

BWA makes appeal for religious freedom in USSR's Georgia

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance has appealed to President Bush to place the issue of religious freedom for the Georgian Republic and other USSR republics on the agenda when he meets with the President of the Republic of Georgia later this month.

In a letter to Bush, the General Secretary of the BWA, Denton Lotz, appealed to the President "on behalf of our Baptist family in the Soviet Union" to use his influence "to see that religious freedom is upheld, not only in Georgia, but other republics in the USSR where we have received disturbing reports of Baptist buildings being destroyed and literature being confiscated." The latter has been reported from Moldavia.

Lotz told Bush the BWA had received reports the recent Law on Freedom of Conscience in the Soviet Union might not be applicable to all republics and Georgia was one of those.

Lotz made his appeal to Bush because of the President's firm stand on religious freedom.

The BWA appeal to Bush was made on the basis of a report from Karl Heinz Walter, BWA European regional secretary who visited the Soviet Union earlier this month. He had been given assurances by leaders in the Georgian Republic that religious freedom was intended for all, but Baptists have been reported to have lost their jobs and apartments because of their faith.

During his visits with the Orthodox Patriarch of all Georgia, Iliia II and the chairman of the Supreme Council of the republic, Akaki T. Asatiani, Walter was assured by both leaders that religious freedom and equality of all Christian denominations will be guaranteed in the Georgian Republic. "I will look very carefully into it to be sure that religious freedom and equality of all Christian denominations will be guaranteed" said the Patriarch in response to Walter's concern about disparaging remarks about Baptists made by an Orthodox priest on a radio program. There had also been reports some government leaders would try to declare the Georgian Orthodox Church as the only acceptable Christian religion.

"We are aware of the tremendous upheavals in the government of the USSR and especially the republics," said Lotz. "It is our concern to keep before the newly emerging independent republics the need for religious freedom. It is absolutely necessary the Law on Freedom of Conscience passed by the Supreme Soviet be approved by all the republics."

In Yugoslavia

Strife affects religious life, churches

By Art Toalston

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (BP) — With Yugoslavia's army battling freedom fighters in the republic of Slovenia, church life in the splintering nation now revolves around television and prayer.

"We're watching the news on television all the time," said Nela Williams July 2 from her home in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, the other breakaway republic. Williams, a New Testament Greek teacher and mass media worker, is one of three Southern Baptist representatives in Yugoslavia. "Today is like the first day of war," she said. "Please pray for us."

Williams is a native of Yugoslavia whose husband, James, also was a Southern Baptist representative in the country until his death in a 1980 auto accident. The other Southern Baptist workers there, Bill and Debbie Steele of Columbus, Ga., are involved in starting churches in Belgrade. They left the country for a vacation June 29.

Tensions in Yugoslavia — Europe's most volatile political hot spot — began spiraling June 25 when Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence from Yugoslavia. The declarations met with opposition in Yugoslavia's largest republic, Serbia. The nation's capital is located there, in Belgrade, and the government is dominated by Serbs.

Yugoslav troops took up positions in Slovenia June 26 and met armed resistance. Violence eased June 30 when Yugoslav and Slovenian officials agreed on a troop pullout. "You can sense relief in the air when listening to the news every hour," Williams reported July 1. But negotiations failed to stop hostilities from breaking out again the next day.

"It's really unfortunate that now, when we have all this freedom, we have these tensions among the nationalities," Williams said. "There's no atheistic government anymore ... and there's no state church. It's very open

now for all religious movements. New opportunities are opening up all the time."

Her church in Zagreb, First Baptist, has launched a nightly ten-minute radio program, for example, and received permission in June to minister in Croatian prisons.

Still, political tensions can provide opportunity "for witnessing about the power of the Gospel, the freedom, and peace the Lord gives us," she said.

Williams said she believes Baptist and other evangelical congregations — many with members from several nationalities — can continue to set an example of unity in contrast to Catholic churches, which are almost exclusively Slovenian or Croatian, and Orthodox churches, which are Serbian.

"It has been a great testimony that we could overcome the barriers of nationalities," she said. "Polarization is on the ethnic level, but in the churches ... our faith is something

that bound us together."

But months of tensions among Serbs, Slovenes, Croats, and other nationalities in Yugoslavia have altered Baptist life in the country, she said.

Instead of one union representing some 3000 Baptists in Yugoslavia, Baptists now are creating separate unions in the republics of Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia. The breakup occurred without anger, Williams said; rather, Baptists chose to follow "the trend that all the country was taking."

Although they're forming separate structures, representatives of the new unions remain in contact with each other, Williams said. They plan to meet in September to decide how to handle mission work in Yugoslavia's other two republics, Bosnia-Herzegovina, a heavily Muslim region, and Montenegro.

The representatives also will decide the fate of a theological school in Serbia and a Baptist camp in Croatia.



CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN U.S.S.R. — Denise Cimeley, center, Karen McArthur, right, of Woodmont Church, Nashville, and their interpreter, left, man an exhibit featuring handicrafts and cassette tapes from Music City in the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. The volunteers were part of the first large-scale group — totaling about 300 including 18 Tennesseans — to visit the republic as a part of the Southern Baptist sponsored cultural exchange. Next week's *Baptist and Reflector* will feature the event. — Photo by Bob Siddens

SBC Cooperative Program June income slips

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program unified gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for the month of June dropped more than 17 percent compared to the same month last year.

The June gifts were 17.42 percent, or \$2,094,134, under the comparable June figure for 1990, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer. The \$9,927,427 channeled through the SBC Cooperative Program in June 1991 dropped the

year-to-date total to 0.59 percent below last year.

SBC fiscal year is from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. After nine months of the 1990-91 fiscal year, Cooperative Program gifts were at \$105,642,489 compared to \$106,264,906 for the nine month period in 1989-90. The required basic budget monthly figure is \$11,444,377 and for the nine months period, \$102,999,393.

Cooperative Program monthly figures for the year appear like a roller coaster on a chart. Just last month the CP gifts were up more than six percent over a year ago and the total gifts for the fiscal year were nearly two percent above the comparable 1990 figures.

Designated gifts also lagged behind a year ago for the month. At \$9,829,844,

the designated gifts fell \$3,834,610 below last June or 28.06 percent. Adding both CP and designated gifts, the shortfall for the month compared to last year was 23.08 percent or \$5,928,745.

Year-to-date designated gifts were nearly the same at this nine month period compared to last year: \$116,913,821 to \$116,852,503 for a 0.05 percent gain. Total CP and designated gifts for the fiscal year thus far are \$222,556,310 compared to \$223,117,410 in 1989-90.

Designated contributions include the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, world hunger, and other special gifts.

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Editorials**Plan a July revolution — prove the value of heritage**

July is a good month for a revolution. King George III, British monarch, sat at his desk and wrote on the evening of July 4, 1776, these haunting words: "Nothing happened today."

Had he had the advantage of intercontinental communication, he would have known that something had happened — in the American colonies across the Atlantic.

We have celebrated our Independence Day again — and put away the flags and colorful bunting for another year. We have closed the book on patriotic quotations, erased from our minds images of people in rebellion, thirteen colonies in revolt, a mighty nation re-thinking its role as fatherland to the same colonies.

But why rush through remembrance of revolution, the search for liberty, the struggle for religious freedom? Is not July a good month to celebrate that part of our heritage — by living it?

July is a good month for revolution. The American colonial experiment in the 1700s was more than an adventure. The drama played out on the stage formed by a new-settled land has had lasting effects not only on Americans, but for peoples all over the world for centuries.

It was for real. The words sounded good — when spoken by Thomas Paine, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, Ben Franklin, and their fellow "rabble-rousers." But they had more than words — and they forged a nation by backing their words and ideas with action. They were true patriots.

One great need of our nation in this hour is for a return to the high drama that was vital to the birthing process. That drama recognized spiritual power as indispensable.

Likewise, the great need of the Christian church is to return to the changeless source of spiritual power that birthed the church — and fed it from the beginning. Though the early church was not perfect, we can be glad that the church of Pentecost time

will remain our example for all ages.

Though some of our forefathers in the fight for independence have been accused of political machinations, for the most part they earnestly sought religious liberty and other freedoms that are plain and simple — but necessary.

Of the Pilgrims it was written: "They laid the foundation of a state wherein every man through countless ages should have liberty," and, "We ... should never forget that men first crossed the Atlantic not to find soil for their ploughs but to secure liberty for their souls."

Of the Puritans, it has been said that they gave America more than the "blue laws," but free public education, a thorough respect for learning, our first books and college, and the "habit of representative government."

Samuel Adams: "Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: First a right to life, secondly to liberty, thirdly to property; together with the right to defend them in the best manner they can."

"Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles," George Washington said.

Said John Jay, "This country and this people seem to have been made for each other."

"The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered, perhaps as deeply, as finally staked on the experiment intrusted to the hands of the American people," George Washington said in his first inaugural address.

Alexander Hamilton said, "The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged from among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of the Divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power."

Thomas Jefferson: "That government is the

strongest of which every man feels himself a part."

"The liberty enjoyed by the people of these States, of worshipping Almighty God agreeably to their own consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights," said George Washington.

Most of the "pilgrims" who trekked to this new country desired to make of it a nation, if possible, where they could begin a new life in which they would be free, among other things, to worship as they chose. And if they could not do that, they believed strongly they would never quit until the goal was accomplished.

But even in the course of forging that nation, our spiritual forefathers encountered religious persecution. On June 30, 1777, the Baptist Church in Prince William County, Virginia, put forth a petition for relief from religious persecution. They were treated harshly by political leaders because they failed to attend meetings of the Established Church.

Believing in separation of church and state, they continued the struggle until they won. They did not have to pay taxes for a state church, nor did they have to attend its meetings.

July and other summer months afford a great opportunity to sharpen our heritage memories, to build on accomplishments of our Baptist forefathers — and learn again who we are.

Plan a July revolution. Rebel against scanty knowledge of Baptist and American heritage. Revolt against faulty information about our history. Strengthen belief in the high ideals which are vital to the founding and growth of a nation.

Why do this? Isn't this "mixing church and state?"

Christian citizens have an obligation to strengthen the nation spiritually. It's part of Christ's mandate to witness. Knowing about our heritage will enable us to be better citizens — and stronger. — WFA

Congress urged to legislate against sports gambling

WASHINGTON (BP) — In testimony before a Senate subcommittee, a staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has called on Congress to pass legislation halting the spread of sports gambling.

James A. Smith, the commission's director of government relations, said in his testimony the CLC "strongly supports" a bill prohibiting the sanctioning of sports lotteries and other forms of sports gambling by states in which such games are not yet permitted. Sports gambling is legal only in Nevada, Oregon, and Delaware.

Smith delivered his testimony June 26 to the Subcommittee on Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"The horse has left the barn in Oregon," he said. "It has left the barn in Nevada. Congress should 'close the

barn door' on legalized sports gambling elsewhere before it is too late."

The Southern Baptist Convention historically has favored restricting gambling, and the CLC opposes gambling in any form, Smith said.

"Sports gambling harms the poor and is especially pernicious because its primary targets are young people," he said. "Federal action is warranted because of the national scope of professional and amateur sports and the role of sports in American life."

"There are no winners in sports gambling, only losers," Smith told the subcommittee.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (S. 474) was introduced by Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz. Similar legislation (H.R. 74) has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. John Bryant,

D-Tex., and Rep. Hamilton Fish, R-N.Y.

Commissioners said the proliferation of sports gambling would call into question the integrity of athletes and would lead fans to become more interested in winning bets than in their teams winning games.

Young persons are the "true victims" of sports gambling, said Singletary, a former player for Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

"State-legalized sports betting makes a mockery of an athlete's sacrifices and commitments and undermines our ability to set a positive example for young people," Singletary said in his testimony.

Former pro football player Ben Davidson testified against the legislation. Wagering on games already is prevalent and should be controlled by the states rather than organized crime, he said.

James Davey, director of the Oregon Lottery, said in his testimony the professional sports leagues are hypocritical in the concerns they express about gambling and youth. The leagues have not acted to distance their sports and participants from gambling connections, he said. The leagues should "eliminate beer and alcohol advertising from their broadcasts and the stadiums" if they truly are concerned about young persons, Davey said.

Tennesseans to work in Chile

Fifteen Tennessee Baptists will serve in Chile during the upcoming mission meeting of the Chile Baptist Mission.

Thirteen of the group leave July 12, led by D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, and his wife Alice. Two others will join them in Santiago. The group is scheduled to return July 24.

Lowrie will be mission speaker during the meeting. Leading Vacation Bible School for about 55 children of missionaries are Don and Joann Davis and Jan Spruill, Two Rivers Church, Nashville; Kelly Krahwinkel, Stock Creek Church, Knoxville;

Troy Luttrell, Amy Prejean, Headly and Mary Alice McMains, Martha Er-

vin, Zoriada Salinas, and Kay Moore, First Church, Nashville. The Lowries are members at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

Robert Magee and Alfredo Colman, also members of First Church, Nashville, are in Paraguay and will join the other volunteers for the work in Santiago.

The Partnership Mission office at the Baptist Center in Brentwood is filling a request from Chile for 12 teams of two or three per team for an evangelism crusade in Puerto Montt, Southern Chile, August 17-27.

These volunteers will witness through testimony, tract distribution, and in church services.

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Psychologist cites 'myths' surrounding burnout

By Charles Willis

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The pressure on middle class lifestyles is heating up every year, with accelerated expectations to accomplish "everything," a psychologist, writer, and seminar leader said during Church Music Leadership Conference.

Bruce Baldwin of Direction Dynamics in Wilmington, N.C., told church musicians at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center that myths surrounding burnout prevent many persons from diagnosing lifestyle problems.

"The idea that the only people who are vulnerable to stress are dyed-in-the-wool workaholics," Baldwin said, "is the first erroneous idea society has gotten.

Many who suffer from stress are nice, well-adjusted persons, but they

have a value system that places unrealistic expectations on them, he continued.

The system includes "I am a responsible person; I have responsibilities in every area of my life; I will meet those responsibilities and do them well."

"People begin to feel that system backfire at about age 30," he observed, "and by age 35 they are basket cases. It just gets worse and worse until the person does something about it."

Another myth, he said, is that burnout shows up in the workplace, in the quality and quantity of work.

"Actually," Baldwin observed, "burnout victims do the work and do it well, regardless of how they feel. The problem shows up as a latent deterioration in the quality of life seen when you walk in their homes."

Enlist willing workers, Herring says

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N.M. — Accompanying an invitation to work in Sunday School with "You're my last resort" or "It's an easy job; anyone can do it" is tantamount to enlisting ineffective workers.

"I don't believe God intends us to be last resorts," said Jerri Herring, growth consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School division. She led a session, "Dealing with Ineffective Workers," during Sunday School Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

When a Sunday School worker becomes ineffective for any reason, the person who enlisted the worker should first determine whether he or she has contributed to the problem.

"Don't always blame workers for their ineffectiveness," said Herring. "In our zeal to get our organization chart filled or get the nominating committee off our backs, we may enlist workers we should not have considered. One ineffective worker can destroy a department or division."

Persons may be ineffective for numerous reasons — working with the wrong age group or in the wrong job, not understanding their responsibilities, lacking training, or developing a personal or health problem.

"Things happen to people that cause them to become ineffective," said Herring. She suggested offering such a worker a leave of absence to deal with the problem.

Someone may become ineffective who has too many jobs or lacks maturity as a Christian.

"I'm not saying new Christians can't be effective leaders," said Herring. "But we are doing enthusiastic new Christians an injustice by asking them to take on too many jobs and then risking burnout."

When dealing with an ineffective worker, Herring urged sitting down with the person soon after the problem is discovered.

"The longer you let the situation go on, the worse it's going to get," said Herring. "But don't ever take action on somebody else's word. Search it out and know that a real problem exists.

"The hardest thing is to sit down with someone and relieve him or her of responsibilities. But if the person is unwilling to change, he can demoralize a whole department," she continued.

To prevent situations where relieving a person of responsibilities becomes necessary, Herring said churches need policies and guidelines for Sunday School workers. For example, a legitimate requirement may be attendance at weekly workers' meetings.

Conduct monthly evaluations of workers through studying records and asking questions, she suggested.

"Accountability must be built into the process of enlistment," said Herring.

Retiring DOM

Nashville Association honors Carl Duck

Nashville Association honored retiring director of missions Carl Duck with a banquet at First Church, Nashville, on June 27.

Duck closes out 12 and a half years as DOM for the metro association when he retires July 31.

Duck and his wife Bonnie were honored guests for an audience of about 300. They were presented with several gifts, including a statue of a soaring eagle, a book of letters from well-wishers, as well as a check from the churches amounting to \$12,000. Also presented to the honorees were proclamations from Gov. Ned McWherter and Nashville mayor Bill Boner.

Boner declared June 27 as Carl Duck Day in Nashville.

David George, Nashville Association moderator and pastor of Immanuel Church, presided.

Seven guest speakers told of experiences with the Ducks from different aspects of life.

Included on the program were Ross Meek, former member of Lakeside Church, Dallas, where Duck served prior to coming to Nashville; Al Travis, organ professor at Southwestern Seminary and longtime friend of the Ducks; Courtney Wilson, pastor emeritus, First Church, Hendersonville;

Clifford Horne, director of missions and ministries, Nashville Association, speaking for the staff; Bob Franklin, DOM for Noonday Association, Marietta, Ga., past president of the national DOM group; Tom Madden, retired executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Lloyd Elder, Sunday School Board president. Elder gave

He said persons with burnout suffer depression when hard work does not reap a reward, and many of them postpone pleasure in an effort to attain higher goals.

"They continue to postpone pleasure for a lifetime," he said. "They don't know how to give themselves a little bit of the good life. They reach retirement with no activities or friends, and they sit alone drawing a good pension in a paid-up house."

Another work ethic that can lead to burnout is that one must always have something to show for time spent, he said. A person who cannot do "absolutely nothing" for 30 minutes suffers from guilt that is "a pathological byproduct of an overlearned ethic."

Burnout is not being continually tense, Baldwin maintained. "It is a low-level depression resulting from a value system of responsibility, the feeling of more things to get done, and the limitation of 24 hours in a day," he said. "It makes you feel bad in every area of your life. And this has a corrosive effect on self-esteem."

The burnout pattern, Baldwin said, includes:

- Little satisfaction in work, coupled with escape fantasies;
- Chronic fatigue that is not helped by sleep; pressure expressed by anger;
- A progressive need to withdraw and isolate oneself;

• In some persons, particularly men, a chronic pattern of indiscriminate television watching; and

• A troubled marriage marked by a loss of intimacy and conversation, except for discussions of business and schedules.

Aside from obvious steps of good nutrition, sleep, and exercise, Baldwin said the cure for burnout begins with "bringing back the quality of life at home." The process, he said, requires eight to ten months to reverse bad habits and make changes stick.

"Time, talking, touching, and trust" are Baldwin's recommendations for couples to re-establish communication. His rules include having conversations which avoid discussions of work, children, schedules, or money.

He encouraged ministers to protect time together with their spouses and to set aside regular times for rest and relaxation.

Anniversary observed

Saulsbury Church, Saulsbury, celebrates its 125th anniversary July 14-17. For each service a former pastor of the church will preach.

On Sunday Teddy Evans will speak at both services, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The weekday services are at 7:30.

On Monday, Kent Spann is the speaker; Tuesday, Robert Orr; and Wednesday, Wayne Max.

Mark Garrett will lead the music. Carey M. Johnson is pastor.

Duck a framed resolution from the Sunday School Board.

Norris Hite, association administrative committee chairman, presented the retirement check.

Carl Duck became director of missions for Nashville Association on Dec. 1, 1978. The Alabama native is a graduate of Union University and New Orleans (La.) Seminary. He received the D.D. degree from East Texas Baptist University.

He served two pastorates in Tennessee, two in Mississippi, two in Texas, and one in Louisiana. He has been active in associational and state convention work in Texas and Tennessee.

Duck was a member of the board of directors of the Home Mission Board

1969-78, and president of the directors of missions conference, SBC, 1986-88. He is a Distinguished Alumnus of New Orleans Seminary, 1989, and Outstanding Director of Missions Metropolitan, SBC, 1989.

Under his leadership four associational partnership missions to London and Korea were conducted — and other mission projects were undertaken with Michigan and elsewhere. Church membership in Nashville Association grew by almost 20,000 to 101,482. Churches and missions increased by 26 to 143. The association's budget had doubled to more than \$400,000.

Fifty-eight new works have been started, including missions, churches, and other ministries.



HONORED BY ASSOCIATION — Carl and Bonnie Duck, left, were honored by Nashville Association prior to his upcoming retirement as the association's director of missions. Present for the program was Carrie McKinnis, their granddaughter, of Chehalis, Wash. Norris Hite, right, presented the association's gift.

Orr honored for 40 years of service at Paris church

PARIS — Charles Orr isn't the typical, everyday Baptist minister of education.

Normally, Baptist church staffers spend five to seven years at a church, then move on as they feel the Lord's calling.

Orr, however, has not only been minister of education at one church — First Church, Paris — for 40 years, that church is the one he grew up in.

To celebrate Orr's 40th anniversary at the church, the church held Charles Orr Day on June 23 as friends and former church members and staffers paid tribute to Orr's accomplishments through the years.

Orr was baptized at First Church at the age of nine, began working part-time for the church (filling the coal hopper of the church furnace on Sunday mornings and working with the youth) while he was a college student and became the church's first minister of education June 1, 1951.

"I felt this is the place the Lord has intended me to be," Orr said.

It is a role others believe Orr was destined to fill.

Doris Roberts, who worked as the church secretary for almost 40 years, remembers when Orr was pastor dur-

ing the church's Youth Week one year. "He did such a wonderful job everyone felt he was right where he should be.

"... The Lord just raised him up for this job," Roberts said. "I think He was preparing him (Orr) for this work from the time he was born. He's just always been such a good person."

In his 40 years as minister of education, Orr said his job has grown and changed as he and the church tried to keep up with the times. When he started, the church was a focal point of the community. Now, he said, it is one of several centers of activity vying for people's attention.

The church's peak was in 1955 when total enrollment was 1041 with an average attendance of 505. Last year, the total enrollment was 1022 with an average attendance of 419.

The church has done well to hold its own over the years, considering that Paris hasn't grown much and several new Baptist churches have started, Orr said.

To keep the church members interested and active, several programs have been started during Orr's tenure.

The Senior Adult program, which now has more than 100 enrollees, features a monthly fellowship luncheon



COLLEAGUES — Carroll Owen, left, former pastor at First Church, Paris, presents Charles Orr a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department. Orr was honored recently on his 40th anniversary as minister of education at the church. — Photo by Barbara Owen

and meeting, trips, and even its own choir.

The church has added a deaf ministry and boosted the children's program.

Wednesday's Family Night program has improved mid-week attendance dramatically since it was started in 1971. The church has gone from 25-30 people at the mid-week prayer service to 250 during the winter for the family meal, choir practice, and church committee meetings, Orr said.

In addition to his duties at the church, Orr has served 30 years as clerk of the Western District Baptist Association and many years as the Training Union (now Discipleship Training) director on the associational level.

Orr, who was born and raised in Paris, is the son of Sula Orr and the

late Charles P. Orr.

With his roots so deep in the Paris community, Orr believes his life has been led as the Lord intended.

"If I could go back (and live life over again), I would choose the same path," he said. "It's been that satisfying."

Orr has served under three pastors and several interims at First Church. One of those pastors was Carroll Owen, now pastor at Hobson Pike Church, near Mt. Juliet.

Owen participated in the June 23 festivities and speaks highly of Orr. "I have profound respect for his talents, his integrity, and his commitment to the Lord and the church," Owen said.

— This article was adapted from a story written by Kathy Krone in the Paris Post-Intelligencer. Used with permission.



CROSSOVER JAPAN — John Laida, retired pastor of First Church, Clarksville, and now interim pastor at Brentwood Church, recently participated in an evangelistic effort in Japan. Laida and his wife Lib worked with the Tokyo Baptist Church, along with Bill Morris, minister of music at the Clarksville church. Laida preached in revival services with average attendance of 600. The church property was bought by the Foreign Mission Board in 1958, and members now provide special events for mothers who work in the home.

An Occasional Word

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Two preschoolers are an excellent reminder that parents have to always remember they are setting examples — good or bad — for their children.

I recently was cutting grass at my home when I noticed my two-year-old son, Daniel, was following along with his plastic lawnmower in the path I had cut.

Two things struck me about that innocent act. One, my son already was imitating what he saw his dad do. That made me realize I have to "be on my toes" to be a good role model for him and his five-year-old sister, Joanna.

A second thought also occurred. Try as he might, Daniel just was not accomplishing anything with that small, multi-colored lawnmower. He was doing everything right. He pushed as

hard as he could — he was even perspiring like his dad — but all for naught. The grass already was cut.

These two truths also apply to our Christian lives. As Christians, we must be careful about the examples we set. We may not realize it, but non-Christians are watching our moves — ready to catch us in acts that do not bring glory to the Lord's name. That, too, is an awesome responsibility to keep in mind.

And, Christians also are sometimes guilty of "pushing plastic lawnmowers." Our actions look good on the surface, but are they actually accomplishing anything?

We are obligated out of love for our children to always be the best parents we can be and to set good Christian examples for them to follow.

And, because of our love for Jesus Christ, we have that same obligation to be the best Christians we can be, striving to set examples that will draw others to Christ, not keep them away.



WILKEY

State winner 'lives his Christianity'

When Chad Segraves goes to Ridgecrest, N.C., July 20-26 he will become the first Tennessee youth to represent the state at Discipleship Training Week in two events.

Three years ago Segraves, of First Church, Huntingdon, won the state Youth Bible Drill and participated in a demonstration drill at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

On July 1, Segraves won first place in the state Youth Speakers' Tournament, earning another trip to Ridgecrest.

Segraves' winning speech was entitled "Jesus, My Lord, My All."

In his speech, Segraves noted, "Yes, Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but the question is this, is He Lord of your life? Do you live each day making it obviously known that Jesus is your Lord? Or do you hide behind the dark veil of secrecy and just hope that people can tell you are a Christian?"

Segraves, who recently graduated from Huntingdon High School where he was quarterback on the school's football team, said he tries to set a Christian example for his friends and teammates.

"People know what I stand for and that some things are out of the question," he said.

Segraves credited his participation in Bible drills and the speakers' tournament for helping him through some "tough situations. You can recall verses from Bible drill or something you looked up for

speakers' tournament," he said.

His athletic background causes him to choose the Bible drill over speaking when asked which he prefers. "I enjoyed the Bible drill because it's direct competition," he noted, adding that a person has more control over the Bible drill because you can work and practice to increase speed.

Segraves, who last summer went to Russia for a week to study medicine, plans to enroll at Vanderbilt University as a pre-med major.

Several friends and relatives, including the staff of First Church, Huntingdon, came to the Baptist Center in Brentwood to root for Segraves.

Fred Ward, pastor of First Church, noted "you couldn't find a finer young man who lives his Christianity.

"He's a leader in the youth group and always has been a superb example for our young people."

Segraves is the second Huntingdon youth to win the speakers' tournament, Ward said, noting that Cindy Dodd is a former winner. In addition, Segraves' sister, Carrie-Ann, won the Bible drill last year.

Ward observed the church has always put an emphasis on the two events and gave credit to Marge Tucker who works with the youth helping them to prepare for the competitions.

"She's the cog. She's very dedicated and committed," Ward said. — Lonnie Wilkey

House bill would restore religious liberty standard

WASHINGTON — Legislation designed to restore a high standard of protection for the free exercise of religion was reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives June 26.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (H.R. 2797) would restore the strict "compelling interest" standard the U.S. Supreme Court formerly required government to meet before restricting religious liberty.

That test permitted government to restrict the First Amendment's guarantee of religious exercise only to further a compelling governmental interest and if the least restrictive means of safeguarding that interest had been employed.

The high standard, established by the Supreme Court in 1963, was abandoned in its Oregon Employment Division v. Smith decision April 17, 1990. The Smith decision stated that government need not justify burdens on religious practice unless the law is aimed at religion.

"With the stroke of a pen, the Supreme Court virtually removed religious freedom — our first freedom — from the Bill of Rights," said Rep. Stephen J. Solarz, D-N.Y., at a press conference announcing the bill.

Chief sponsor of the bill, Solarz is joined by 41 bipartisan co-sponsors. In 1990 Solarz introduced the bill late in

the 101st session of Congress, which ended before action was taken on the bill.

The 1991 bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate following its Fourth of July recess.

"The court's reading of the First Amendment is out of step with the nation and with our historical commitment to religious liberty," Solarz said. "The court's grievous and shortsighted error must not be permitted to stand unchallenged."

The Baptist Joint Committee, which chairs the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion that backs the bill, lauded the legislation.

"Justice Scalia in the Oregon v. Smith decision, with one sweeping phrase, dismissed the free exercise of religion as it has been known in this nation as a legal 'luxury we can no longer afford,'" said James Dunn, executive director of the BJC. "A Religious Freedom Restoration Act that simply and clearly restores the First Amendment to its previous stature is desperately and immediately needed."

Smith already has impacted some 20 reported cases. Its brunt has been felt by minority sects and mainline denominations. Under the new standard, free exercise claimants won only four of the 20 cases, and in three of

those instances the state court based its decision on other grounds.

Oliver Thomas, BJC general counsel, said the RFRA "is without a doubt the most significant bill affecting religious liberty in our lifetime. Anyone who opposes it would have opposed enactment of the First Amendment."

Thomas noted the coalition supporting the bill is as remarkable as the legislation itself.

"Several dozen religious and civil liberties groups ranging from the American Civil Liberties Union to the Traditional Values Coalition, from the National Council of Churches to the National Association of Evangelicals, from Agudath Israel to the Muslim Council, have been willing to lay aside their deep differences ... and join in a common vision for the common good — religious liberty for all Americans."

While the coalition supporting the bill is religiously and politically diverse, some pro-life groups have declined to endorse the Solarz bill. In the event the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision guaranteeing the right to abortion is overturned, some RFRA opponents claim the Solarz bill could recreate a constitutional right to abortion based on religious beliefs and practices.

However, not all pro-life groups see the RFRA as an abortion threat.

Joining Solarz in the press conference, Robert Dugan, director of public affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, said his organization "is staunchly pro-life and would never support legislation which could effectively be used to endanger the pro-life cause."

"RFRA poses no such threat," Dugan said. "The bill itself is abortion neutral. We think the argument that the Supreme Court might overturn Roe v. Wade and then discover a right to abortion under a different label is little short of frivolous. RFRA simply restores a legal standard. It confers no new substantive rights, whether to abortion or any other claim based on free exercise of religion."

Responding to a question, Solarz said the bill scrupulously avoids tipping the scales for or against abortion, as well as other religiously related issues. To do so would jeopardize the broad-based coalition, Solarz said. Coalition members could not agree on the decisions of every free-exercise case, but they could concur on the standard by which these cases should be decided, he said.

"There is no hidden pro-abortion agenda" in the bill, he added. — ABP

SEBTS trustees share information; no decisions known

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Ten trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary met July 2 essentially for the school's administration to share information with local board members as to how far they have progressed in a plan for financial and theological integrity.

No decisions were announced since the local trustees cannot make decisions that are binding on the full board. They may make formal recommendations to the full board when it convenes in October.

The meeting lasted approximately seven hours with about half of it in executive session.

"The whole scheme ... is we have gotten administrative input, we've gotten faculty input, and now we're getting trustee input ... that we will have a real body of material on hand to put together and have a definite 'one, two, three, four' kind of plan" to accomplish the theological and fiscal in-

tegrity of Southeastern Seminary, President Lewis A. Drummond explained.

What local trustees heard were reports from the Wake Forest seminary's two vice presidents on plans for financial exigency and rebuilding the Southern Baptist Convention's perception of the school's theological integrity.

"What we have tried to do is stick with the (Association of Theological School's) guidelines on retrenchment," Paul Fletcher, vice president for internal affairs told the trustees. "They are very fair. They bring in the total community — administration, trustees, and faculty — into a cooperative effort to solve the problems that we are facing."

He outlined three ATS guidelines for retrenchment which trustees were striving to abide by in formulating the school's financial exigency plan:

1. The formation of a credible state-

ment of the nature and dimensions of financial exigency at the school.

2. Detailed information regarding the nature and extent of financial exigency should be made available to all people and groups potentially affected by the crises.

3. A panel of outside and disinterested persons should be invited to confirm the reality of financial exigency and to render judgment on the fairness of tentative proposals. Fletcher said the administration was in the process of carrying out the second guideline in the called meeting of local trustees.

"We're trying to get the information that we have into the hands of those people who will be affected," Fletcher stated. "Let me tell you at this point, there could be some human lives affected because we are getting down to a point where we need to make some very, very careful decisions about what we can do based upon our finan-

cial situation."

Fletcher's report focused on the seminary business office's projection of what would happen if and/or when the seminary funding formula is unfrozen in the 1993-94 academic year.

In executive session, the trustee group discussed faculty vacancies in light of a fiscal exigency plan. Paul T. Brock, director of public relations, told Baptist Press four professors and one vice president had recently resigned and several more professors were in the process of negotiating early retirements or resignations.

L. Russ Bush III, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, reported on the need for reconstructing the Southern Baptist Convention's perception of the school's theological integrity. "The institution no longer has the reputation of being a center of calm, high quality (theological) education; it has the image of controversy," Bush said.



DRILL WINNERS — Winners of the 1991 Youth Bible Drill, sponsored by the TBC Discipleship Training Department, are, from left, Bridget Diggs, Southside Church, Jackson, first place; Rebecca Smith, Eastanallee Church, Athens, second place; and Joyce Hartsell, Northport Church, Newport, third place. Diggs will represent the TBC in a demonstration drill July 20-26 during Discipleship Training Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.



TOP SPEAKERS — Winners of the 1991 Youth Speakers' Tournament, sponsored by the TBC Discipleship Training Department, are, from left, Glynn N. Stone Jr., First Church, Dayton, second place; Julie Shavers, Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville, third place; and ... had Segraves, First Church, Huntington, first place. Segraves will give his speech at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center July 20-26 during Discipleship Training Week.

C-N staffer honored as outstanding educator

JEFFERSON CITY — During the past 35 years, Barbara McDougal has touched students' lives as a Christian teacher, administrator, and friend. Her efforts as vice president for student development at Carson-Newman College were recently given the highest recognition by Southern Baptist colleges.

McDougal was named Educator of the Year by the Association for Student Development in Southern Baptist Colleges and Universities during its annual meeting.

McDougal has seen C-N from several vantage points — beginning as student, then serving as a faculty member in child and family studies for 17 years. She became assistant dean of students in 1980, and, in 1989, became the first female vice president of the college.

Throughout her career, she has maintained there are two essential elements to success: a supportive family and an excellent staff. Her background in child and family studies carries over to her student development role and to her role as a vice president.

Ray Sorrells moves to Erwin pastorate

First Church, Erwin, called Ray Sorrells to serve as pastor, effective June 16.

Pastor of Calvary Church, Elizabethton, for 13 years, Sorrells has also served churches in Virginia and West Virginia.

The Shelbyville native graduated from Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Sorrells is a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention executive board and is on the education committee.

He and his wife, Bonnie, have three children.



SORRELLS

"It's a ripple effect. Learn to be a better person, and you will become a better mate. Become a better mate and you will have better families, and if you have better families, you will have a better world." This is what she tries to get across to students, and she practices what she preaches.

"Youthful leaders and CEOs often let go of the family. As Christian administrators, we have an obligation to our families. It's a moral responsibility and a God-given privilege."

Further, she asserts that good staff development is necessary. "Every person on the student development staff is a role model," she adds. Part of that development process for staff members includes training, team-building, and retreats. "This past year, we went on a spiritual emphasis retreat and used Fowler's Stages of Faith to assess our own spiritual growth to help us better meet the spiritual needs of our students."

Though the student development office is not a replacement for parents, the best environment for students offers the encouragement, nourishment, and good role models that a healthy family life offers. So perhaps it stands to reason that building that atmosphere into inter-office relations and transferring a good home-life for administrators will help create that symbiotic relationship on campus.

Helping students achieve their poten-

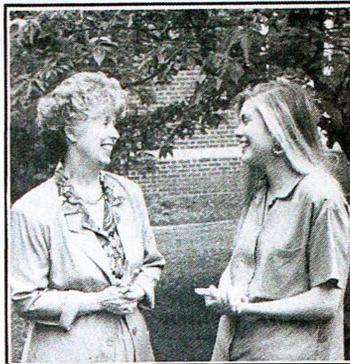
Bybee church calls Taylor as pastor

Briar Thicket Church, Bybee, recently called H. R. Taylor as pastor.

Taylor, retired from Eastman Company in Kingsport, served as pastor of churches in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

He was ordained in 1935 at First Church, Van Buren, Ark.

Taylor attended Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Ark., University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.



EDUCATOR HONORED — Barbara McDougal, left, of Carson-Newman College recently was named Educator of the Year by a Southern Baptist organization. She chats with C-N nursing student Angela Wohlwend.

tial has taken on several new dimensions. Campus life used to be divided between the classroom experience and

Jacksboro Church calls Elbert Baird

Elbert Baird recently joined the staff of East Jacksboro Church, Jacksboro, as pastor.

During his 36-years in the ministry, Baird has served as pastor of Willowbrook Church, Lake City; East LaFollette and Cedar Hill churches in LaFollette; and Lakeview Church, Carrryville.

He was ordained in 1955 at Big Creek Gap Church, LaFollette.

everything else. "Everything else" referred to the activities students participated in after classes had ended.

"We do more than provide a bed to sleep in and fun things to do after class," says McDougal. "The kinds of programs we are developing are to teach 'life-learning' skills." This year, programs have dealt with ethical issues, self-defense, date-rape, racial tensions, social interaction skills, personal integrity, spiritual growth, nutrition and exercise, time and stress management, and financial planning.

After 35 years with Carson-Newman, she still feels strongly about her commitment. "I feel as called to be a Christian educator as a pastor feels called to the pulpit. My theme song is to prepare young people for Christian leadership because that is what is going to make the difference."

Alexander accepts Halls pastorate

Mt. Vernon Church, Halls, recently called Bill Alexander as pastor.

Alexander, a native of Memphis, formerly served as pastor of Eastside Church, Camden, and Holladay Church, Holladay.

Ordained in 1981 at Missionary Grove Church, Camden, Alexander is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, Kathy, have two children.

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God grants wisdom to Solomon

By C. David Brown, pastor; Mine City Church, Ducktown

Solomon was very young when he became king of Israel. In his own words (3:7) he was "but a little child." Eusebius and Josephus, church historians, recorded that Solomon was not older than 15. The young king already possessed a marked degree of wisdom. Sidlow Baxter says "that he should ask wisdom above all else was a mark of wisdom."

The son of David and Bathsheba, and the third of the three great kings of the united kingdom of Israel, Solomon was supernaturally endowed for his role in the unfolding dramatic history of God's chosen people. Israel was a great kingdom; moreover, it was God's kingdom. Solomon "loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father" (3:3). Solomon's prayer for wisdom beyond his natural abilities indicated that he loved the Lord and wanted to please Him.

God granted Solomon's prayer for

wisdom in such a way that he was distinguished with wisdom that would exceed that of any king in history (3:12). It would seem reasonable then that Solomon married the Egyptian princess (diplomacy by marriage) and used high places before he requested and received wisdom from the Lord (3:1-2). Certainly adopting places of idolatrous worship for the nation's own worship of the Lord may have set a snare unawares for the future downfall of Solomon's reign.

It was through the influence of Solomon's pagan wives that he permitted the erection of shrines and temples of their pagan gods and thus crept into Israel the worst phase of idolatry and part of the cause for the future break-up of the nation. How important it is for us to bring our children to church to hear and study God's Word and teach them God's Word at home at an early age. With

cults and humanistic reasoning so prominent today we must train them to recognize the cultic practice of mixing pagan and humanistic thought with Biblical phraseology.

Although Solomon was a young king, he demonstrated his God-given wisdom early in his reign. His handling of the case of the two harlots who claimed to be mother of the same baby demonstrated his penetrating insight into human nature. Any misgivings the people had of his immaturity were removed. The nation recognized a wisdom which was far beyond his years. Indeed this was the wisdom of God. From then on he held the confidence and veneration of his people (3:28).

Solomon was also supernaturally endowed with practical wisdom in directing the affairs of his country (4:1-28). Because of his wise administration the nation enjoyed prosperity, military

strength, and peace with neighboring countries (4:24-25).

Solomon's wisdom excelled even the renowned philosophers of his day (4:30-31; 4:29-34). He also composed 3000 proverbs and more than 1000 songs (4:32), many of which are recorded in the Bible. Our study of these proverbs will give us Godly

BIBLE BOOK
July 14 Lesson
 Basic Passage: I Kings 3:1-4:34

wisdom in handling our business affairs and personal relationships.

We can also have the wisdom God gave Solomon through prayer. James 1:5 says "... if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach ..." (NASV).

God will fight for us

By Gary Williams, director of education and promotion; Madison-Chester and Crockett County Associations

Such a great work as rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem was no small task. It could not be attempted by one person or even a few. Chapter three of Nehemiah lists the various groups of workers and the task which had been assigned to them. It was quite a large job; it showed good management expertise to divide such a large task into manageable segments.

Nehemiah four details the opposition which Nehemiah and his fellow workers faced as they reconstructed the wall. Many times we as workers in the local church will face criticism or mockery from friends or acquaintances who do not understand our commitment to Christ and His church. Likewise, Sanballat became furious

and mocked the Jews for their work (v. 1). Tobiah, an Ammonite co-conspirator, made fun of the Jewish efforts (v. 3).

But Nehemiah and his army of dedicated workers were not hindered by the threats and sarcasm. Would that we not give up so easily today! Instead they turned to an inexhaustible source of spiritual strength, God. Trust in God helped them to be even more tenacious about their task and their destiny.

We know, as Nehemiah knew, that a persistent prayer life is essential for strength as we pursue God's will and task. But Nehemiah also took steps to be physically prepared against formidable opposition: Sanballat and the

Samaritans on the north, Tobiah and the Ammonites to the east, the Arabians on the south, and the Philistines.

Some of the people possessed low morale, but Nehemiah continued to encourage them and motivate them to persevere.

Guards were set up day and night (v. 9). Half of the workers toiled while the other half stood guard (v. 16). Jewish "suburbanites," those who lived outside the wall, were asked to stay overnight. Some continued to work with a sword by their side (v. 18). Defensive plans were announced (vv. 19-20). No one took time to change their clothes (v. 23).

Nehemiah's people were discouraged by the opposition which they faced and

by the overwhelming nature of the task which lay before them. Satan has used discouragement in every day and age to turn God's people away from the main issues at hand.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
July 14 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Nehemiah 4

However, it is possible to be stimulated by opposition and discouragement with God-given faith, strength, and persistence on our side. There are times when all of us, like Nehemiah's workers, are ready to quit. But Nehemiah through persistent leadership motivated them to continue the work until the job was finished.

Making a choice

By Billy Cooper, minister of education; Woodmont Church, Nashville

God made us unique. Within our being, God gave us mind, will, and emotion. Through will, we are given the opportunity of choice.

God wants us to have opportunity of choice, either to do right or wrong, to choose God or not to choose God. Choices sometimes are not easy, but are necessary. This week we look at choices God's people had to make. As God's prophet, Elijah foretold the disaster which would befall them for three and a half years (I Kings 17:1). As the drought took its toll on Israel, Ahab tried to contact Elijah.

Ahab sent Obadiah, the governor of his house who secretly feared God, into the land to find water and grass to save the horses and mules. Ahab went one way; Obadiah went another. As Obadiah searched, he met Elijah. God caused the meeting to occur for He was ready to send rain upon the land.

Obadiah saluted Elijah by falling on his face and asking, "Art thou my lord Elijah?" By his greeting, Obadiah showed his great respect, love, and fear of God. Elijah assured Obadiah he would present himself to Ahab. When

Ahab and Elijah met, Ahab accused Elijah of being the "troubler" of the Israelites. Elijah, who brought blessings to Israel, was confronted by one of the worst kings the world had known.

Elijah turned the challenge to Ahab, saying that Ahab was the "troubler," it was Ahab and Jezebel who followed false gods and did evil in the eyes of God.

Elijah ordered a meeting of all the Israelites and prophets of Baal. They met at Mount Carmel where an altar to God had been built, and where the pure worship of God had taken place. Because Ahab had abandoned God and worshipped Baal, Elijah ordered a full assembly, including Jezebel's prophets. Like Joshua, Elijah appealed to the people to choose the god they would serve. The method was to sacrifice a bull on altars. Baal would have a sacrifice as would God. The god who spoke by producing fire would be the one true God.

It is difficult to understand why Israel would ever have considered the worship of other gods. God had spoken

to His people, delivered them, and given them opportunity. They continually sought to turn away and become self serving.

As the time of the offering came

LIFE AND WORK
July 14 Lesson
 Basic Passage: I Kings 18

near (v. 36), Elijah prayed to God. Elijah was calm and in control, far from the disorder the Baal prophets displayed. Even though Elijah expected God to respond with fire at the altar, he came close to the altar with boldness and did not fear the fire. By

Foundation helps C-N scholars

JEFFERSON CITY — Students who thought they could not afford a college education may have a chance to pursue their dream. The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation wants to help talented students who need it most. The Foundation recently announced an agreement with Carson-Newman College by which it will help pay all college costs for four years for

putting water around the altar, he made sure no accidental fire started.

Elijah prayed because he knew God would do what He said He would do. God heard Elijah's prayer and answered. The people of Israel saw the error of their ways and acknowledged Yahweh as the one true God.

Too often, people respond to worldly forces to give them what they need in life. They follow their natural desires and allow things of this world to become gods. In doing so, they come up empty. God wants us to choose Jesus Christ as our own true Savior. In Christ we will have all we need for a full and meaningful life.

30 scholars.

The scholarship provides \$3700 per year, which is renewable annually. The remainder of all costs will be paid through the college. Carson-Newman College will select 25 or 30 scholars for fall semester. Over the next four years, the college should have at least 100 Bonner Scholars in attendance.

TenneScene

... Starting at Skullbone, over to Cheap Hill, then on to Deer Lodge ...

Missions ...

A volunteer mission team of 13 Acetens from East Athens Church, Athens, will be in Birmingham, Ala., July 14-20 working at the Baptist Center.

A youth mission team from First Church, Lawrenceburg, will leave July 19 for Columbus, Ohio, to conduct Vacation Bible School at an inner-city mission called The Stowe Center, which provides a daily soup line, personal hygiene items, school supplies, and winter apparel.

Leadership ...

Pleasant Hill Church, Martin, called Brian Harris as minister of youth. He formerly served at Temple Church, Paris.

Harold Noe is now serving as pastor of Kidwell's Ridge Church, Morristown.

First Church, Dresden, called Trent Bullock as minister of education. He recently graduated from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Brett Carroll recently joined the staff of Mount Olive Church, Knoxville, as minister of youth/family activities. He graduated in May from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, with a master's degree in religious education, and another master's degree in marriage and family counseling.

Bill Vest has been called to South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, as part-time minister of youth. He began his service June 23.

Joe Sustarsic has been called to Glenwood Church, Kingsport, as minister of education and music.

West Colonial Hills Church,

Association dedicates Baptist Center

New Duck River Association dedicated its new Baptist Center June 9 as a resource center for association churches.

Special program guests for the occasion included Bob Mizell, former director of missions, and Paul Hall, former interim director of missions. Moderator Bob McKinney led the service.

Thirty-three of the churches in the association are located in Bedford, Marshall, and Moore counties. There is one church in Lincoln County, and

Kingsport, called Claude Duncan as minister of music and education.

Wells Station Church, Memphis, called Mike Neefe as youth minister.

Bob Lacher has been called to Brookside Church, Memphis, as minister of education.

Steve Fultz has been called as minister to youth and activities to Immanuel Church, Germantown. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Deborah Lyttle, a junior at Roane State Community College, Harriman, is serving as summer missionary at Nashville Association.

One student with ties to Tennessee received a degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary during recent commencement exercises. Gina M. Prieto, daughter of James and Lorene Niceley of Knoxville, received the master of arts in Christian education degree. A native of Knoxville, she graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Bobby G. Johnson, former pastor of LaGuardo Church, Lebanon, is serving at Central Church, a mission church in Lebanon.

Revivals ...

Revival services will be held July 21-24 at Inglewood Church, Nashville. Henry Linginfelter will be evangelist, and Dick Barrett will lead music.

Floyd Lammersfeld will lead revival July 21-26 at Pine Grove Church, Wildersville.

Fifteen professions of faith were made at a recent revival at Rosedale

one in Rutherford.

Ted Cashion served as chairman of the building committee. Chairpersons of the subcommittees include James Hickey, finance; Bill Parks, property; Cordie Dalton, construction; and Bessie Mealer, furnishing.

Harold D. Smith is director of missions.

Mizell gave the dedicatory message and Hall spoke of the association's work. The Baptist Center is located in Shelbyville.

Church, Nashville. Henry Linginfelter led the services. Two others joined the church by letter.

Revival will be held July 12-14 at Snow Hill Church, Dowelltown. Ricky Scott will be evangelist. Church members will celebrate homecoming July 14.

Bill Robertson will lead revival Aug. 4-9 at Salem Church, Liberty. Brad Leach will lead music.

Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet, will hold revival services on each Tuesday night during July. Bob Hammer will speak July 2, Franklin Paschall on July 9, Leon Edwards on July 16, David Daughterty on July 23, and Roy Fisher on July 30.

Three churches in Wilson County Association will hold revivals during July. Thurman Seber began services July 7 which will conclude July 12 at First Church, Watertown. Hurricane Church, Lebanon, will be held in revival July 28-Aug. 3 by Sam Brooks, and Robert Woody will lead revival July 28-Aug. 3 at Round Lick Church, Watertown.

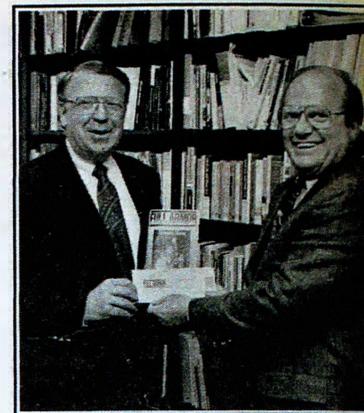
Rayon City Church, Old Hickory, will hold revival July 17-21 with evangelist J. Harold Smith of Newport. Night services begin at 7:30 while the Sunday morning service on July 21 will begin at 10. Church music director Kevin Kuncie will lead music during the revival. Terry Wilkerson is pastor.

Mains accepts call

Tennessee native Harold Mains recently returned to his home state to be pastor of an Elizabethton church after serving churches in North and South Carolina.

Mains is now pastor of Big Springs Church, Elizabethton, his second Tennessee pastorate. His first pastorate was at Fairview Church, Watauga.

Mains was ordained in 1961 at Grace Church Elizabethton.



NEW MAGAZINE — Gary Watkins, right, pastor of First Church, Collierville, hands Jim Furgerson, Brotherhood Commission Baptist Men's director, an order for Full Armor magazine. Approved at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Full Armor targets the spiritual and personal needs of military personnel while directing them towards a life of missions involvement. First Church, Collierville, is the first church in the SBC to purchase Full Armor subscriptions for chaplains to use in their ministry.

Ordinations ...

James Vance was ordained to the Gospel ministry June 30 at Plainview Church, Bradyville.

Sevierville church calls new pastor

Charles Liner, pastor of First Church, Hendersonville, N.C., for 13 years, has been called as pastor of First Church, Sevierville.

Liner began his duties July 1. The Georgia native was formerly pastor of Euclid Avenue Church, Bristol, Va., for six years. He is a Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, graduate, and earned a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a doctoral degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

He and his wife, Barbara, have two children, Noel and Joshua.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Alexander Maclaven declared, "a nation or a man that has shaken off God will not long keep sobriety or purity." Our nation has discovered this in a painful way. We are about to destroy ourselves with drug abuse and we are threatened with AIDS which is associated with sexual impurity.

Thank God for those who are mounting campaigns against drug abuse and sexual impurity, but they are destined to fail. Our youth will not "say no" to drugs unless they "say yes" to God. They need Jesus Christ in their hearts to "say no" to the peer pressure and the attractions of the world. They also need the encouragement that Christ can provide through a local church.

The same is true of impurity. Jesus is the strength for personal purity.

So our task is rather clear. We must confront the children and youth of this age with high standards of Jesus Christ. We must unapologetically call on them to live sexual chaste and drug free lives. But we must share with them the good news of the Gospel that if they will say "yes" to Christ, He will be their strength.

Is your church doing something with youth this summer that will accomplish this? It is probably not too late to plan an evangelistic blitz with the focus on children and youth. There is still time to take a group of young people to a Tennessee Baptist camp with a program for children and youth, or to an associational camp. There is still time to have a special youth Bible study designed to reach the unsaved youth.

Youth have always been responsive to Jesus Christ when they have been boldly confronted with His claims.

Remember, if they are to have the strength to "say no," they must "say yes" to our Lord.



LOWRIE



FACILITY DEDICATED — Baptists in New Duck River Association dedicated their new Baptist Center June 9 in Shelbyville.