds degrees from Mur-



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ray (Ky.) State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Johnsonius is a native of Ohio, but considers First Church, Paris, her home church.

They will go to Rockville, Va., in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Memphis natives Scott and Joyce Pittman were appointed to serve in south Brazil, where he will start and develop churches and together they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Pittman has been pastor of Simpsonville (Ky.) Church since 1986. Both consider that their home church, although Pittman credits Capleville United Methodist Church, Memphis, as being influential to his Christian growth. Mrs. Pittman considers Tem-

ple Church, Memphis, as influential in her Christian life.

Pittman holds degrees from University of Tennessee, Martin, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The couple has one child, Erin Joyce. They will go to Rockville in August for orientation.

Former Tennessee Baptist pastor Steven R. Taylor and his wife, Shirley, were appointed to serve in Zimbabwe, where he will start and develop churches. Together they will be involved in outreach ministries.

From 1984-85 Taylor was pastor of First Church, Goodlettsville. The couple, natives of Alabama, will go to Rockville in September for orientation. They have three children — Purity, Rye, and McKelvey.

## Clarifications made

Lines were omitted in an editorial and a news story in the Baptist and Reflector last week — which could have altered the meaning of both.

In the editorial "CLC now carries religious liberty defense for SBC," the eighth paragraph should read:

"This proposed budget funds three approaches to religious liberty and separation of church and state: The BJC, the PAC (Public Affairs Committee), and the CLC (Christian Life Commission). This provides for plurality and diversity in our approach and an opportunity for each Southern Baptist's views to be presented by at least one of these groups." It is unfortunate that messengers were not reminded of this rationale."

On page three, the story "Elder accepts teaching/counseling post at Belmont College," the first paragraph should read:

"Citing his need to 'seek God's will for my life during this part of the journey,' Lloyd Elder said teaching and counseling college students, with flexibility for an 'at-large ministry' drew him to accept a faculty position at Belmont College in Nashville."

The Baptist and Reflector regrets the omissions, and is happy to correct them.

# Our Readers Write

## Thanks from BJCPA

The Southern Baptist Convention in a sharply divided vote cut off all funding for the Baptist Joint Committee. This brings to conclusion 55 years of convention support.

We regret that, not so much for the amount of money involved, as for the SBC's abandonment of a clear and cooperative witness for religious liberty and separation of church and state. To the 6101 people who voted against the motion to deny money to the Baptist Joint Committee and the millions of Southern Baptists who still offer personal and financial support, we humbly thank you.

To the 6872 who voted to cut us out of the budget, let me make you a promise: The Baptist Joint Committee will continue to work faithfully and effectively on your behalf. Our commitment to our calling has never been predicated on how much money someone gave us. You see, we serve all Americans regardless of their church or creed, or lack of religious faith. For we are convinced, as have

been Baptists for generations, that the only certain protection for Baptist beliefs in a free state is for the same protection to be provided all others.

The Southern Baptist Convention, until 1990, provided a majority of all our gifts. But it never "owned" the Baptist Joint Committee. Neither the Joint Committee nor its voice has ever been for sale.

We pledge to you that we will speak for, plead for, and fight for your religious liberty. Others will provide the funds for our work. We care about Southern Baptists. We appreciate what the convention did in years past. Our fidelity to historic Baptist stands remains inviolate.

God bless you. We shall not only survive; we shall overcome.

James M. Dunn  
Baptist Joint Committee  
200 Maryland Ave. N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

## More from the past

Just a few comments on your editorial in the May 29 issue. I appreciate your words of encouragement and warning, but I feel a few additional comments are needed to put the whole problem in perspective. I am a life-long Southern Baptist. I was saved, baptized, and ordained in a Southern Baptist church. I have been a Southern Baptist pastor for nearly 20 years.

Some of us also remember a troubled time 15-30 years ago. "Moderates" were in control. They systematically disenfranchised "conservatives." We were not allowed to be on boards, committees, etc. We were not allowed to serve the denomination in any capacity, although our money was most welcome. In fact, if it was withheld, we were branded independent, non-cooperative.

Many good, loyal, cooperating Southern Baptists were forced to leave denominational jobs, were kept off of boards and committees, and ridiculed solely for their

more conservative theology. Those in "control" would not even listen to the numerous concerns many of us had. They said, "Just keep sending the money."

The bottom line is if it is wrong now (and I do think it is), it was also wrong then. However, someone in the right position (such as yourself) needs to say so. I truly long and pray for the day that our denomination would be theologically sound, spiritually strong, and of one accord in carrying out the great task of Christian missions, as it was 50 years ago.

Wayne Addison, pastor  
Beulah Church  
491 Beulah Church Rd.  
Kingsport 37663

• It has always been wrong to exclude systematically brothers and sisters from Kingdom work. — Editor

## Favors cutting ties

This letter is in response to your editorial June 12. Indeed, the severing of ties with the BJCPA was "a sad moment" in SBC history. It was unfortunate and sad that the SBC was forced to take such action. Yes, some Southern Baptists will miss their BJCPA friends, but probably not the majority who voted their support of this appropriate action.

J. Brent Walker, associate counselor of the BJCPA, stated, "We disagree with the Christian Life Commission's interpretation of the First Amendment" (Baptist and Reflector, May 22). With this and other major disagreements confronting the SBC and the BJCPA, our convention has acted wisely and demonstrated good stewardship.

We shall miss the BJCPA as it presently is, miss it like we would a dead albatross hanging around our neck.

I pray that the BJCPA might one day repent and "return to the old paths" that we once walked together.

You stated "it hardly seems appropriate to have Oliver North and Jerry Falwell speaking to Southern Baptists," citing concern about "how we are

perceived by the world." As a Southern Baptist let me say that I would not be ashamed to stand alongside either of these Christian brothers regardless of how the world might view them. Both men have been "down the road" having vast experiences and we need to hear from some who are not so close that "they can't see the forest for the trees."

J. L. Miller, pastor  
Open Door Chapel  
130 Porter Road  
Dickson 37055

## How to help

I would like to comment regarding a recent Baptist and Reflector article, "A good self-image helps teenagers stay off drugs." A poor self-image has a domino effect. A poor self-image leads to a distorted view of mankind, of God, of the Bible, of the church, of society. But we live in a society which promotes and encourages addictive thinking and behavior.

I came from a dysfunctional family so when I became a Christian as a teenager, I already had a poor self-image, feelings of insecurity, and sense of powerlessness to help myself. Unfortunately my fundamentalist-conservative faith, my Biblical view, and the church did not help me have a good self-image. Actually, these contributed to a poorer self-image.

Instead I had to turn to secular counseling for help. Now I am recovering from addictive thinking and behavior. I am developing a better self-image, feelings of security, and a sense that I can help myself. I am happier now that I am not trying to be a god.

I would attend and support the church again when Baptists can teach that human nature is good (as God created it), not sinful; that we are to accept, not reject ourselves; that we are to respect, not abuse ourselves; and that we are to love, not hate ourselves. The church does not know how to help addicts!

Jim E. Pennington  
P.O. Box 5445-EKS  
Johnson City, 37603

**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.**

# SEBTS accreditation still intact; investigation continues

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The Association of Theological Schools, having reviewed separate reports from the faculty, trustees, and administration of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, is continuing its examination of shared governance at the school. ATS did not put Southeastern on probation in its recent meeting.

In February 1992, the ATS commission on accrediting will combine a focused visit to investigate its on-going concerns about the school with a previously scheduled comprehensive visit. "The school, in completing the current self-study and preparing for the visit, is to show cause why it should not be placed on probation, or have its accreditation withdrawn," ATS Associate Director for Accreditation Daniel Aleshire said in a letter to Southeastern Seminary President Lewis Drummond.

The faculty, trustee, and administration reports reveal conflicting understandings of shared governance, Aleshire said. "The Commission believes that the disagreements in understanding and deficits in capacity to function are profound," he said. "The reports give the impression that the situation at the seminary may very well be worse than when the Commission first responded to the request of the ATS Executive Committee to conduct a focused visit in 1988."

Drummond reiterated his long-

standing commitment to preserve Southeastern's accreditation and said he was grateful the Commission did not put the seminary on probation.

"We take all of their actions and recommendations most seriously," he said. "It is our intent at Southeastern to meet every criteria so that our relationship with the accrediting agency may become as strong and healthy as possible."

## Congress pro-lifers look to President Bush for help

WASHINGTON (BP) — Congressional pro-life forces, thwarted by two more setbacks in the House of Representatives, appear dependent on the presidential veto as their greatest hope in the battle over abortion funding this year.

The House approved legislation June 12 reinstating funds for organizations involved in abortion practices overseas.

In a foreign aid bill, representatives voted 234-188 to give \$20 million to the United Nations Family Planning Agency. Since 1985, UNFPA has not been funded by the United States because of its involvement in China's population-control program, which practices coercive abortions.

In the same legislation, the House approved by a 222-200 vote the lifting of the prohibition on population-assistance funds to private organizations promoting abortion in under-

developed countries. The program, administered by the Agency for International Development, has operated under this policy since 1984. According to AID, only two groups, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, have refused to agree to this restriction and thereby lost funding.

"Shared governance is difficult to implement when 'mutual trust and

confidence' are impaired and when visions for the future are in conflict," Bush said. "ATS has warned us that we cannot continue to function under these circumstances, but they have also graciously given us a little more time to resolve our problems. I pray that we will be able to meet every concern by next year when the ATS review team comes to campus."

shouldn't have lost, some we haven't lost before."

Last year, House pro-lifers won the UNFPA vote by 26 votes, she said.

When asked what the votes reflect, Dannenfels said, "Obviously, we lost in the elections [in 1990]. I would have to say it's not a surprise.

"I don't think it says America is more pro-choice."

It does portend an uphill battle for Congressional pro-lifers in what appears will be a summer filled with activity on abortion funding.

In the first abortion-related floor vote this year, the House voted May 22 to require United States military medical facilities overseas to provide abortion on demand when the procedure is paid for by the client. The margin was 220-208, a shift from September 1990, when a nearly identical provision was defeated 216-200.

The margin of the votes, rather than the defeats themselves, apparently proved a surprise for House pro-life observers.

"Obviously, we're very disappointed," said Marjorie Dannenfels, staff director of the House Pro-life Caucus. "We lost some people we

# Court hears FMB appeal of \$1.56 million Wade verdict

RICHMOND (BP) — The Virginia Supreme Court will rule sometime in September whether a \$1.56 million legal judgment against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will stand. Then the board will prepare to face another lawsuit next January growing out of the same case.

The \$1.56 million judgment against the board was awarded by a Richmond Circuit Court jury on July 13, 1990, to children of a former missionary couple who suffered sexual abuse from their father, G. Thomas (Tom) Wade Jr. The circuit court judge later refused to set aside the verdict, and the Foreign Mission Board appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court, which heard arguments June 7 and is expected to

hand down a decision in September.

The children's mother, Diana Sue Wade, filed a second suit last November, alleging damages to herself. It was set for trial Aug. 12, 1991, in Richmond Circuit Court but was continued until Jan. 13, 1992, to allow the Virginia Supreme Court time to rule on the appeal in the children's case.

The original lawsuit, filed on the children's behalf by Diana Wade, contended board officials learned Tom Wade was sexually abusing the couple's oldest daughter but did not disclose it to Mrs. Wade so she could halt it.

The children's lawsuit contended Wade continued to abuse the daughter

as well as a second daughter and he began molesting a third daughter. The couple also has a son. The abuse began in 1979 in Botswana, Africa, when the oldest daughter was about ten years old.

Board attorneys argued board officials who handled the family's case acted reasonably under the circumstances by telling Wade to inform his wife of the abuse and by arranging for professional counseling. The official who first learned of the case said he acted on the advice of a psychiatrist and a pastoral counseling expert in

dealing with the family. He said he did not know the extent of the abuse and was assured it had stopped two years before.

Wade refused to tell his wife or to accept the counseling. Board officials directed him to return to the United States with his family for counseling. He later was arrested and imprisoned for child abuse. The Wades are now divorced.

In arguments before the Virginia Supreme Court, attorneys for both sides said Wade's actions were tragic, unconscionable, and unanticipated.

## Jacksonville church calls Bailey Smith

JACKSONVILLE (BP) — Evangelist Bailey Smith has accepted the unanimous call of North Jacksonville (Fla.) Church. He will begin his new position July 21.

Smith, 52, last held a pastorate at First Southern Church in Del City, Okla. He resigned that position in 1985 to go into full-time evangelism. He was president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1980 to 1982.

Smith has an agreement with the church to continue his Real Evangelism conference crusades on a limited basis. When the crusades are scheduled, they usually meet Wednesdays, through Fridays. Smith told the church, "I will not abuse this privilege you have given me. My emphasis will be on building this church."

The church, located on 47 acres of land, has a new 3500-seat auditorium. Currently the church averages 1300 people in Sunday School, but the first Sunday Smith was there, 2700 people were in the worship service.

The church has a \$5.5 million debt, which Smith said "is a challenge. But I am accepting the pastorate with my eyes open. It is my hope to have the church debt free in '93."

Smith has had some recent health problems. He had a pacemaker installed in January of this year, but says his doctor has told him he is "a picture of health." Doctors told Smith he does not have a heart problem, but an adrenaline problem which upset the heart's rhythm.

## Draper to be nominated . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Draper, who has been pastor of the 8200-member Euleus congregation since 1975, earlier was associate pastor of First Church of Dallas, and pastor of First Southern Church of Del City, Okla., Red Bridge Church in Kansas City, Mo., and four other Texas churches.

A Texas native, he is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and holds the B.D. and M.Div. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he currently serves as chairman of the board of trustees.

He has held numerous leadership posts at association, state and SBC levels and has written 17 books.

Bill Wilson, search committee member, said on Monday, "The Sunday School Board search committee has been committed from the beginning of the task to find God's person for this position."

"I am confident we have found that person in Jimmy Draper. He is a proven leader who will be a cohesive force in our convention. It's time for all of us to support his leadership at the Sunday School Board through prayer and encouragement." Formerly pastor of Brentwood Church, Wilson is director of Convention Ministries Division, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

If elected, Draper is expected to assume presidency of the board in about 30 days. Elder's retirement agreement specifies that he would be available to serve as a consultant/advisor to the new president until April 1, 1993.

In addition to Dubose and Anderson, the search committee included: Bobby Welch, vice chairman, pastor of First Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.; Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Church in Springdale, Ark.; Kirk Humphreys, businessman from Oklahoma City, Okla.; Frank Palmer, pastor of Forest Avenue Church in Redmond, Ore.; Iris White, businesswoman from Columbia, Md.; Bill Wilson, director of the Convention Ministries Division of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Gene Mims, vice chairman of trustees and pastor of First Church of Cleveland, Tenn.; and SBC President Morris Chapman.

### In Soviet Union

## Graham to hold evangelism school

MOSCOW, USSR — Evangelist Billy Graham, in response to an urgent request from church leaders across the Soviet Union, will hold an evangelism school here.

The Billy Graham Moscow School of Evangelism will be held July 8-13 in the Central Sports Complex, the first ever such event in the Soviet Union.

Approximately 5000 pastors and lay leaders from all denominations in the Soviet Union are expected to attend. Main sessions of the school will be held in Stadium Druzhba, an annex of Lenin Stadium, and seminars will be held in eight halls within the complex. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will be responsible for meals and lodging for all participants at Moscow State University.

"This is historic," said Gregori Iyonovich Komendant, chairman of the Baptist Union in Moscow and chairman of the school. "Never before has there been anything like it in the USSR," he added.

Church leaders in the Soviet Union

say there is a spiritual hunger among the people and growing opportunities for evangelism in the churches. At the same time, they say, the current political and economic stability is uncertain.

"Things are more open now than ever before in the Soviet Union," said Graham. "People are able to take the Gospel and distribute Bibles in schools, prisons, and even to the military. That is more than we can do in America."

For more than 70 years, evangelicals in the Soviet Union have had virtually no opportunity for formal theological training other than correspondence courses.

All school participants will receive materials they can use in their ministry, including an Interpreter's Bible printed in Russian. Training and counseling, as well as follow-up materials, will be provided.

A day of fasting and prayer for the school has been set aside and will be observed by churches throughout the Soviet Union.

## 'Crossover Japan' nets 345 professions . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the Ohman Brass, a six-trumpet ensemble. It traveled to ten churches in the Tokyo area, appeared on Japanese TV, and gave concerts at a school for the blind and several high schools.

A team of volunteers reaching out to the deaf — a first for Japan partnerships — worked in five churches. The team, from the 150-member deaf congregation of Applewood Church, near Denver, Colo., included two deaf members, Audrey Warden and Robert

Payne. Missionary Nan Jordan and Payne's hearing son, Mike, helped interpret for the pair.

"When we had to interpret it was in four different languages: from American sign language to English to Japanese to Japanese sign language," said Robert Payne, who has been deaf since birth. "The Holy Spirit blessed us and worked through us as we did that."

Speaking at the closing banquet, a former president of the Japan Baptist Convention thanked the American group for their work. Okamura Shouji,

pastor of Simura Baptist Church, said six people made spiritual decisions in his church during the week-long crusade — the same number usually baptized in his church in a whole year.

"Japanese pastors say churches hit a barrier and partnerships like this help to kick-start them and fire them through that wall," said Walker. "It has something to do with the weight of being in Japan (where many people resist the Gospel). It stagnates the people, pulling everybody down to the norm. To have an outside charge like this gets us going again."

Other Tennessee Baptists participating in "Crossover Japan" were Bobby L. Gregory, Dean and Anita Cole, Nancy Bogle, and Darrell O. Baker, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis; David Walker, Robert Fred Trexler, and Jack A. McAdoo, Highland Heights Church, Memphis; Earl T. and Claudine Ross and Larry M. Williams, Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah; Noel E. Mills, First Church, Smyrna; Bobbie Jean Estes, Northview Church, Memphis; Charles A. Holder, Bellevue Church, Cordova; Sue Benedict, New Vision Church, Murfreesboro; and Bob and Jean Norman, Clearview Church, Franklin.



**TESTIMONY** — Volunteer Bobbie Estes, a musician from Northview Church, Memphis, and church secretary there, gave her testimony with the help of an interpreter and presented special music for the worship service at Meinohama Church in Fukuoka, Japan.

Tennessee native

## Disability does not stop California pastor's wife

AUBURN, Calif. — Being confined to a wheelchair has not kept Tennessee native Kay Akins from being an effective pastor's wife.

Vivacious and outgoing, Akins has been a paraplegic since 1965 when she and her husband, Jim, also a Tennessee native, were involved in an automobile accident.

Their car ran into a tractor-trailer with no lights. The car rolled over several times, throwing Akins 15 feet in front of the car and Kay about 30 feet the other direction. Both were wearing seatbelts.

The two were on their way to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., from Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Texas, where Akins had recently graduated.

They had no idea how long they lay unconscious by the side of the road before an Oklahoma couple stopped to help. The man driving the truck did not stop.

Kay eventually was transferred to Baptist Hospital in Memphis where she spent seven months in the rehabilitation center.

While Kay underwent therapy, Akins served as interim pastor of Bunton Avenue Church in Memphis. Their parents took care of their two children, who were not in the car.

Eleven days after Kay was released from the hospital, they loaded their belongings and set forth once more to Kansas City where the seminary had fixed a special apartment, equipped with wide doors to accommodate Kay's



**GRACIOUS HOSTESS** — Tennessee Kay Akins may be confined to a wheelchair but it does not keep her from doing all the work of an average housewife. Here, she serves "made from scratch" coconut cream pie. — Photo by Polly McNabb

wheelchair.

The couple made it through the seminary years and Jim later accepted the pastorate of Birchwood Church, Independence, Mo., where they were for 11 years. "We were comfortable there and we loved the people and they loved us, but God put a longing in our heart for a challenge," Kay recalled.

When Bell Road Church in Auburn, Calif., called about five years ago, the Akins "just fell in love with the people," Kay said, noting "we knew this is where the Lord wanted us."

Kay admitted to having gone through a period of anger following her accident. When she realized she would not walk again, it was a shock, Kay said.

During those early days after the accident, Kay suffered through depression, but it did not last long, she said. During this time one of her legs swelled with phlebitis and doctors became concerned the blood clot would move and kill her.

"It made me realize I really wanted to live and I had a lot to live for," Kay said.

So, she quit asking the Lord, "Why me?" and began appreciating life. "I just took one day at a time."

Not only did her immediate family provide support and encouragement, but also her family from her home church — Oak Grove in Covington.

Oak Grove members even helped her husband get through college with 115 people pledging \$1 per month to help Akins get through Wayland Baptist College. "That \$115 each month was big money in those days and did more than pay the rent," Kay recalled, adding that the church continues to be supportive.

The Akins occasionally return to Covington where her mother, Nina Owen, still resides. Her father and Akins' parents, all from Covington, are now deceased. When visiting Tennessee, Akins has held revivals at several West Tennessee churches, including his home church in Oak Grove.

Akins noted his wife has "tremendous" faith and is very active in the church in the areas of Sunday School and women's ministry.

The couple have shared their testimony many times in the 26 years that have followed the accident.

Part of their testimony, Akins said, and something that he shares in every revival he preaches, is that "when Kay and I had our accident we were in the center of the will of God.

"There is this bad theology floating around that when this happens, either God is punishing you or you've done something wrong or you've strayed out of His will . . . Just because you have had a reversal take place or disappointment . . . it doesn't mean that God is beating you with a stick.

"We live in a real world . . . and these things do happen to Christians just like they happen to everyone else. But I know that five minutes before we had our accident we were singing hymns and we had just finished college preparing for ministry, getting ready to go to seminary."

The couple realized that life goes on and neither have let Kay's disability keep them from doing anything, including trips abroad, if they are convinced it's God's will.

They have been to Europe, including a trip to Yugoslavia a couple of years ago when Akins served on the evangelism and education committee of the Baptist World Alliance. They topped off the trip, which happened to coincide with their 30th wedding anniversary, with a tour of Eastern Europe.

Kay also hopes to travel to Montreal, Canada, in August when BWA committees meet once again.

In addition to travel, Kay has pursued her education. She completed an associate's degree and hopes to earn a degree in psychology so she can go into counseling.

The Tennessee natives can relate to a recent book, *Turn It Into Glory*, published by Bethany House Publishers. After all, that's exactly what they did. — This story was adapted from an article in the California Southern Baptist by Polly McNabb, associate editor.

## Volcano delays missionaries' return

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — A thundering volcano that has forced thousands of refugees on a trek along roads coated in soggy foot-deep ash also has delayed the departure of Southern Baptist missionaries from their annual meeting in Baguio City.

Missionaries who must return by air to their assignments were stranded June 17 in Manila, where officials announced the airport would be closed for a brief period because of volcanic ash from Mount Pinatubo to the north.

Some missionaries driving home near the volcano saw bridges washed out by mud slides and damage to sugar cane fields. They also saw power lines and rooftops that had collapsed under ash transformed into a sticky goo by heavy rains.

Mount Pinatubo began erupting June 9 for the first time in 600 years. At first scientists feared the mountain might blow apart. But now they say periodic smaller eruptions likely will continue for years, according to news reports.

The third floor of the educational building of Clark Field Baptist Church has collapsed under heavy ash, reported missionary Sam Waldron June 18. The roof of the church's sanctuary has been cleaned to prevent further damage. The church, led by missionaries and attended primarily by U.S. military families, is just outside Clark Air Base, which is buried under ten to 12 inches of ash. The mission-owned residence in nearby Angeles City also is buckling under ash and is being cleaned to prevent collapse.

Missionaries have little information so far on how other churches have been affected by the eruption. One of many churches in the area affected by the volcano sits on the slope of Mount Pinatubo.

## Tennessee churches increase SS enrollment

During the last four church years, 1986-1990, Tennessee Baptist churches and missions captured 35 percent of the net increase of the 65,516 in Sunday School enrollment for the entire Southern Baptist Convention, according to figures released by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"Tennessee Baptists had four straight years of Sunday School growth which totaled an increase of 22,812 members," said Greer Ruble, TBC Sunday School Department director.

Ruble cited several reasons for the four years of growth: greater vision of church growth by pastors through strong Biblical preaching and a strong Sunday School program; increased participation of directors of missions and associations in Sunday School training and leadership; and emphasis on application of Bible truths to life.

Other reasons for Sunday School growth on the state level are: emphasis on increasing enrollment to grow a larger Bible teaching program; a larger number of trained ASSIST (Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team) members; emphasis on evangelism; and Bible teaching programs outside church building walls.

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Life is filled with those little "almosts" that greatly affect us. Some of them produce results that make us happy, almost.

Did you ever wonder why an automobile seems a bargain at \$9999 — but it would be unreasonably priced at \$10,000?

And why do we feel better by quoting gasoline prices at \$1.15 per gallon — instead of the real price — \$1.15 and nine tenths of a cent?

Both are almost — but not quite — something else.

Getting the auto for less than \$10,000 smacks of "bargain." Telling a friend that you've found a gas station selling at \$1.15 per gallon "saves the day."

Advertising agencies sometimes have made good use of this little reality. We are gullible because they make us like something that seems to be all right — but we may be deceived.

Not only do some large corporations want us to buy their products, they want us to buy them at their price — and like it.

Power, beauty, sex, status, fame, all play roles in getting us to use or buy something that is not what it seems.

Jimmy Carter, on his way to becoming president of the United States in 1977, wrote a book called, *Why Not the Best?* It still is worth reading because it is a challenge for living life at its best — you at your best, and me at

mine.

The book is Scriptural because that is a thread that runs through the pages of the Bible — being the best Christian I can be.

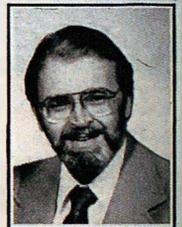
Paul talks about apostles, teachers, prophets, healers, interpreters — but goes on to say, "And I will show you a still more excellent way." That way, he explains in I Corinthians 13, is all about real love and the lifestyle.

Jesus said He came to offer life — more abundantly. That kind of life is much more than "almost" living.

What is commitment? What is imitating our God? What is the meaning of "Let love be your aim?" What does "Take up your cross daily" mean?

I have a feeling that many Christians are living the "almost" lifestyle. We are being the counterfeit "bargain," selling ourselves cheap, coming up short in daily accounting.

If Jesus the Christ had lived life "almost," He would have bypassed the woman of Samaria, Zaccheus in the tree, blind Bartimaeus, the lad with the fish and loaves. Why, He might have stopped two steps short of the cross — and "almost" saved us.



ALLEN

# Retired Tennessee missionary ministers to Kurds

**By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor**  
**NASHVILLE** — Retired Southern Baptist missionary Bill Skinner just can't break old habits — of ministering to hurting people.

Skinner, who, along with his wife, Fran, were missionaries in Paraguay for 31 years, returned to Nashville June 12 after serving for three weeks as a medical volunteer in a Kurdish refugee camp in Iraq.

In March, Skinner and his wife participated in Tennessee Baptists' first medical mission trip to the Philippines.

Though people retire, needs do not, Skinner observed. "As long as needs are presented and I can go and help in the Lord's name, I'll go and minister to those in need," said Skinner, a medical doctor and member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Skinner displayed flexibility in accepting the assignment at the Kurdish camp in Zakhu, Iraq. He originally was slated, along with three other Tennessee Baptist volunteers, to go to Iran to work with Kurdish refugees there.

In fact, Skinner and the other volunteers (James McPherson, Clinton; Carl Lord, Lenoir City; and Pat Still, Brentwood) were in Dallas undergoing training when they learned the trip to Iran was postponed.

Because physicians were needed in

Iraq, a Brotherhood Commission staffer asked Skinner if he would be willing to go there, an assignment he readily accepted.

Upon arriving at the Kurdish refugee camp near Zakhu, Skinner discovered very hot and rustic conditions. His "office" was under a tent. There were no chairs and he only had a cot on which to place medicines. Patients had to stand while being examined, he added.

Skinner was one of about seven or eight physicians from different countries and religious backgrounds who worked in the camp under the sponsorship of Global Partners, a London-based humanitarian organization which provides relief to the Kurdish people.

The retired missionary did not stay in the camp, but instead slept at a rented house in Zakhu. Two of his meals each day were taken with U.S. military troops.

Skinner estimated he saw between 50-90 patients each day during his three-week stay. Once a week, he received a "half-day off," he said.

Patients suffered from a variety of ailments, including scabies, intestinal parasites, typhoid fever, malaria, pneumonia, and malnutrition.

The sicker patients were sent to nearby Dutch, Italian, and French military hospitals. Skinner realized



**FACES** — Children abounded in the refugee camps near Zakhu. Many children suffered from malnutrition. — Photo by Bill Skinner

that the medical volunteers were providing only "stopgap" aid for the thousands of refugees.

Noting it is against Islam law to share the Christian faith, Skinner had to be careful about what he said.

"I was able to share my faith with people who spoke English and asked," Skinner said, adding that he basically tried to show Christ's love through his actions.

"Patients knew I was praying for them that God would give them freedom, health, and wisdom from the Holy Spirit," he said.

Skinner noted the general mood of the Kurds was one of appreciation for what the medical team was doing for them, but he observed there was also a

sense of sadness and despondency because of what they thought would happen to them once the coalition forces moved out.

Most of the Kurds would have to leave and they had nowhere to go. Skinner said he was told that four-fifths of the Kurdish villages had been leveled during the Persian Gulf War. Many of the people's homes had been destroyed and their lands taken away by the Iraqi government, Skinner said.

The Nashvillian said medical personnel will continue to work in the refugee camps.

He trusts seeds have been sown that, with continued ministry, "will surely bring forth fruit."

## Kurds need prayer, student says

**FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)** — Kurdish refugees massed on the border between Iraq and Turkey are in a "state of shock," according to a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary who recently returned from the area where he served as a translator for a Texas Baptist medical

team. Jordanian native Shaun Shorosh, a master's of divinity student at the Fort Worth, Texas school, said refugees need the prayers and support of Americans.

"It was sad to see the people," Shorosh said. "They were in such a state of shock, especially those that had lost family members."

He said older refugees are dying from dehydration and malnutrition, and others have been killed by Iraqi mines planted in the area.

While Shorosh's group concentrated primarily on meeting physical needs of the refugees, they also carried a Christian witness to the camp at Zakhu in northern Iraq.

"We were there as an aid organization," Shorosh said. "We did not want to jeopardize our visit and our ability to help and so we had to focus our attentions on their physical needs. There were just too many people to care for in such a short time."

But Shorosh said people who helped the medical team heard the Gospel constantly. While in Turkey, a young Kurdish Shiite Moslem tour guide traveling with the team accepted Christ, Shorosh said.

The seminary student said team members, "saw God at work as doors closed and others opened."

The journey for Shorosh was a homecoming to the area of the world where he was born. A Jordanian national, he lived in Nazareth, Israel, until his family moved to the United States in 1976. His father is a Baptist pastor and the family members are now naturalized U.S. citizens.



**GENTLE TOUCH** — Nashville physician Bill Skinner examines a young Kurdish boy who suffered from pneumonia. Pneumonia and malnutrition were common ailments of the Kurdish refugees, Skinner said.

## Who are the Kurds? — friendless people

**By Erich Bridges**  
**RICHMOND (BP)** — "The Kurds have no friends."

That saying, an ancient axiom of Kurdish culture, is proving true once again.

By fighting to overthrow Saddam Hussein in Iraq — and being slaughtered for it — the Kurds have emerged, however briefly, from relative anonymity. Their last moment in the world's awareness came three years ago when Hussein exterminated an entire Kurdish town with chemical weapons. But he is only the latest in a long line of enemies of the Kurds.

Estimates of the total Kurdish population in the region range as high as 28 million; most count at least 20 million. About 4.5 million Kurds lived in Iraq before the recent civil war broke out. They are the world's largest nationality without a nation. They also may be the largest single people group largely untouched by Christianity.

The Kurds are an ancient, close-knit, fiercely independent tribal mountain people, possibly descended from the Medes of Old Testament times. Their history stretches back

4000 years in the region once known as Mesopotamia. Darius, the Median king of Persia in Daniel's time, may have been a Kurd. Saladin, the Muslim hero who drove the Christian crusaders out of Jerusalem in 1192, was a Kurd.

Most Kurds now live in areas recognized as parts of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and the Soviet Union. More than 500,000 Kurds also live in Germany, and smaller groups of them reside in Kuwait, Lebanon, other parts of Europe, Canada, Australia, and the United States.

They lost control of their homeland, Kurdistan, which was carved up when maps of the region were redrawn after World War I. But they have been fighting for independence and land in one form or another since the fall of the Median empire in 550 B.C. They have fought the Arabs, the Persians (now Iranians), the Turks, and many others.

And because of their numbers, the strategic location of old Kurdistan, and the area's rich deposits of oil and other resources, they are unlikely to regain nationhood any time soon.

Most Kurds are Sunni Muslims. The group converted to Islam in the seventh century. Before that, many followed a Persian form of Zoroastrianism. Some Kurds became Christians related to the Nestorians around the fifth century and again in the 13th century, but the Mongol invader Tamerlane destroyed the Nestorian Church in the area in the 14th century.

Modern missionary efforts have been minimal and stymied by the political turmoil of the region. Kurds often have identified Christianity with anti-Muslim or anti-Kurdish movements. Many mission agencies have ignored Kurds because of their isolation and lack of a national homeland.

Probably no more than a few hundred Kurds — or a few thousand at most — are believing Christians. Areas where most of them live are closed to missionaries. Efforts to evangelize Kurds in more open countries are in their early stages.

Now that the Kurds are suffering again, Christians have another chance to become friends to a friendless people.



## Children look forward to special TBCH camp for fellowship and fun

For the boys and girls of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, the upcoming TBCH summer camp will be unlike any other experience they've ever known.

Sure, there's the typical camp fare of swimming, crafts and softball. There are even paddleboats on the lake and a miniature golf course. But this is a summer camp with a difference.

"Our primary objective is a spiritual one," says Dr. Gerald L. Stow, Executive Director of the Children's Homes and the TBCH camp director. "We come together as a ministry to support one another as we study the Word of God."

More than 200 children from every TBCH campus will join together August 6-9 at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talledega, Ala. The daily schedule includes Bible study in the morning and recreation in the afternoon. The evening worship services will be led by Rev. Ivan Raley, pastor of Grassland Heights Baptist Church in Franklin. Jim Graves, minister of music at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Clarksville, will lead the music.

Other camp leaders are: Mark Vigus, recreation; Bill Dockery, youth Bible study; Faye Ramsey, children's Bible study; and Helen Orr, preschool program.

Teams of volunteer teachers will lead the children in daily Bible study. The children in first through sixth grades will focus on the life of Joseph. The struggles faced by Joseph are not all that dissimilar from those faced by the youth in TBCH care, says Faye Ramsey, special programs director for the Franklin TBCH campus.

"Even Biblical dads weren't always what they should have been," says Mrs. Ramsey. "So many of our children feel things that have happened to them are unjust. They can learn a lot from Joseph, who moved past his problems and kept an attitude of faith."

The children also learn a lot simply by being together. Cliff McClendon, assistant camp director, says the boys and girls don't feel stigmatized by their sometimes abusive pasts because "they're all from similar backgrounds. They're with kids who have been through the same tough times they've been through. And they lean on one another for strength and reassurance."

Similarly, the TBCH houseparents are renewed by the camp experience. Their roles in parenting eight children in each cottage home is a challenging one that can understandably wear on both body and spirit. Compounding the stress is the reality that their work is one in which immediate results are rarely seen. A child who has suffered repeated emotional wounds may take months before returning a heartfelt smile.

The TBCH summer camp is an important part of the ministry's total program of providing a loving, Christian environment for the children. This will be the first ever camping experience for many of the boys and girls.

The camp has become such an important part of the ministry, that the TBCH Board of Trustees has taken the challenge of raising scholarships of \$75 each so every child can attend camp. On faith, TBCH has reserved the Shocco Springs camp from August 6-9. As our camp date approaches, the ministry is still very much in need of scholarships for the children.

Mission groups and Sunday School classes are invited to sponsor a child's stay at camp through the gift of a full or partial scholarship. For more information, please call Bill Betts at the TBCH Central Office, 1-800-624-8591, or 615 371-2000. The mailing address is TBCH, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood TN 37027.



### Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

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

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

## TBCH Mother's Day Offering nears goal

Churches across the state have responded generously to the Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. To date, \$790,220 has been given to this special ministry to abused and neglected children.

The gifts bring the offering total to almost 80 percent of this year's goal of \$1,000,000.

"It's my desire that churches will do a little more this year since this is our 100th year of service," said Dr. Gerald L. Stow, executive director of TBCH. Since 1891, Tennessee Baptists have shown their love to the needy children of our state by supporting the ministries of the Children's Homes.

The Mother's day Offering provides about one-third of the funds needed to supply food, clothing, shelter and counseling for the boys and girls who live in TBCH homes.

Most of the children in TBCH care have been removed from their natural homes because of physical or sexual abuses. Each child is placed in a group home with seven other children and their houseparents. They live together as a family—going to school and church, doing chores, and having times of recreation.

Through the constant, loving support of their houseparents and social workers, children learn to work through and overcome problems from their pasts. Children live in group homes on one of the main TBCH campuses (located in Chattanooga, Franklin and Memphis); or one of the satellite group homes (Johnson City, Burrville and Kingsport). The ministry also has a Boys Ranch in Millington, and Homes for Unwed Mothers in Greeneville and Franklin.



# TenneScene

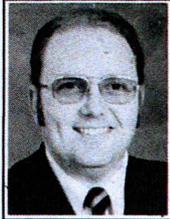
...Starting at Bumpus Mills, down to Hurricane Mills, and on to Cypress Inn...

## Leadership ...

Ann Taylor Owen, a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., joined the staff of White Oak Church, Chattanooga, June 2, as summer student director.

Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, honored Jerry Rankin, minister of music, June 23 on his tenth anniversary at the church. Following a special concert by Rankin, the church presented him and his wife, Virginia, with a love offering.

Rankin also had served as minister of music at Eastland, Haywood Hills, and Grace churches, all in Nashville; and First Church Goodlettsville.



RANKIN

First Church, Trenton, recently ordained Russell Dunagan and John L. White to the deacon ministry.

Ryan E. Wagers resigned as pastor of Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton, June 19. He will attend Southern Bap-

tist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and work toward a master of divinity degree in theological studies.

## Churches ...

Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, will sponsor "God and Country Day in the Park" July 7 at Wm. A. Pitts Park. Activities will include a picnic, a guest concert at 6 p.m. by country Gospel artists Margo Smith and Holly, and another concert at 7 p.m. featuring the Haywood Hills Church choir. There will be a special recognition of military and Desert Storm personnel.

Members of Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville, will observe "God and Country Day" July 3. The special program at 7 p.m. will feature an address by Army Chaplain Darrell Williams, who served during Operation Desert Storm.

The Two Rivers Church, Nashville, choir and orchestra will present "America," a musical written and arranged by David T. Clydesdale, June 30, at 4 and 6:30 p.m., in the worship center. The musical is dedicated "to the valiant ones, past and present, and their families, who laid down their lives for freedom." Admission is free, but a love offering will be accepted.

New educational space is being constructed at Westwood Church, Murfreesboro.

## Missions ...

Members of Cedar Grove Church, Tazewell; Central Church, Oak Ridge; and a church in Arkansas, will travel to Guatemala Aug. 3 to establish a church. Team members include Joe Brooks, pastor of Cedar Grove Church, and Ron Herrod, pastor of Central Church.

William and Gincy May, missionaries to Benin, have completed language study in France and have arrived on their field of service. May is from Rockwood and his wife is from Cleveland. They may be written to at B.P. 2051, Goho-Abomey, Benin.

## Hickory Hollow Chapel calls Wesley Shotwell

Wesley Shotwell joined the staff of Hickory Hollow Chapel, Nashville, as pastor June 16.

Shotwell is the church's first full-time pastor.

He was ordained to the ministry in 1987 by Excell Church, Clarksville, where he served as pastor until coming to Nashville.

Shotwell also served as minister of youth at Oglesby Church, Oglesby, Texas, and minister of college students at Emmanuel Church, Waco, Texas.

He graduated from Baylor University, Waco; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Shotwell and his wife, Margie, have one son, William.

## Kingsport church begins major renovation

First Church, Kingsport, has begun an extensive renovation program to its facilities, according to Pastor Frank Hawkins.

The project will prepare the facility for the needs of people well into the 21st century, Hawkins said, noting three older buildings will be renovated



**CHURCH GIFT** — L. Joseph Rosas III, left, pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis, presents Gene Gafford, superintendent of the Memphis home of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., a gift of \$10,000 from the estate of Mary F. Wilson, who died last year. She left an equal amount to her church, Union Avenue. Gafford expressed gratitude to the Union Avenue congregation on behalf of the TBC Children's Homes. The church also gave more than \$3300 to the Mother's Day Offering for the Children's Home.

## Stevens Street calls Arms as new pastor

Jimmy Arms, former Southern Baptist foreign missionary in Malawi, Africa, is serving as pastor of Stevens Street Church, Cookeville.

Previous to his Cookeville service, Arms was staff evangelist at First Church, Hixson. Also, he was pastor of Holly Grove Church, Lascassas; and Hill Grove Church, Guston, Ky.

Arms, a native of Murfreesboro, was ordained in 1981 at Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro. He is a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Diane, have two children.

## Two Rivers to build new worship center

Two Rivers Church, Nashville, has approved unanimously plans for a new worship center and education facility. Groundbreaking is scheduled in February 1992.

The expansion has been under study

for three years. Construction should be completed by late 1993, and the building will be adjacent to the current structures.

Two Rivers now holds three separate worship services and three Sunday School hours. Average Sunday morning attendance is 2000, and church membership is 5700.

The new addition will double the facilities' size — up to 235,000 square feet. Cost is expected to be \$11 million over the next three years. On May 19 the congregation gave \$315,000 toward the project.

The worship center will seat from 3500 to 4500. Also included in building plans are a music suite, library, bookstore, staff and support offices, and additional classrooms.

Jerry Sutton is pastor.

## Newbern church meets challenge

The new Baptist Hymnals are popular items. Many churches are purchasing supplies for use in church-wide worship services.

Churches use a variety of ways when buying the hymnals. Here is how one church responded to the challenge.

Last July Mt. Tirzah Church, Newbern, voted to buy 200 new hymnals. When the order was placed three months later, it was decided to purchase 192 to fill all the book racks in the sanctuary, 20 for the choir, two piano editions, and a large print edition.

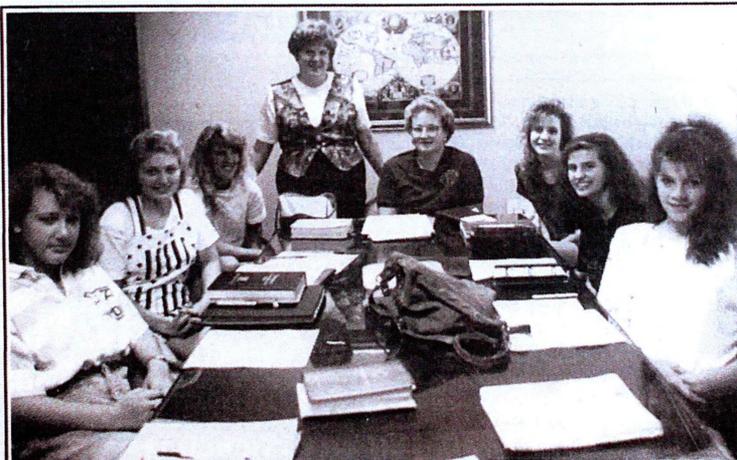
The church was given a discount for the pre-paid order.

The first shipment of "hot off the press" hymnals arrived March 13. All of the 215 hymnals already had been dedicated to "the glory of God in honor and/or memory of loved ones."

A music committee kept account of contributions. Lois Austin, a member of that committee, said, "We were thankful as each contribution and dedication came in. The church felt a sense of being of one accord and working together."

Members and friends of Mt. Tirzah made it possible for the church to have the hymnals without drawing from church funds.

"We are thrilled to read that new hymnals sales have passed \$5 million," Austin said. Jerry Foust is pastor.



**TRAINING SESSION** — Acteens Activators, Acteens and their leaders who participate at their own expense in mission trips to meet needs within the U.S. and overseas, met at the Baptist Center in Brentwood recently for an intensive training program. From left, Heather Denton, First Church, Bolivar; Jennifer Whitmire, Apison Church, Ooltewah; Kim Hughes, Fair Havens Church, Powell; Leaders Charlene Gray, First Church, Nashville, and Bertie Powell, First Church, Hixson; Christie Brock, Fair Havens Church; Ellen Richardson, First Church, Memphis; and Meredith Crabtree, First Church, Rickman. — Photo by Connie Davis

## All Nations Camp set for Camp Linden

The 1991 All Nations Camp, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Department, will be held July 15-19 at Camp Linden.

The camp is for ethnic children and youth between the ages of 8-16.

The cost of camp for each youth is \$65 and reservations must be made by July 3. All campers must be pre-registered.

For additional information, contact Terry Sharp, TBC Missions Department, at (615) 371-2032.

# Baylor rejects latest proposal concerning BGCT relationship

DALLAS (BP) — After extended discussion, the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas at its June 11 meeting in Dallas voted 83-36 to approve a proposal outlining a new relationship between the state Baptist convention and Baylor University in Waco.

A special study committee named by Texas Baptists in the wake of Baylor University's surprise charter change last September presented the proposal to the executive board, which conducts business of the 2.5 million-member BGCT between its annual sessions.

Robert E. Naylor of Fort Worth, chairman of the committee on BGCT/Baylor relationship and president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said after extensive study and discussion, the committee arrived at "the minimal aspects of what we believe to be a meaningful new relationship."

But in a prepared response issued shortly after the conclusion of the

BGCT executive board meeting, Baylor President Herbert H. Reynolds termed the proposal "unacceptable" to the Baylor board of regents. He said Baylor would take its own affiliation proposal to the floor of the BGCT annual meeting, Nov. 11-12, in Waco.

The Baylor plan, formulated by the university's regents at their May meeting, proposes 25 percent of Baylor's governing board for the university would be directly elected by the BGCT and 75 percent elected by the regents.

Under the BGCT/Baylor relationship committee proposal, the BGCT asks Baylor to agree that the convention directly elect 25 percent of the regents elected annually and the university regents themselves elect 25 percent.

Of the remaining 50 percent, Baylor would nominate two Texas Baptists for each vacancy from which the BGCT committee to nominate institution boards would choose one who would be submitted to messengers at the BGCT

annual meeting for election. The agreement stipulates no substitutions would be allowed at any time in the process.

According to the relationship committee's findings, under the proposal Baylor would retain control of 75 percent of the membership of its board, and it would offer the university the protection from "extremist takeover" it desired.

However, Baylor maintains since some actions of its governing board require a two-thirds majority and absences occur routinely, the university needs the power to elect directly 75 percent of the regents in order to maintain adequate protection.

Citing fears that academic freedom would be endangered if the "fundamentalist takeover" of the Southern Baptist Convention extended to state conventions such as the BGCT, the Baylor University board of trustees last Sept. 21 revised the school's charter to give sole governing respon-

sibility of Baylor to a self-perpetuating board of regents rather than a board of trustees elected by the BGCT.

The agreement approved by the BGCT executive board proposes governance by a board of regents for Baylor, eliminating the 48-member body of trustees previously elected by the BGCT. It also makes amendable only by a 90 percent vote of the regents three key charter provisions: the university operate "within Christian-oriented aims and ideals of Baptists;" university assets would be transferred to the BGCT upon dissolution; and each elected director must be a Baptist.

The agreement recognizes "Baylor no longer relates to the convention in the way prescribed for institutions in the constitution of the Baptist General Convention of Texas." It further stipulates the BGCT "recognizes Baylor as an independent, non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Texas with the full legal right, power, and authority henceforth to amend or rescind its articles of incorporation or bylaws without approval or consent of any other party."

The BGCT executive board agreed acceptance of the agreement by Baylor would conclude whatever controversy may have existed between the convention and Baylor regarding the unexpected charter change last September.

If Baylor does not accept the recommended agreement by July 20 after its board of regents meeting, the BGCT committee will make a new recommendation to the executive board at its September meeting.

But Mike Bishop, vice president for communications at Baylor University, disagreed and echoed Reynolds in terming the proposal "unacceptable." Noting the Baylor regents have dismissed their six-person negotiating team, he said, "Our next recourse will be at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas." — Ken Camp, BGCT public relations office

## Leaders question Cochran's selection as MWBTS trustee

ATLANTA — Kent Cochran, outspoken critic of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected to the Midwestern board of trustees at the recent Southern Baptist Convention meeting there.

He was elected by messengers along with other board and committee candidates despite objections of "conservatives" in Missouri and on the board.

Apparently Southern Baptist leaders gave strong support to Cochran's election. Seminary leaders fear the addition of Cochran to the 34-member trustee board could signal a new round of attacks against administrators and faculty at the Kansas City, Mo., seminary.

Leaders of the "conservative" movement in Missouri felt Cochran and his somewhat questionable actions will prove an embarrassment to their cause.

In the final days before the June 4-6 election, leaders from Missouri and the seminary tried to have the Kansas City layman replaced as one of the seven new Midwestern trustees.

During the past decade, Cochran has gained a reputation as a thorn in the flesh of seminary administrators. His frequent attacks on the seminary have included charges of liberalism and homosexuality among faculty and staff, charges based in part on his association with "conservative" student groups.

A packet of similar accusations was distributed by Cochran to selected trustees prior to a recent board meeting.

At one point school officials considered legal action against him. Trustee Doyle Smith of Great Bend, Kan., said Cochran's election would be "destructive" for the seminary. "The trustees are concerned about the irresponsibility of the charges, which were made without regard to their veracity," said Smith, who completed ten years service on the board this month. Other trustees appear to be reluctant to criticize him publicly.

When Cochran was elected, several leaders said the results could hurt "conservative" causes. Bill Dudley,

pastor of First Southern Church, Golden, said in a letter to "conservative" leaders, "This nomination is wrong. There is nothing that has happened in Missouri in the past 13 years that has played more into the hands of the 'liberals' than this very foolish nomination."

Cochran also had been accused of abuse of family members, including his wife. He said the charges are false, and, "I categorically deny all of them." A member of First Church, Raytown, Cochran said he would handle his trusteeship "in a fair and equitable manner. I'm not coming in with any preset agenda or preconceived notion."

Dudley and Smith said they had no idea why "conservative" leaders were so adamant in Cochran's defense even after the charges were disclosed.

Fears were fueled by a report that nominations committee chairman James Richards, in defending Cochran's selection, told the committee in March that Cochran would "throw the gauntlet down and cause the trouble necessary to make changes" at Midwestern. — from ABP report

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Summer time is missions time in Tennessee. Your student summer missionaries are all over the state. They will be conducting Vacation Bible Schools, doing surveys, helping with church music programs, working in resort missions, helping start a new church, and a dozen different things.

The BSU at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, commissioned the largest number of summer missionaries of any BSU in the whole country. Missions is a priority for BSU Director Bob Hall and his staff.

John Adams reports that 78 students from Union University are involved in summer missions. The students of Union have seen 1278 decisions for Christ in their mission effort over the

past year.

Our other BSUs and Baptist colleges have a story to tell. Your Cooperative Program dollars create the opportunity for these lives to be offered in service. The students raise thousands of dollars to support each other in the task.

Do you have missions in your summer plans? Many teams are going to Michigan this summer. You might want to join a team from your church or association. There are some special projects going on right here in Tennessee. You might be able to find a place on a team.

If you cannot go, then pray for these who will be going. Keep up your tithes and offerings through your church so its gifts to the Cooperative Program will be on time. This will undergird all of our mission work.

May the Lord of the Harvest bless all that we are doing this summer! Summer is truly a great time to serve the Lord!



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# Consequences of David's census

By David Brown, pastor; Mine City Church, Ducktown

Everyone is a sinner. Everyone suffers for his sins. One of the signs of Christian maturity is acknowledging our sins and assuming responsibility for the consequences of our sins. David was that kind of person. God, in turn, showed David mercy for his integrity of heart.

Proverbs 16:18 tells us "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." David's pride of wanting to count his people evidently was not an easily detected sin. Joab, David's proven military leader, advised him against it. A census in Israel was taken to determine the availability of fighting men, (Numbers 1:3, 26:2). Joab asked, (II Samuel 24:3), "...why doth my lord the king delight in this?" Joab had no concern for the military strength of the country. Farmers and laborers were so loyal to David and their nation that they flocked to his summons in times of crisis. Even Joab was amazed that pride had filled David's heart over the immensity of Israel's population.

As is so often true with many of us, the wrong of any action or decision is often seen after it is done. I Chronicles 21:1 tells us that Satan "provoked" David to number Israel. Satan first fills our hearts with pride so that we are not spiritually discerning. Then Satan uses us as instruments to bring our own destruction, or in this case, the destruction of God's nation. The same pride destroys marriages, homes, and churches.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
**June 30 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: II Samuel 24:1-25

Some see the I Chronicles 21:1 account and the II Samuel 24:1 account as clear contradictions of Biblical record. Perhaps the easiest explanation lies in the realization that the king was approached by both the Lord and Satan, but with two entirely different motives. We do know that God's desire for His people is to bless them abundantly, but Satan's desire is to destroy

God's people, (John 10:10).

David's heart had begun to be filled with pride over his military might and power and he had begun to trust these rather than God. Children of God must be judged for any waywardness of heart. David detected the sin in his heart too late. But it is always in our best interests to repent and seek forgiveness. Fellowship with God is broken. People around us suffer consequences of our sin. The fellowship needs to be restored with God and the consequences of our sin need to be halted. God sent the prophet Gad to David with a message. Gad was the Lord's instrument to inform David and Israel that they were going to suffer for wrongdoing. The Lord asked David to choose among three possible consequences of sin. The choices were seven years of famine, three months of defeat in war, or three days of pestilence.

The word translated "pestilence" is derived from a word meaning "to speak" and describes an epidemic

spoken or commanded by the Lord. Pestilence would be unmistakably God's work. A famine can come from nature or from a man-made disaster. Warfare is a human endeavor. David trusted God more than man. God had proven to be merciful in the past.

The Lord sent a pestilence upon the land from Dan to Beersheba, from the north border to the south border. The whole nation being affected may imply that the people had shared in David's thirst for power and earthly glory. David saw a vision of an angel with his sword drawn over Jerusalem. David spoke to the Lord, (v. 17), accepted his blame for his sinfulness, and pled for the Lord to stay his hand.

In verses 18-25, we find the account of David hearing from Gad again and being told to build an altar unto the Lord in the threshing floor of Araunah, the Jebusite. David moved immediately to carry out God's instructions.

The offerings David offered opened the way for his sin's consequences to be removed. The fire from heaven was a sign that God was removing the remaining consequences of David's and Israel's sin. How do you respond to sin and consequences in your life?

# Ezra's religious reform

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

Chapter eight of Ezra ended with every appearance of prosperity and tranquility. But we hardly began chapter nine before we were in the midst of a storm. Ezra had been in Jerusalem three or four months. One of the main reasons he went to Jerusalem was to give instruction and, where there was need, to administer correction in regard to the law of Moses which, as a scribe, he knew so well. Without a doubt, he had been doing just that. Then it was brought to his attention just how grossly God's Word had been ignored.

God's Word ignored (ch. 9:1-4) Although the law of Moses distinctly forbade intermarriage between the people of God and the idolatrous nations whose land they inherited (Deuteronomy 7:1-5), and by implication forbade such unions with any idolaters, the Jews who had returned earlier from captivity had freely intermarried with the idolatrous peoples in

their vicinity. It was some of the secular leaders who reported that not only the common people, but even religious leaders were ignoring the law's demand of separation and were guilty, not just of ill advised marriages, but also participation in heathen "abominations," that is, detestable pagan practices.

No wonder Ezra's astonishment and horror were so intense. The threat to the spiritual purity and integrity of God's special people was great. Unchecked, these breaches of God's requirements would probably have meant a complete obliteration of the Jews. Many years ago I saw an outdoor bulletin board-type sign in front of a Presbyterian church which said, "Sin is not harmful because it is forbidden; sin is forbidden because it is harmful."

In a moving public demonstration of his sincere grief and deep concern, Ezra not only engaged in the

customary gesture of tearing of his clothes, he also pulled out some of his hair and beard. Then as he sat speechless with his garments torn and his hair in disarray, a crowd who perceived the seriousness of the situation rallied around him.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
**June 30 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: Ezra 9-10

The people's sin confessed (ch. 9:5-15)

No doubt in his lengthy agonizing silence, Ezra had been praying. Then finally, at the time most people would be present, he fell on his knees and prayed audibly. As he, blushing with shame, began his humble prayer of confession, he was probably remembering Jeremiah's complaint that in his day those who "committed abominations were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jeremiah 6:15).

The most remarkable feature of Ezra's confession is the thoroughness with which he identified with his erring countrymen. He appeared to consider all their sins as his sins, all their

disobedience as his disobedience, all their perils as his perils. Another striking feature is his sense of the seriousness and exceeding sinfulness of the transgressions of the people. He apparently felt that way not only because of the inherently destructive nature of the particular sin itself, but also because of a strong sense of the ingratitude shown by the people in turning from God so soon after He had forgiven their former sins, and allowed them to return from the captivity, rebuild the temple, and re-establish themselves as a nation.

God's call for consecration (ch. 10:1-44) When God's people sin and bring reproach on themselves and God, He expects them to repent, rededicate themselves to Him, and make public acknowledgments and restitution. Ezra exemplified that spiritual leaders must be firm and yet considerate as they deal with God's straying people. He did not shirk his responsibility as leader, but he did not usurp the responsibility of other leaders and the people to be involved in arriving at a solution. The solution may prove painful, but the lack of a solution may prove deadly.

# Be strong in the Lord

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

Paul had already explained the duties and responsibilities of the new life in Christ and he then described the spiritual resources God provides to battle against evil. Paul encouraged his readers to find the strength needed for spiritual warfare in the Lord. "Be strong (or "strengthened") in the Lord," (v. 10).

For Christians it is the beginning of victory to realize we do not have the strength within ourselves to battle against evil. It is by "the power of His might" that the battle is won.

If this were a battle against "flesh and blood" it would be much easier to trust our own ways and weapons, such as clever strategies, cruise missiles, and smart bombs. But because this is a spiritual battle waged against an enemy much smarter and stronger than us, we must rely on someone smarter and stronger than our enemy.

We notice that Paul repeated the instructions to put on the "whole armour of God," (v. 13). This spiritual battle is no place to be partially equipped or to leave an "Achilles heel" showing for the enemy to attack. We must don the "whole" armour. Paul had seen the whole armour of the Roman soldiers and listed the parts that make up the spiritual armour of a Christian.

**LIFE AND WORK**  
**June 30 Lesson**  
 Basic Passage: Ephesians 6:10-18

"Loins girt about with truth," (v.14), reminds us of the belt that Roman soldiers wore to secure their garments in battle. Because Satan is the father of lies, we must understand spiritual truth as we enter the spiritual battlefield. And not only must we understand spiritual truth, we must also live

truth. Our mind, will, and emotions must be controlled by God's truth and not by feelings or the flesh as we enter battle.

The "breastplate of righteousness," or righteousness of character, is necessary to protect us by keeping us in right standing before the Protector. When our fellowship with Him is broken because of our unrighteous lifestyle, we fail in the spiritual battle because we fight alone.

As Peter spoke of being "ready to give an answer," (I Peter 3:15), Paul spoke of having our "feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace." What we need in spiritual battle is not our own plans, methods, and weapons, but the living Word of God, the Gospel of peace.

Remembering that a shield was usually placed between the soldier and the enemy, we note that Paul tells his readers to take "the shield of faith." This confident faith in God will protect us when Satan hurls his "fiery darts" of temptation our way.

The "helmet of salvation" is the next

part of armour. Since the Greek word for "salvation," (v. 17), here means "the hope of salvation," we could understand Paul to be encouraging his readers to go into spiritual battle knowing that Satan has already been defeated. This "hope" is not a lack of assurance of our salvation, but rather a knowledge that ultimate victory belongs to Christ and His followers.

The "sword of the Spirit" is the last piece of armour for the Christian to put on to enter battle. The sword, "which is the Word of God," works in a Christian's life to separate the false from the true.

After we take care to put on the "whole armour of God" we should pray for victory both for ourselves and for other soldiers who are in spiritual battle "with all perseverance."

To enter such a struggle as the spiritual battle that surrounds us takes preparation. And it is only as we prepare by using the spiritual resources that God provides that we can live the victorious Christian life through Jesus Christ.

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Missionary family divided by Ethiopia strife reunites**

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — A new government and Ethiopian Airlines made it possible for Southern Baptist missionary Rob Ackerman to fly his children out of violence-wracked Ethiopia. Ackerman, of Wheaton, Ill., and his three daughters — Bethany, nine, and six-year-old twins Melody and Krista — were on one of the first flights out of Ethiopia June 8 when the international airport in Addis Ababa reopened two weeks after being closed by fighting.

The father and daughters were sealed in the Ethiopian capital when soldiers of the Tigrean People's Liberation Front ended a 30-year civil war in May by taking control of Addis Ababa, the capital. Other Southern Baptist missionaries in the city at the time were Sam and Ginny Cannata, John and Mary Lou Lawrence, and Jerry Bedsole.

Patty Ackerman, Rob's wife, and Rosie Bedsole were in Nairobi, Kenya, for a conference when the TPLF unexpectedly made the final push to the very edges of Addis Ababa, isolating the capital for two weeks. Mrs. Bedsole was on the first flight back into Addis Ababa from Nairobi June 9, but the Ackermans decided to reunite in Nairobi.

Last March the U.S. Embassy advised all American citizens to leave Ethiopia when it became obvious it was only a matter of time before anti-government coalition would achieve military victory. But hundreds of American missionaries remained since rebel leaders insisted they had no desire to capture the capital. Most Baptist mission work was continuing, and Addis Ababa exhibited a surface calm that belied the threat of violence.

**'Read through the Bible' held during SBC meeting**

ATLANTA — It took 262 Southern Baptists 81 hours and six minutes to read through the Bible at their 1991 Convention in Atlanta. Beginning at 12:45 p.m. on June 2, and ending at 9:51 p.m. on June 5, representatives of every Southern Baptist entity and the Woman's Missionary Union took their turns at the rostrum in a downtown hotel meeting room.

The project dramatized Southern Baptist allegiance to Scripture and blessed a procession of readers and listeners, said a convention spokesman. As each reader finished his portion, he would sign the Bible at his stopping point. He also logged in and out on a master schedule. Convention President Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, asked Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary to organize the project.

Chapman and Leavell were the first readers on Sunday with SBC officers and former convention presidents joining Wednesday morning. New Orleans Seminary Vice President for Business Affairs, Clay Corvin, who has coordinated such Bible reading projects on the campus, provided hour-by-hour guidance.

Though many of the readers were weary when they stepped behind the Bible, they uniformly reported the experience brought them refreshment. Many pressed beyond their time limit. The Bible will be on display in the New Orleans Seminary library.

**SBC leaders agree to 'Share Jesus Now'**

ATLANTA — Fourteen Southern Baptist Convention leaders are the first volunteers to commit to share their faith at least 60 times in 60 days in 1995. The SBC leaders were asked to commit to the effort during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta. They are the first to be enlisted for the 1995 project to be called "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now."

The evangelistic thrust sponsored by the Home Mission Board will include two phases — 60 days of personal evangelism and six months of harvest revivals. The goal is to enlist 1.5 million people who will commit to witness to one person each day between Jan. 9 and March 9, 1995. The next group to be asked to endorse the project will be state convention executive directors.

The first group to commit to the project and the agencies they lead includes Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board; Jack Johnson, Radio and Television Commission; Paul Powell, Annuity Board; Richard Land, Christian Life Commission; James Smith, Brotherhood Commission; Rudy Fagan, Stewardship Commission; Arthur Walker, Education Commission;

Landrum Leavell, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Milton Ferguson, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; William Crews, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; Russell Dilday, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Roy Honeycutt, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Lewis Drummond, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Lynn May, Historical Commission.

**SWBTS, HSU sign 'covenant of correlation'**

ABILENE, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, have signed "a covenant of correlation" agreement for advanced seminary standing for qualified university graduates. The covenant is between the Logsdon School of Theology at HSU and the seminary's School of Theology.

While more than 30 Baptist colleges and universities throughout the nation have expressed interest in similar arrangements, the agreement between HSU and SWBTS "is the first to be formalized," according to Tommy Brisco, director of advance standing at the seminary. The program allows up to 30 hours of correlation credit, said Brisco.

**'Choice' components could jeopardize education reform**

WASHINGTON — The "choice" aspect of President Bush's educational reform package could result in a battle that jeopardizes the proposal, members of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee said during a June 10 hearing.

Parts of the administration's America 2000 proposal (S. 1141) have been under fire from congressional, educational, and religious circles since President George Bush made it public April 18. The "choice" aspect of the bill allows for the use of tax dollars to help parents send children to private

and parochial schools.

The plan offers incentives to school districts to run choice programs, allowing parents to select which schools their children attend. Federal remedial education funds also would go with students to the schools — public, private, or parochial — they attend in the choice program.

Southern Baptists adopted a resolution endorsing choice in education during their recent national convention in Atlanta.

While the need for educational reform and several elements of the

President's package have gained wide acceptance, critics argue the choice proposals pose a serious threat to separation of church and state.

Education Secretary Lamar Alexander testified before the Senate committee, outlining specifics of the bill. Alexander said he finds it odd that choice could be an issue in America, and if the country was starting its educational system over today, it would not be an issue.

The education secretary stated the bill does not breach separation of church and state but simply gives families — particularly disadvantaged families — more opportunity for academic quality.

Alexander said the administration supports the choice proposals because they allow disadvantaged Americans the same opportunities afforded to upper- and middle-class citizens.

He said the administration would like to see the tax monies "follow the child even to private or parochial schools." Any school receiving public funds would be publicly accountable, he said.

Responding to a question, Alexander said the choice element of the reform package "is fundamental to what the president would like to do."

However, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said the choice proposals could lead to the "destruction of the American public school system." Noting other parts of the reform have "significant merit," Metzenbaum said the choice voucher plan would compound — not alleviate — the problems in public schools.

Metzenbaum said Alexander's reference to helping disadvantaged families is an emotional appeal to gain support by tugging at heart strings.

Choice is "such a critical aspect of this proposal it could jeopardize" the reform, he added.

Alexander responded that competition fosters improvement, noting public schools would be forced to evaluate their services if they began losing students to private or parochial schools.

Metzenbaum told Alexander the proposal "may look good on paper . . . but you are going to ruin the lives of millions of kids who don't have any choice."

Committee chairman Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., also applauded some aspects of the reform while expressing "serious reservations about the administration's proposal to turn Chapter 1 (remedial education funds) into a voucher program, and to include private schools in a choice program.

"I also have reservations about the lack of emphasis on school readiness in the administration's plan," he added.

To address the school readiness goal, Kennedy has introduced legislative initiatives, including a bill that would make Head Start an entitlement for all eligible children.

Kennedy said he hopes the debate on educational reform will not be limited to the choice issue.

Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., said he feared the "choice battle" could bog down the legislative process, causing lawmakers to spin their wheels. — ABP

**Judge's ruling favors Wildmon, AFA**

PHILADELPHIA — Last month a federal judge in Philadelphia restrained Julianne Ross Davis, General Counsel for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), from further repetition of defamatory comments about Donald E. Wildmon and the American Family Association.

Wildmon and AFA sued Davis in federal court for defamation and sought a restraining order. The judge's order addressed statements first made by Davis in a speech at the University of Pennsylvania Law School on Oct. 24, 1990. She told an audience of law students and professors that "The American Family Association (headed by Wildmon) is simply a direct mail political action committee. And it has a 24-point political agenda it would like to see obtained by the year 2000. And it's not a pretty agenda. I saw a report a few days ago. It includes the elimination of democracy, elimination of public schools, (and) advocates that

astrologers, adulterers, blasphemers, homosexuals, and incorrigible children be executed, preferably by stoning. That's one of our enemies. This is true."

Under a court-approved settlement which is a part of the court's order, Davis is restrained from any further utterance or publication of the false statements. She must also pay Wildmon and AFA \$100,000 in damages if it is ever repeated. In the agreement Davis admits the statements were false and is compelled to send a letter of retraction to the Deans of the University of Pennsylvania Law School as well as Wharton School of Business, whose students also attended the speech.

The agreement also requires the NEA General Counsel to send a letter of apology to Wildmon and AFA. Wildmon and AFA have agreed to drop the remainder of the lawsuit against Davis for damages.