

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

BSSB trustees elect Draper as eighth president

By Lonnie Wilkey and Linda Lawson
NASHVILLE — Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board elected James T. Draper Jr. as the eighth president of the denomination's education and publishing agency July 18 during a special called meeting in Nashville.

Draper, 55, was elected by a 75-0 margin, with one abstention, following a one hour, 45-minute executive session. He has been pastor of the 8200-member First Church, Euless, Texas, since 1975 and is a former Southern Baptist Convention president (1982-84). He will succeed Lloyd Elder who, after a lengthy dispute with trustees about his leadership at the board, reached agreement with trustees Jan. 17 to retire 30 days after election of a successor.

Shortly after the meeting began, trustee chairman Bill Anderson of Clearwater, Fla., gave trustees the opportunity to decide if they wanted an open or closed meeting.

Tennessean Dennis Lunsford, pastor of Antioch Church, Humboldt, moved that the meeting be open. He later told the Baptist and Reflector that "the best Baptists are informed Baptists." The motion was seconded by another Tennessean, Robert York, a layman from First Church, Nashville.

Trustee Bob Tenery of Mocksville, N.C., offered a substitute motion to go into closed session, the first executive session held by the BSSB trustees in more than ten years. That session concerned an employee personnel matter.

"I was on the board when Dr. Elder was elected (in 1983) and we did not discuss the salary package in that ses-

sion," Tenery said. "We will be discussing some things that shouldn't be in the papers right now. Anytime we want to go out of executive session, we can."

Wayne DuBose, chairman of the presidential search committee, said the committee had no preference about an open or closed session and neither did Draper. "He (Draper) is willing to go either way," DuBose said.

The vote to go into executive session, when needed, passed by a substantial margin, although many trustees did not vote on the matter.

Before the meeting was closed DuBose described the search process which lasted about 164 days from the time the committee was formed on Feb. 4.

DuBose noted the committee considered 21 nominees offered by approximately 70 Southern Baptists. The ten-member committee, which included Tennesseans Bill Wilson of Brentwood and Eugene Mims of Cleveland, interviewed eight candidates, DuBose said.

"We did our work amid much prayer and fasting, some pressures, and many rumors," said DuBose, a Shreveport, La., pastor.

"At times we differed and debated. There was never a time when disrespect was shown one for another. We have the strong conviction that God has led us to Dr. James T. Draper Jr."

Search committee members were given time to share their views concerning Draper's "strengths."

Wilson, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Convention Ministries Department, cited Draper's



TENNESSEE WELCOME — James T. Draper Jr., center, is welcomed as new president of the Baptist Sunday School Board by Cleveland pastor Eugene Mims, right, a member of the search committee, and new Tennessee trustee Phil Glisson, staff evangelist at Leawood Church, Memphis.

"visible leadership" in the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and his local association.

"He has demonstrated he knows how to work with people of differing views without compromising Biblical principles," Wilson said.

Mims, pastor of First Church, Cleveland, observed Draper "is not a compromise candidate. He has made his mark across the Southern Baptist Convention by working hard."

Trustees viewed a brief video presentation regarding Draper's ministry and met Draper and his wife, Carol Ann, before going into executive

session.

After visitors and news media were called back into the room, a roll call vote was taken. Every trustee present cast affirmative votes except Leon Bolton, a Memphis layman from Highland Heights Church, who abstained.

Bolton later told the Baptist and Reflector that convincing evidence about Draper's management skills was not presented.

He pledged however to cooperate and be "100 percent in support of Draper. He's a fine man who has been a great leader in the Southern Baptist (See BSSB page 5)



SOVIET HOST FAMILY — Tennessean Beth Dawson, second from right, of Nashville, uses a dictionary to help her communicate with her hostess, Lelia Z. Ashimova, right, manager of a state bank in Alma-Ata, and extended family members, Almira Berik, left, on floor, Agyul Berik, left, on couch, and Rosa Berik, center. (See story on page 7.) — Photo by Don Rutledge

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'Pastor of the Year' nominees sought

BRENTWOOD — Nominations are being accepted for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's "Bivocational Pastor of the Year" and "Small Church Pastor of the Year."

Messengers to the 1990 Tennessee Baptist Convention, meeting in Nashville, voted to establish the two awards.

Persons nominated to receive either of the two awards should have:

1) Served as recently as the last calendar year either as a bivocational pastor (has full-time employment in addition to local church) or small church pastor (full-time pastor of church with an average Sunday School attendance of less than 100 people);

2) Exemplified qualities of authentic Christian ministry such as humility in spirit, service to the congregation and community where located, courage in proclaiming Biblical truths, etc.;

3) Demonstrated persistence in the face of less than encouraging circumstances or faithfulness without regard to personal gain; for example, longevity of service in one church;

4) Shown visionary leadership in

the church he serves as exemplified through congregational growth or creative ministries to the community.

Nominations for the awards, along with an explanation as to why the individuals have been nominated, should be sent by Sept. 1 to the TBC's Convention Ministries Division, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 or to members of the selection subcommittee of the TBC's Convention Ministries Committee.

The selection subcommittee is chaired by David Crocker, pastor, Central Church, Johnson City. Vice chairmen are Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, and Doug Baker, pastor, Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar.

Other committee members are Herschel Chevallier, pastor, Cumberland Church, Knoxville; Russ Dunham, LaFollette; Tim Floyd, pastor, First Church, Columbia; Mark Stinnett, pastor, Prosperity Church, Auburntown; Don McCulley, pastor, First Church, Dresden; and Harold Maples, music minister, Ridgeway Church, Memphis.

Recipients of the two awards will be recognized during the 1991 annual TBC meeting in Memphis.

Editorials

Draper accepts tough assignment at Sunday School Board

James T. Draper Jr. has been elected president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, a position which some call "the greatest in the world."

The Texas pastor becomes the eighth chief executive of the board, Southern Baptists' education and publication arm. He has taken on a monumental task, one that has few rivals. The Sunday School Board's wellness is vital to the health and strength of Southern Baptists and their churches. The board is at the heart of what we do — and touches the soul as well.

His election July 18 by a unanimous vote ends speculation that began January 17 when Lloyd Elder announced his retirement.

Southern Baptists and a large portion of the Christian community have been curious about the workings of the selection committee even while praying for a choice that would continue the excellence in leadership and provide much-needed healing.

Draper offers both. He accepted the post with an acknowledgement that he is a neophyte in publishing, and will begin his tenure during the board's centennial year.

Draper knows the opportunities for changing the world appear greater than ever. Providing the tools and resource materials for a willing cadre of Baptists will make a profound impact on lostness.

He has pledged to do all that is possible to lead the board in that kind of ministry. An immediate problem involves literature. Many months have been spent by employees in developing a new concept in curriculum which will be used for the first time this fall. For years some disgruntled churches have opted to use literature other than Southern Baptist.

Draper hopes to bring the recalcitrants back into the fold. The Sunday School Board must be a friend

to the churches.

The search committee, with Bill Wilson and Gene Mims of Tennessee as members, is confident Draper can do just that. He is seen as a people-oriented leader who can delegate responsibility.

If being a "died in the wool" Southern Baptist is a major qualification for the Sunday School Board leadership, Draper qualifies. He is a third generation Southern Baptist pastor and has been pastor of eight churches. He has been true to the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptist causes.

His tenure at Euless perhaps vaulted him into prominence as a Southern Baptist leader. He began that pastorate in 1975, and was elected during that time to lead the Southern Baptist Convention as its president in 1982-84. He has written seventeen books — all of which deal with the Bible and living the Christian life.

Draper has served capably and willingly on the associational and state convention level. After he finished his second term as SBC president in 1984, he was elected vice president of the Tarrant Association. That reveals more than a touch of humility.

The Texan received mixed ratings as chairman of Southwestern Seminary's board of trustees, a post he will give up as he comes to Tennessee. But he gained the reputation of reconciler as well.

In perhaps the highest post in Southern Baptist life, Draper will be watched. As the much-maligned Lyndon Johnson said to a critic once during the debilitating days of the Vietnamese War, "I'm the only president you have." The new leader needs and deserves support.

The rumors are dead, the waiting is over; we have our president. Southern Baptists will be wise in drawing together and praying for the success of the incoming administration.

It is amazing what great things can be done for the Lord when there is a unity that defies imagination. That kind of unity is needed.

In speaking to board employees the morning after his election, the president-elect said he is an open person, a redemptive person. He said he believes in delegating and in admitting when he is wrong.

He promised that he will give attention to spiritual, business, organizational, and people leadership. Earlier he professed lack of knowledge about board personnel and admitted he had visited the premises only once — at the invitation of the then president, Grady Cothen.

He praised Sunday School Board literature as "the best literature around" but pledged to work to make it better. That is an acknowledgement that competition with Southern Baptist literature grows keener each year.

One of his first big decisions will be to find a well-qualified chief operating officer. Draper is eager to accomplish that and has made it top priority. That position is being vacated by James D. Williams who was elected recently as president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission. The person must understand the board's role in education and training — as well as in publishing.

We see Draper as a leader who will work hard to alleviate fears of some Baptists who are skeptical of his conservative theology — without diluting the program of the board.

In particular we urge Tennessee Baptists to welcome James and Carol Ann Draper as new members of our family, and to make them feel "at home." We urge all Southern Baptists to rally in support of all that we do that is good for the Lord Jesus. — WFA

Women carry out multitude of duties as missionaries

By Linda Lawson
RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Teaching Bible studies, planting churches, coordinating multi-housing ministries, counseling single mothers, and telling others about Jesus Christ represent only a few of the missionary activities carried out by Southern Baptist women around the world and in the United States.

Four women — two home missionaries and two foreign missionaries — described their work during a conference on women in missions during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival held July 6-12 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"A lot of things I've done were not because I was prepared but because I was there and there was a need," said Shelby Castlen, who has served in the Philippines with her husband, Jim. They now live and work as Baptist representatives in Australia.

With one college course in library science, Castlen became a seminary librarian in the Philippines "because there was a need."

She also has counseled students, coordinated rabbit and gardening projects, worked with volunteers to make 60 puppets, ministered in hospitals and jails, as well as leading Bible studies and participating in church and community activities.

The title home and church evangelist has given me "tremendous freedom to use the gifts God has given me," said Castlen. "I've always hopped around to a lot of different things. I'm a short-term person."

In contrast, Elizabeth Beane works in the southwest Atlanta community where "I had chosen to stay when peo-

ple were moving out." For 16 years, she has directed a Christian social work program at United Baptist Church.

"I really believe I am doing what God chose me to do," said Beane, an associate missionary with the Home Mission Board.

Her first recollections of missions were in GAs (a missions organization for girls) when the leader would ask how many in the group felt God might call them into missions.

"I wanted to raise my hand, but I was afraid," Beane recalled.

She now directs a wide range of ministries including providing food and clothing to the poor and drug and alcohol counseling. Her back door is open, and there is an empty place at her kitchen table for anyone who wants to come in and talk.

Often she does not see the end results of her work. But "God gave me a wonderful Christmas present," she said, when she met a man, an alcoholic, who had come for food and clothing at the center.

He told her he had stopped drinking, "got me a good woman, and we go to church."

Lily Stone's earliest recollections of missions were occasions when her mother pulled from Stone's closet flags she had stored there for a missions procession of flags.

"The Lord was working on my heart to be a missionary before I became a Christian," said Stone, who with her husband, Gary, has been a journeyman (two-year missionary) to Ecuador. As career missionaries, they have completed three and one-half years as fraternal representatives in the out-

back of northern Australia and next will go to Guatemala.

When they concluded in 1986 God was calling them to Australia, they were told there were no openings in the country. One year later, the Baptist Union of Australia requested through the Foreign Mission Board a couple to start a mission in Katherine. They arrived April 7, 1988, and began the church on April 11.

"The waiting paid off. We found the people in Australia were waiting for us to come," said Stone.

Like Stone, Nancy Anthony felt God might be calling her to missions even before she became a Christian. However, "I thought if a woman was called into full-time Christian service she either went to Africa or China!"

For the last 13 years, Anthony's call

to foreign missions has been in the Chicago Metro Baptist Association. Of 147 churches in the association, one-third are Anglo; one-third, African-American; and one-third speak a language other than English. Anthony's husband, Everett, is associational director of missions.

Karen Park of the FMB international service department said she talks with many college students about missions, and young women always want to know the specific kinds of opportunities open to them.

"It's exciting to know women are involved in church planting, teaching, working with publications, and even in graphic design," along with many other jobs and responsibilities, said Park.

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HMB trustees approve move to Alpharetta

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted July 17 to move their national headquarters from midtown Atlanta to a new location 22 miles north in Alpharetta, Ga.

Plans call for the new building to be completed in 1995 before the agency's 150th anniversary and the Southern Baptist Convention which meets in Atlanta, June 20-22, 1995.

The 90-member board agreed to buy 34 acres of property for \$1.3 million from the Hillwood Development Corp., a division of the Perot Group headed by Ross Perot Jr., of Dallas.

Known as the Preston Ridge development, the land is located near the intersection of Georgia 400 and State Bridge Road in a booming area of north Fulton County. Ground was broken one week earlier on a major new shopping mall one mile from the Preston Ridge site.

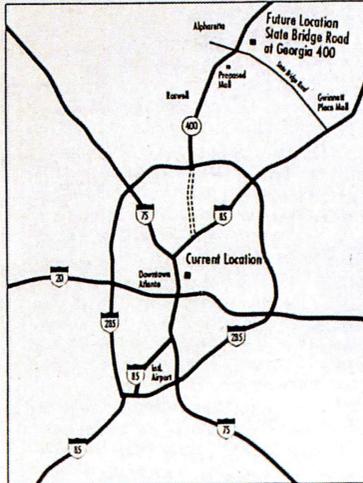
Ralph Smith of Austin, Texas, chairman of the board's site and building committee, said the location was the unanimous recommendation of the site committee which considered more than 150 locations in metro Atlanta. The recommendation was adopted without debate.

Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church, Austin, said the site met all of the 14 criteria established by the committee.

The 11-member committee narrowed the choice from ten locations to three, and did detailed analyses of two potential sites before making the recommendation.

Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis said the proposed location was also the unanimous choice of the agency's administration and a staff task force. A poll of the board's 396 Atlanta employees indicated most favored a north or northeast location.

Lewis said he first preferred a loca-



FUTURE LOCATION
HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

tion closer to downtown and nearer the Interstate 285 loop which circles Atlanta, but the cost of land, averaging \$300,000 per acre, was prohibitive.

Lewis said he was deeply concerned the new building be located in an area where there is good, affordable housing nearby. A survey showed more current staff members live in the north-northeast area than in all other sections of the city combined.

Smith displayed an architectural model of how the proposed five-story building might look, and how the 34-acre site might be landscaped. Initial plans call for an office building with about 175,000 square feet.

During a press conference following the board meeting, Smith listed ten key reasons why the site committee recommended the Alpharetta location. They included:

(1) The quality of life in the area in-

cluding good schools, churches, parks, recreation facilities, availability of jobs, and infrastructure; (2) the location adjacent to Georgia 400, a limited access freeway which provides a direct route 25 miles to downtown Atlanta and 32 miles to the airport; (3) projected plans for public transportation bus and rapid rail to the area; (4) proximity to a new major shopping mall; (5) availability of nearby hotels and restaurants, (7) value of property due to nearby location of other major office buildings and corporate headquarters, (8) the financial stability and commitment of the developer, Ross Perot, to long-term value and quality; (9) research which shows the area will increase in property value in the future,

and (10) convenience to the majority of employees of the HMB.

Since 1968, the board has occupied offices at 1350 Spring Street NW in the midtown area of Atlanta. The board hopes to maintain an Atlanta post office box and mailing address, Lewis said.

In July 1990 the board sold its five buildings and 6.3 acres of land to Am-Prop Georgia I Limited Partnership of Chicago for \$14.5 million and voted to lease the buildings until a new headquarters is completed in 1995.

Income from the sale of the property has been designated to buy the land and build the headquarters office, said Lewis.

HMB resolution thanks Chapman

ATLANTA (BP) — A resolution expressing "grateful appreciation" to Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman for his challenge to support home missions was adopted by directors of the SBC Home Mission Board.

The resolution, recommended by the board's administrative committee, urged Southern Baptists to "prayerfully consider" Chapman's appeal for churches to double their goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions next year, and to work toward establishing 1000 new congregations on Easter Sunday in 1992.

Chapman issued the challenge during his presidential address at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta June 4. Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis described Chapman's challenge as "unprecedented," and said he and the staff at the Home Mission Board are taking that challenge "very seriously."

"Never in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention has a convention

president challenged us to start 1000 new churches in one day," Lewis said.

He added the Home Mission Board will not be able to respond effectively to the pleas for assistance in starting these 1000 new churches unless Southern Baptists also heed Chapman's appeal for churches to double their gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In other actions, the board elected four new staff members, promoted two other staff to other positions, appointed 11 new missionaries, approved the purchase of 34 acres of land in Alpharetta as the site for a new national headquarters building in 1995, and presented a plaque and resolution expressing appreciation to Emmanuel McCall who has resigned to become pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Atlanta.

McCall, the first black staff member of the Home Mission Board, is director of the black church extension division. He joined the HMB staff in 1975 and previously was director of the black church relations department.

Foreign Mission Board begins toll-free information line

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptists now can dial a toll-free telephone number, 1-800-866-FMB1, for information about foreign missions.

Besides being free, the new line's purpose is to be "more user-friendly, to provide easier access for Southern Baptists who want general informa-

tion, or information about mission resources," said Irma Duke, associate vice president for communications support at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The 800 line will offer information about missionaries, their addresses and countries where they work, mis-

sion service opportunities, and mission products for use in churches. It also will feature seasonal or topical information, such as mission emphases during the fall when churches highlight the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

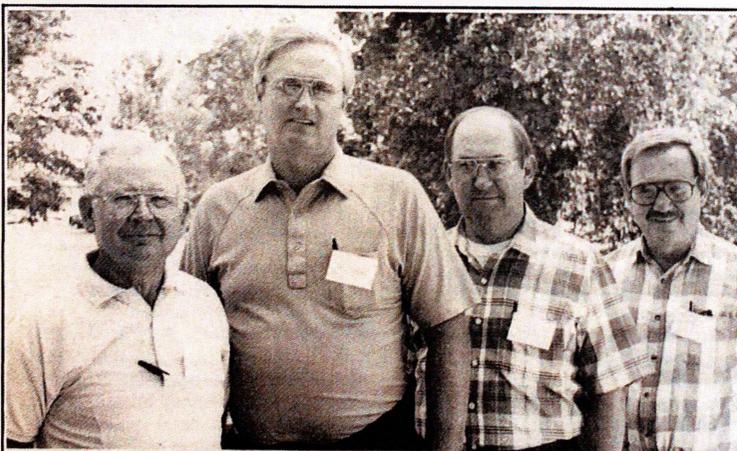
Callers will hear a recorded voice giving them a choice between general mission information or product ordering. Those who choose general information then can pick what kind of data they want: missionary count and addresses, missionary service opportunities, or other information. "Other" calls will be transferred to the mission board's public affairs office.

At night and on weekends, calls will be answered by a recorded tape asking callers to leave messages that staff members can respond to during

business hours.

The toll-free line is reserved for people calling for general information and product ordering, Duke stressed. Callers needing to talk to specific staff members should continue to call the agency's switchboard.

Southern Baptists wanting current mission prayer requests should continue to call the board's toll-free PrayerLine, 1-800-395-PRAY.



NEW OFFICERS — Participants at the West Tennessee Preachers' School elected officers during their annual meeting at Union University. New officers are, from left, Memphis evangelist Hugh Callens, president; John Fields, pastor of Sharon Church, Savannah, president-elect; Ronnie Wylie, pastor of Southside Church, Dyersburg, secretary; and Dan Emerson of Savannah, song leader.

Volunteers needed for Philippines

Partnership evangelism opportunities are available in the Philippines Oct. 21-Nov. 5. Volunteers will be divided into evangelism teams, comprised of a preacher and one or two other members.

The crusade will be held in 25 churches in the Luzon convention, Manila area.

The fall opportunity will enable more Tennessee Baptists to participate in the Tennessee/Philippines Partnership before the relationship officially concludes next March, said Clarence Stewart, TBC Partnership Missions director.

For more information, contact Stewart at (615) 371-2063.

Hodges accepts call

Gerald Hodges of Troy, Mich., has become the sixth pastor of South Fulton Church, South Fulton.

The new pastor holds degrees from Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Miss.; Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis; and Luther Rice Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

A native of Richton, Miss., Hodges and his wife, Martha, have two sons.

Our Readers Write

Appreciates conference

The Belmont College Summer Ministers' Conference is an annual event that my wife and I look forward to for inspiration and fellowship. Those who plan the program, the speakers, and the attendees never fail to challenge and stretch us spiritually.

The conference was great this year also. A debt of gratitude is deserved by Fred Kendall II, and Mrs. Joan Rollins along with the fine hospitality of all the Belmont campus family. These dedicated people provide us with a time of refreshing from above.

Thanks is due for the Golden State Missions Offering support and the involvement of Tennessee Baptist Convention personnel. Why don't others of you plan to join us for a great week in 1992 at Belmont?

David R. Wall, pastor
Center Grove Church
Route 1, Box 1336
Tullahoma 37388

Reviews records

In attempts to justify present exclusionary practices, several persons have stated "conservatives" were excluded in the past, including the letter, "More from the past," Baptist and Reflector of June 26, that listed years 15-30 years ago, or 1961-1976.

Consulting my Historical Table, I find Dr. W. A. Criswell was president with appointive powers in 1969 and 1970. The flaming "liberalism" of Dr. Criswell must surely be one of the covert accomplishments of all time. I note also that Dr. W. Wayne Dehoney was president in 1965 and 1966, proceeding from law school in Tennessee to the ministry. In pastorates in Birmingham and Jackson, Dr. Dehoney's dabbling in politics did not impress me as being of a "liberal" nature, but seemingly being not far afield from that of Dr. Criswell.

However, I am told Dr. Dehoney has mellowed with age, while Dr. Criswell speaks adequately for all to understand his position. I do not know the leaning of any others of this era.

William A. Vandiver
206 Hillwood Drive
Waverly 37185

Pastor needed

The First Southern Baptist Church of Aschaffenburg, a congregation of 45 people located in Aschaffenburg, Germany, (35 miles east, southeast of Frankfurt) needs a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with American military families.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English-speaking) and is founded on the prin-

ciples and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. This is a mission setting. Please contact me.

CPT Paul Ahern
RCO Frankfurt, Box 73
APO New York 09710-5345

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.

Patriotism

The convention in Atlanta was a believers' celebration of the Word of God. It was largely due to God's work in men such as Dr. Paige Patterson and Judge Paul Pressler. We must not rest until every agency, school, and mission endeavor is in the capable hands of those

who love the Lord Jesus Christ and who hold to a perfect Bible.

To enhance the celebration, our leaders brought in President Bush and Colonel North. This had to have been the great highlight of the Pastor's Conference and the convention. It is interesting that convention leaders were criticized for this, especially for inviting Colonel North. Why? Because some do not understand patriots any more than they understand the infallibility of the Scriptures. In fact, I have observed that some understand very little about moral and spiritual issues. When it comes to Bible principles and taking a stand for right, confusion sets in. They will take the left trail every time.

What is worse is that some of the older men are passing their doubts and spiritual illiteracy on to the younger generation. For example, a young man wrote to the Baptist and Reflector questioning our church marquee caption after the Persian Gulf War began. It said, "Thank God America is a man again." This Boston University student from Tennessee accused us of not including women as patriots. He could not understand the point: the principle of patriotism. God help us! We must have revival.

Vaughn Denton, pastor
4480 Kirby Parkway
Memphis 38141

First Church, White Pine, celebrates 100th anniversary

WHITE PINE — Members of First Church, White Pine, observed the 100th anniversary of the founding of the church July 12-13, based on the theme "100 Years of Growth and Service — Still Growing and Serving."

According to the church's "Historical Highlights" a number of "strong Baptist families" settled into the White Pine area near the end of the 19th century. The only church in the community was a Southern Presbyterian congregation.

Some of those Baptist families contacted E. Allison, pastor of Oak Grove Church (which later became First Church, Dandridge) and asked if he would stop by and preach for them if a time and place could be arranged.

A service was arranged for the last Sunday in June 1891, and, according to the historical account, "there was good attendance."

Because of the interest generated, the meeting was continued for several days, and on July 13, 1891, 16 people met in the home of Tom White and

organized White Pine Baptist Church, with Allison as pastor.

The new congregation built its first building in 1894. The church officially changed its name to First Church, White Pine, in 1954.

The church added an educational building in 1954, and in 1974, moved into a new sanctuary.

Pastor Kenneth Richey, in his charge to the church, noted "the greatest days to serve God are yet ahead."

Reflecting on the history of the church, Richey read from a letter that was written by church member W. B. Helm and published in the Baptist and Reflector on March 13, 1893.

"The little church of White Pine is rejoicing. Organized a year and a half ago, you may be sure that a Baptist church here does not repose on a flowery bed of ease, but with the Lord's help we mean to take this town, if possible, 'for the faith once delivered to the Saints.'"

This is still a mandate for the

church, Richey said, observing that the town of White Pine has grown to approximately 1900 residents. About 700 people are on the church roll, he said.

"We have not taken this town for Jesus yet. I charge this church to let us take this town, if possible, for the glory of God," Richey challenged.

The Sunday morning service also included a brief message from Roland Hudlow Sr. of Nashville. Hudlow served as pastor of the church from 1949-52.

In addition, R. R. Turner, a professor at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, gave a historical sketch regarding the impact of Christianity in the Appalachian area.

Jerry DeZearn, director of missions

for Jefferson County Association, presented the church a plaque commemorating the centennial on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. — Lonnie Wilkey

McDaniel accepts call

New Hope Church, Paris, called Jim McDaniel as pastor, effective July 1.

A Henry County native, McDaniel has served as pastor of Russwood Shores and Springville churches and comes to New Hope from Cottage Grove Church where he served as youth minister.

He and his wife, Sandra, are parents of three daughters and currently have four foster children.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

I have just returned from Chile. It was my job to share with the missionaries in their annual meeting at the seminary in Santiago. Visits to the field like this always remind me why I am committed to cooperative missions.

A dear missionary couple took Alice and me up to the prominent statue of the Virgin Mary that overlooks the city to Santiago. From this vantage point, you can look over the whole city with its five million people. I asked Ken Parks how many Baptist churches we have in that great city. He reported that we now have 60 churches.

Can you imagine Tennessee with only 60 churches? They have as many people in that one city as we have in our whole state. We have about 2900 churches and need more, but how do

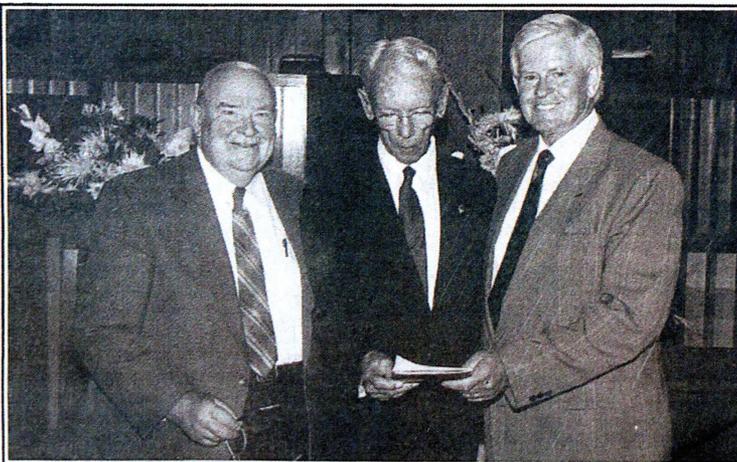
you measure the need of a city like that? The disturbing thing is that as we are now doing our work in Chile, most of the people presently living in that great city will go into eternity without God before we ever reach them.

I was also allowed to view the same city from the air. Missionary Lee Walker, who went to high school in Rogersville, flew us around the city. The need is overwhelming.

The missionaries affirmed the need for a partnership with Tennessee. There is much we can do to assist them with their task. Why don't you pray about joining a partnership team for a project in Chile.

We must increase our mission giving. The missionaries on the field are being asked to do their task with less. We must increase giving through the Cooperative Program, and we must meet the Lottie Moon goals this Christmas.

God has given us a great assignment, and He is with us in it.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION — Pastor Kenneth Richey, right, of First Church, White Pine, looks over the centennial history of the church with two of the program participants — Roland Hudlow Sr., center, former pastor, and R. R. Turner, a Carson-Newman College professor.



LOWRIE

BSSB trustees elect Draper as eighth . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Convention," Bolton said.

After the vote, Draper told trustees: "Carol Ann and I have come to believe this is God's will for our lives. Today was the last piece of the puzzle. Thank you. We accept. We'll do our best to lead you in the way God would have us to do."

Mrs. Draper added: "I know my God doesn't make a mistake. He is big enough to walk before us and in us and through us. I look forward to seeing what He's going to do."

In a news conference after the meeting, DuBose defended the executive session as an "honorable option. I hope our Southern Baptist people will recognize our right to private time with our president and not read anything negative into it."

Draper's salary and benefits package was not discussed during open session. When questioned during the news conference Anderson said any Southern Baptist could obtain the information by writing to the board.

When pursued further, Anderson acknowledged the salary package was "comparable" to that of former president Lloyd Elder. He later said Draper will receive the same salary (reported in January to be \$135,800) but noted there would be "minor differences" in retirement benefits.

Anderson characterized Draper as a man of integrity, intensity, and intelligence. "He is able to get along with people who don't agree."

Draper, who said he had been to the BSSB headquarters only once before, said his first interests in assuming the presidency of the board will be to get acquainted with employees and to understand and study the board's organization.

"I will be slow to do a lot of reorganization," said Draper. "I don't make decisions slowly, but I sometimes gather facts slowly."

Draper said he "recognizes I know very little about the job I've been



CONGRATULATIONS — Carol Ann and Jimmy Draper are congratulated by Bobby Welch, vice chairman of the presidential search committee and pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., after Draper's election as president of the Sunday School Board. — Photo by Jim Veneman.

asked to take." He observed, however, that the board produces "the best literature around but we need to work to make it better."

He noted that "we have the greatest opportunity in the world because we have the greatest assignment in the world — to prepare literature for the teaching of the Word of God."

To fill the position of executive vice president being vacated by James D. Williams, recently elected president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Draper said he will seek a chief operating officer to "run the day-to-day operations of the board."

In selecting employees or naming writers for board publications or speakers at board-sponsored events, Draper said a high view of Scripture would be a requirement.

He said, however, he would not require people to describe themselves as inerrantists if they were comfortable with terms such as "God-breathed," perfect, or infallible. "We (Southern Baptists) are people who believe the Bible," Draper affirmed.

As to whether he would enlist known "moderates" in the 12-year denominational controversy, such as Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, to write or speak for the board, Draper said, "I would have no problem with that. We (Draper and Jackson) disagree on certain things, but not on Scripture."

He noted the important thing is to "stop labeling" one another and to "build on the positives we can agree on."

As president, Draper said he will emphasize a "positive rather than a negative course. We will concentrate on producing quality materials. If we do that, we'll be competitive. I'm not worried about competition," he said.

Speaking to employees of the board during a chapel service the morning after his election, Draper characterized himself as an informal, open

person.

"By nature I'm a redemptive person. I enjoy delegating. I believe in giving credit where credit is due. I don't mind saying I was wrong."

He said he will give attention to spiritual leadership, business leadership, organizational leadership, and people leadership. The board, under his direction, will focus on the basics of reaching people, evangelism, starting and growing churches, making disciples, and spreading God's Word around the world, Draper said.

Draper, a Texas native, holds degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and B.D. and M.Div. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He also holds honorary doctorates from three Southern Baptist schools — Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas; Dallas (Texas) Baptist University, and Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C.

Draper and his wife are the parents of two sons and one daughter. One of the sons, James Randall Draper, and his family live in Germantown. Draper said his son is a Baptist deacon and is a member of Bellevue Church, Cordova.

In other business items during the called meeting, trustees voted to move the Aug. 18-20 semi-annual meeting from Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to Nashville. Draper will be installed Aug. 20 as the board president, succeeding Elder, whose last day as president of the board will be Aug. 17.

Trustees also voted to accept the resignation of Joyce Byrd, executive assistant to the president, as corporate secretary.

AB investments secure despite MBL trouble

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention does have limited exposure to a troubled New Jersey life insurance company but the "problem will have no effect whatsoever on the (board's) ability to meet every benefit check obligation."

Annuity Board officials said the company, Mutual Benefit Life Insurance of New Jersey, has voluntarily requested protection while it works to solve problems related to some of its investments. The Annuity Board has two guaranteed investment contracts with that company.

"The (board's) Fixed Fund does have limited exposure to MBL in two contracts with a total present value of

\$21.3 million. This represents approximately 1.6 percent of the Fixed Fund . . . The Annuity Fund, from which benefits are paid, has no investment in Mutual Benefit Life," said a board spokesman.

The New Jersey life insurance company has been in the news recently regarding losses in its mortgage and real estate investment portfolios. These losses have decreased the life insurer's capital position, which is the cushion to protect policyholders from normal business losses.

Negative publicity led policyholders to withdraw an estimated \$1 billion they had invested with MBL, through early surrenders and withdrawals. To protect its capital position from being depleted, MBL voluntarily asked the State of New Jersey Insurance Department to put it into receivership to protect it from further policyholder withdrawals.

An investment advisor for the Annuity Board, Certus Financial Corporation, said MBL is not insolvent. Rather, it is a victim of a classic "run on the bank" scenario. The life insurer went to the state to avoid being forced to sell its assets at firesale costs and to give itself time to work through its problems equitably for all policyholders.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

My desk is scarred.

I inherited from former editors a beautiful solid-wood, antique-style desk. I like it.

I like it not because it is impressive, and it is, but because I am comfortable with it.

I don't know how the scars were inflicted. It is likely that they have been there for many years and nobody really remembers.

Sometimes visitors, when approaching the desk upon entering the room will remark about its elegance. Often newcomers will touch the desk, remark about its pitted surface, and ask, "Did you use your desk for a carpenter's bench?"

Law enforcement agencies and other government entities often will include on a person's biographical form the location of a major scar, such as: "Two-inch scar on right forearm," or, "thin scar over left eye." Such descriptions make it easier to identify a person.

When people have surgery, one of the first things we want to know is whether the incision will leave a scar. One well-known criminal was known as "Scarface." Jesus had nailprints on his hands and feet.

We have all seen trees with the initials of lovers carved into the wood. Trees suffer from scars.

A person that is mistreated or abused can be emotionally scarred;

it's the same for pets or other animals.

Scars mar the beauty, the solidity, the surface of objects, but they can deeply mark a human — inside. And it may take a long time for the scar to heal. Strange, though, we continue to bear the pain of the scar long after the physical, mental, or emotional wound has healed.

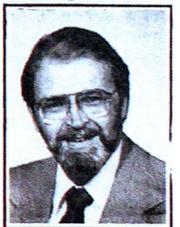
Jesus Christ is the unique, one-of-a-kind Healer.

When He touches a wounded one, healing is so complete that the scar is scarcely noticeable.

Burdens of life cause scars. We are told in His Word to "cast all our cares (burdens) on Him, because He cares for (us)." That is healing.

Love notes carved on the tree in time will disappear. Healthy bark of rejuvenation will grow across the scars — and healing happens. Words or deeds of forgiveness and repentance honor the Lord and initiate the process of healing. "Casting all our cares upon Him" in obedience allows healing. All of us need that.

Oh, my desk? The scars are just as magnificent as the solid wood. The desk has overcome the marks — with a little help. That desk has character, and it will last forever (almost).



ALLEN

Parsons church calls Moore as new pastor

Michael Moore of Jackson is the new pastor at Bear Creek Church in Parsons.

Moore also has been pastor of Ebenezer Church, Bolivar, and Linwood Church in Thornville, Ohio. He was ordained at Linwood in 1988.

He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

Moore is married to the former Melissa Robbins of Jackson.

Analysis

'Where are the nets?' ask fired pastors

By Aubrey Hay,
Church-Ministers Relations Dept.,
Tennessee Baptist Convention

His grief was obvious. He had not slept well for days and his red and swollen eyes told me he had been crying. In his mid-fifties and educated in Southern Baptist schools, he had been serving as pastor in Baptist churches for 25 years — until now. He had recently been fired from an old and well established church in a county seat town. To say that he was hurt would be an understatement. He was devastated.

He looked across the desk at me almost accusingly and recited a list of churches he had served and efforts he had made on behalf of the denomination. And they were impressive: started two churches with a handful of people, saw them grow into strong and thriving congregations, preached missions-giving to his folks and led them to increase their giving to the Cooperative Program. Until recently, he was pastor of a large and influential church with an impressive record in mission giving and ministry.

Then the clincher: "All my life I have been a faithful Southern Baptist," he said, "but now that I need help there is none available. Where are the nets to catch me?"

It took me a moment to recover from this indictment, for as a state convention employee, I had come to represent the denomination he had served and loved, and by which, in his estimation, he had been abandoned.

One pastor said Baptist churches are the only army that shoots its wounded. But for my friend it was not a matter of just being shot. He felt "left wounded" on the roadside, while fellow pastors and his denomination passed by him. Where does a 55-year-old minister go for help when he has been fired from his church? Where, indeed does any minister go who has experienced the trauma of forced termination?

It certainly is traumatic. One pastor had experienced the death of his wife. Within a short while he was fired by his church. He related the two experiences and told me with great pain in his voice that the loss of his beloved wife was easier to recover from than being terminated by his church. For those who have never experienced a firing, this may seem hard to comprehend. However, grief and pain associated with forced terminations ranks among the hardest experiences from which a minister has to recover.

To be dismissed as a minister not only takes away his means of livelihood, but his reason for being. Most ministers are serving churches because of a sense of call. Not only do they feel a sense of call to ministry, but in most cases they feel they have been called to a particular church. To be relieved of the position takes from them the very thing that authenticates their ministry.

The whole foundation of their theology is severely shaken. In fact, many are so traumatized by the experience that they never return to the ministry. In my estimation, many if not most of these could be reclaimed. Furthermore, I believe we must find ways to provide "the nets" to catch them.

The difficulty with nets

The very nature of our denomination

polity makes it difficult to form nets. We are of the free church tradition with every Baptist church making its decisions without interference from anyone outside the local church body. The fact that national and state conventions have no power over the local church does not allow us to do some things that other denominations have long ago incorporated into their structure.

I have a friend who is a pastor in the Methodist Church. He expressed surprise that there are fired Southern Baptist pastors who now are out of the pastorate. He related how such a thing could not occur in their system. If a congregation is unhappy with their pastoral leadership, the matter is arbitrated with the district superintendent. It would be hard to improve on that for job security. The down side of that system is the surrendering of local church autonomy and considerable loss of freedom on the part of the minister. Few of us would be willing to make such a trade-off.



Another difficulty with forming a support system is the attitude of ministers themselves. The first has to do with the attitude of the terminated person. He will often withdraw from other pastors feeling embarrassed and shamed by the whole matter. His self esteem has been dealt a severe blow, and he retreats into isolation. Many will not seek the help that is available. They are afraid of what other ministers will think and say about them, and the very thought of attending pastors' conferences or other related meetings serves only to reopen the wounds.

The second attitude is that of other ministers. Whether it is because ministers do not know what to say, or actually feel the fired pastor somehow deserved what he got, many avoid the terminated minister. "My friends do not come around or call," terminated ministers frequently remark.

Another difficulty in forming nets is the question of who is to do it? Who has the responsibility for developing resources and providing for the needs of these cut loose from their mooring to drift on an uncertain sea?

"Everybody's job is nobody's job" is applicable here. The very structure of an autonomous church allows the whole question of who is responsible to remain in a shadowy limbo.

A look at causes

While minister firings occur for many reasons, there are many influences present. If nets are to be formed, reasons for firings should be understood. All ministers who are fired do not deserve to be fired.

We need to consider if there are ways the minister brings some difficulties upon himself by not being able or willing to respond properly to issues which eventually will create problems for him and for the church. A recent report from the Sunday School Board about churches that had terminated their ministers reveals that a high number felt that their pastor did not understand them properly and did not take the time to understand them before he launched his program.

It revealed that he often came with his own agenda without ever considering they had one of their own. It is not unusual for the minister to take personal resistance to his program and to feel that the church is against him. This may result in his becoming defensive. The feeling of rejection begins to appear in his sermons.

The church may need to do the very things the pastor is urging, but his methods or impatience may make the members reject his leadership. If he becomes defensive and reacts to their resistance a cycle of conflict is created. The more he insists, the more they resist. In attempting to help the minister with nets, it is important to know that while the church may be a troubled church, his response to them may have been the real reason for the crisis.

He may not be able to make an honest appraisal, especially if it indicts him. His ego has suffered a severe blow. Blaming the church for all his woes may be the only way he can cope at this point.

There are not trouble-free churches. Some are more troubled than others, and some are so troubled that they are virtually beyond help. Some have a history of dismissing the preacher as the way of handling disagreements. We should not exonerate churches and blame ministers, but realize the minister may help or hinder the situation. Like troubled marriages, the blame usually must be shared by both.

Starting the process

Those interested in helping terminated ministers must be able to respond to a grieving person. There may be little or no logic in the way he feels or how he assesses what has occurred. He will likely be bitter and resentful. He may want to strike back at something or someone.

He is likely to say things he does not mean and would never say under more normal circumstances. He is wounded and needs time to heal. He does not need a judge. He already has been judged and in his estimation, sentenced.

He needs a friend who will help him recover his loss of self esteem, and he needs some guidance. Understandably, he will be preoccupied with his trouble. Those who attempt to help must have a sympathetic spirit and tough ears.

Other ministers can be especially helpful. Most have had some difficulties along the way, and this often opens the door for them to share their experience. But whether a helper has experienced termination or not, the fact that a colleague has interest in him is of great value.

Besides listening, those who want to help can assist in helping him find a place to serve. While many fired ministers are not emotionally able to assume a full-time position immediately, they need to reclaim the

feeling of usefulness. If a fellow minister can offer him an opportunity to preach, or minister in other ways, it will be of great benefit. Recommendations to churches which are seeking ministers can help get him relocated. The fact that a fellow minister still considers him a minister can be a real boost to his sagging ego.

His local association can be helpful in the restoration process. The church from which he has been terminated may express resentment if the association tries to help, but that is a risk worth taking. The hope here is that a brother can be reclaimed, and that is bed-rock Christianity.

Some associations in the Tennessee Baptist Convention have elected minister-church relation committees, which have the responsibility of assisting the terminated minister. These associations have allocated funds to be used by the minister during the period he is without a church. Some have resources that provide counseling to minister and family.

Many state conventions have established church-minister relations departments and allocated funds to pay insurance premiums, living expenses, and counseling fees. Referral services which bring together with dignity ministers and churches seeking ministers.

The terminating church should assume responsibility for the minister and his family. They should consider long and prayerfully the decision to terminate. The church should be as generous as possible in providing severance pay. Most ministers have specialized in areas that will be of no benefit to them if they must seek secular employment. Their termination will make it more difficult for them to be called to another church. A termination for a minister often creates problems that go far beyond the search for another job.

No matter how necessary it may seem, it cannot be done without severely affecting the minister and the church. A church which takes this option will spend years in recovering, and some never recover. While this article has focused on the pain of the minister, the pain of the church is immense as well. No church can emerge from a terminating process without deep and lasting scars.

Everybody loses in a forced termination, the minister, his family, his future ministry, and the church. Most of all, the cause of Christ suffers. Dealing redemptively with the terminated minister will counteract this negative witness and help reclaim a person for the Kingdom work.

Dripping Springs calls new pastor

Curtis Franklin recently accepted the pastorate of Dripping Springs Church in Seymour.

Franklin, a native of Sevierville, formerly was pastor of Sims Chapel Church in Sevierville for three years. Sims Chapel was his first pastorate.

He was ordained in 1987 at New Era Church in Sevierville. A bivocational pastor, Franklin is working on a bachelor's degree at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Franklin is married to the former Sherry Dodgin of Sevierville. They have two children, Curt and Noel.

Tennesseans visit USSR

By *Connie Davis*, assistant editor
KAZAKHSTAN, USSR — For the Americans, scenes of Golden Silk Road, the pedestrian thoroughfare in downtown Alma-Ata, and the faces of new friends exist only as photographic images. The volunteers have returned to their homes 10,000 miles away from Kazakhstan. Phone calls from the Soviet republic must be scheduled two days in advance.

The concensus of Tennesseans among the first large-scale group to visit the republic is a desire to return.

Twenty Tennesseans participated in the Kazakh-American Cultural Festival drawing 330 Americans from several denominations. They visited Kazakhs, a predominantly Muslim people largely isolated from the West for centuries.

The June 21-July 6 festival was initiated by Southern Baptists working with the Central Asian Foundation, a non-profit corporation that directs Christian aid toward human and economic development. Kazakhstan's Golden Apple Foundation and the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey assisted CAF.

Projects were held across Kazakhstan — a vast region as large as the eastern United States — involving medical, business, and technical professionals, educators, university students, construction and crafts workers, pastors, media, athletes, and performing artists.

Tennessee volunteers discovered an easy camaraderie with their interpreters and professional counterparts. Harry Rowland, associate minister, Woodmont Church, Nashville, received a telephone call after arriving home from two new friends.

Two interpreters who worked with Rowland, a member of the religious group, called to tell him they were planning to attend a Bible study led by some Americans in Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan. One of the callers was Altynai Vsenova, a young lady who believed her devotion to her Kazakh heritage prevented her from leaving the Muslim faith.

Because of a letter he received from her before he left and her call, he believes she has a growing faith as a result of his visit.

Rowland, vice-coordinator of the religious group involving 11 other American pastors, co-authored the religious manifesto approved by the republic's president and religious leaders guaranteeing religious liberty. Another result of the conference was a request for the establishment of a Kazakh-American College in Alma-Ata.

Nashvillians teach business skills
 Rowland led ten singles from Woodmont Church to join the festival team. Two of the church's members were part of the strategic business group, whose 55 members tried to assist the republic as it converts its economy to a market-based system.

Beverley Nash, community reinvestment administrative officer, First American Corporation, reported American banking regulations to Kazakh business people. Greg Pope, assistant director of development for WPLN, Nashville's public radio station, led seminars on free enterprise.

"The skills of the Russian and Kazakh people are equal and superior to those of us in the United States. . . . The secret of American business is our connection with God," Pope stated during a seminar held in an Alma-Ata

bank. The business representatives also served as consultants for companies in several cities and individual Kazakhs. Their contacts gave them opportunities to share their faith.

"We built relationships very fast," stated Nash, crediting God's preparation for the reception. After speaking to a group of university economic students, Nash was asked to explain her faith to one of the students, which she did, while several other students listened. She has sent the students resource materials and plans to put them in contact with an economic group at a local Christian college or university.

Pope had a similar experience when he and a Kazakh chemist had a conversation via notes during a lecture. The man asked Pope to define worship. The conversation resulted in the chemist praying for Christian salvation, Pope noted.

An agreement drawn up between CAF and the government calls for ten American business specialists to help President Nazarbaev's economic committee train Kazakh business leaders.

Construction for students
 Don Langston of Strawberry Plains reported an answer to prayer helped the witness of the construction crew working in Zaisan.

Local officials asked the 15-man crew to pray for rain because rainfall had been low over the year.

"During our Sunday evening worship service at the dormitory where we were staying, we had a special prayer for rain for the people," Langston recalled. "The next morning it started raining and rained on and off" for three days. "Our interpreter stopped everyone and told them the Americans had prayed to their God for rain and he had answered their prayers."

The crew was repairing a boarding school dormitory damaged in two 1990 earthquakes that left 14,000 people homeless. The team also built a Kazakh-American Friendship Center and broke ground for a new U.S.-Kazakh school.

Langston, a veteran mission volunteer of five projects in Burkina Faso, Africa, and Venezuela, South America, chuckled when asked in Zaisan to describe his home of two weeks. "The cows have as much right of way as the cars do."

The city of 17,000, which has no industry, is forced to rely on farming the Central Asian desert, Langston said. Although half of the homes damaged by the earthquake had not been repaired, the government sent a construction team repairing a village to help the Americans.

The Americans were treated with special care, Langston reported. Reporters from Moscow were covering the event and police had been brought in from Lithuania to protect them.

A surprise to Langston was the hospitality and openness of the people. Many of the policemen became their friends as they guarded the construction site. And when a local policeman learned one of the Americans was in the same profession, he invited the American to his home for dinner, reported Langston.

The officials and even cooks did their best to supply all their needs, he added. In return, the team tried to share their faith. They gave Bibles in Russian to new friends and invited the



PROUD DAD — Harry Rowland shows photo of children during sermon at First Baptist Church, Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan. — Photo by Kenneth G. Ransom

interpreters to come to the worship services. Most came, he noted.

Langston, an employee of Phillips Electronics in Jefferson City, and member of West Grove Pine Church, Strawberry Plains, said he learned about the festival through the Baptist Men's organization and felt he should come even though he worked in Venezuela in March.

Although he would miss the beautiful people, especially the children, he would not miss the 3 a.m. call to Islamic prayers, added Langston with a smile.

Teaching with love
 Pat Wright, who is "Mr. Wizard" to students at a middle school in Philadelphia, took his show on the road in response to a call he felt three years ago.

At that time he heard a speaker share needs of the Soviet Union during a meeting of his church, First Church, Lenoir City.

Wright never forgot those needs. So when he learned about the festival from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, he felt it was the right time for him to answer that call. His church and Loudon Association helped fund the trip and his family — his wife, Betty, and four children — agreed he should borrow the balance for his first overseas venture.

Two other East Tennesseans, Bobbie Wright, Pat's mother from Loudon, and Virginia Palmer from Farragut, also joined the venture. Both retired teachers, Wright is a member of First Church, Lenoir City, and Palmer belongs to First Church, Concord.

"Mr. Wizard" introduced activity-based teaching to his Kazakh counterparts, an approach rarely used, Wright noted. When he led students to make a battery, "their faces would light up," he said.

Another difference Wright detected was the amount of affection the Americans showed for the children. "They grew to realize that our love of God allowed us to love their children."

Many teachers work year-round, cleaning and doing repairs to the buildings, but the students came particularly to meet the Americans.

"They've had feasts for us every place we've been," said Virginia Palmer. "The children have entertained us. They've played instruments and recited poetry. And they've given us gifts from their vocational work. It's been far beyond our expectations."

Wright and his mother were part of the 100 or so volunteers who stayed in Kazakh homes in Alma-Ata, a wonderful experience, they reported.

They stayed with a Muslim middle-class family with three children, Wright said. Their flat (apartment)

was very clean although they didn't have a lot of furnishings because of availability of items, explained Wright. The wife and mother of the family spoke some English, as did some relatives, but "the language wasn't such a barrier because they were so loving and so accepting," said Wright. The Americans and their hosts developed inside jokes for language faux pas and even the KGB, he added.

When Wright learned the family didn't go to the mosque on Friday, he began to explain his lifestyle in Christian terms — like why they didn't drink alcohol. And the Tennesseans gave the family a copy of the New Testament in Russian.

Wright also gave a Bible to his interpreter, a Jewish woman who told him she had made top grades in her atheism courses. After she began to read the Bible, she told him she thought she wouldn't be allowed to meet with a Christian group because of her beliefs, said Wright. When he left, she planned to attend a Bible study led by Americans in Alma-Ata with her husband and son, he said.

Other Tennessee volunteers
 Woodmontians Karen McArthur, interior designer, McQuiddy Office Designers; Denise Cimeley, banking officer, First American Bank; Beth Dawson, field executive, Cumberland Valley Girl Scouts of America; and Naomi Edwards, executive secretary, Ingram Industries; all of Nashville, were a part of the cultural exhibit.

Steve Phillips, sports director, WKRN TV — Channel 2; Bob Siddens, account manager, Xerox Corporation; and Connie Davis, assistant editor, Baptist and Reflector, all of Woodmont Church, and Dick Jensen, director of First Foundations, Inc., a college instructor, and a member of First Church, Memphis, were a part of the media group.

Health care workers included nurse Suzanne Mann (whose work was reported in last week's edition) and Jan Jamison, R.N., from Bellevue Church, Memphis.

Making up the student team were Jeff Lewis, Student Ministry Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and Jonathan Ramey, graduate fellow, Vanderbilt University. Ramey is a member of Woodmont Church.

John Bailey of Brentwood, a seminary student and member of Christ Community Church, Franklin, played the French Horn as a part of the performance group.

Rowland was joined by Bruce Privatasky, a Methodist minister from Knoxville, in the religion conference. — Mike Chute, Foreign Mission Board, contributed to this article.

TBCH Mother's Day Offering nears record goal

By Dr. Gerald L. Stow
TBCH Executive Director

Recently I watched five preteen boys roaming the streets of downtown Chicago. They were hustling people for money. One boy had his arm in a cast; another had Band-Aids over most of his legs to cover the bites from insects and rodents. We were in the shadow of the great Moody church.

It was here that Mr. Moody began his mighty work for our Lord. Part of that great work was the ministry to abandoned, abused and neglected children. Moody had a heart for these children.

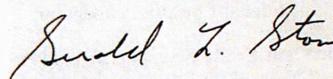
A favorite story out of that

ministry always blesses me. I want to share it with you. One night a policeman found a little boy huddled in a doorway. "Why are you here? Where are you going?" he asked. The shivering boy said, "I'm going to Mr. Moody's church." The policeman told him that there were many churches that were closer, and that the little boy wouldn't have to walk so far in the cold if he went to one of them. "But sir," said the youngster, "they love little boys like me at Mr. Moody's church."

We are nearing the end of our Mother's Day Offering. The response from individuals and churches has been most rewarding. We only lack a

little to reach our Centennial goal of \$1,000,000. These gifts are being used for a worthy purpose: to say to hundreds of children, "Tennessee Baptists care about boys and girls who have been physically and emotionally mistreated. We are here to offer help through the ministry of the Baptist Children's Homes."

Help us get over the top this year by doing a little more for the children in this 100th year of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.



We're almost there!

\$974,071

Mother's Day Offering received



\$25,929

Needed to reach this year's goal of \$1,000,000



Boys Ranch ministry grows with construction of cottage

MILLINGTON - The foundation has been set, the walls are up, and the roof is firmly nailed into place. Next week, a Baptist men's group is traveling from Martin to lay the brick.

It's finally a reality. Through the labors of many volunteers and the generous donations of suppliers, construction of the first cottage for the Boys Ranch has passed the halfway point.

"We're all very encouraged by how the cottage is coming along," said Dr. Gene Gafford, regional director of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, which founded the Boys Ranch in 1988 on a 224-acre farm in Shelby County. "But we need to remember that we're not just building a home - we're building boys. And that's the most exciting part of this ministry."

The Boys Ranch is the newest ministry of the Children's Homes. Its program is designed to build strong Christian character in youths from troubled family backgrounds. Bert Sutton, a Baptist missionary for 17 years, is director of the Boys Ranch.

Currently, only four boys live on the ranch in a renovated farm house with their houseparents, John and Teresa Scott.

"There is such a need for this ministry," says Dr. Gafford. "We have had to turn down three to five requests a week for placement because we just don't have the room. We have a waiting list, but that isn't much help for a child who needs help today, not six months from today."

Once the new cottage is finished, eight boys will be able to participate in the program. Plans call for the construction of three additional cottage homes, which will bring the Ranch population to 32 boys. The farm house will then be used as an administration building.

The country setting - the hay fields, gently rolling hillsides and fishing ponds - gives the boys an opportunity for a new start in a challenging environment. Under the supervision of their Christian houseparents, the boys are encouraged to positively face their often turbulent family situations while discovering the values of self-worth, hard work, honesty and sharing.

Each day begins with farm work - which includes gardening, the care of animals and maintenance of the ranch. Through working together, the boys develop a healthy work ethic and spirit of team cooperation. Emphasis is also placed on achievement in school studies. For recreation, there's swimming, basketball, and - of course - horseback riding.

A video tape about the Boys Ranch is available for use by church groups. If your mission group or Sunday School class is interested in viewing the video, or in receiving brochures about the ministry, please contact the TBCH Central Office at 1-800-624-8591, or 615-371-2000. The mailing address is TBCH, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood TN 37027.

(Advertisement)

Many donate labor, materials for construction of Ranch cottage

Construction of the first cottage for the TBCH Boys Ranch would not be possible without the generous donations of labor and materials from churches and individuals. Some of those who have given are:

- Baptist Men's Mission Team, Bartlett Baptist Church, labor for wall framing.
- Baptist Men's Mission Team led by James Tuck (TBCH trustee from

Martin), labor for masonry work.

- Baptist Men's group from Winona, Miss., installed roof decking, windows and outer wall sheathing.
- Baptist Men, Haywood Baptist Association led by DOM Charles Pratt, labor to put down the roof.
- George Fulghum, services as construction supervisor and coordinator.
- Jim Grinder, crane and operator

for erection of the trusses, and reinforced steel for concrete footing.

• Don Grinder, President of Grinder Brothers Construction Co., construction permit.

A complete list of donors is available from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

Church groups interested in assisting in construction of the cottage are asked to call Dr. Gene Gafford at 901-386-3961.

TenneScene

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

Missions ...

A team of 19 youth and leaders from First Church, Humboldt, traveled to University Church, Monaca, Pa., in June to conduct backyard Bible clubs.

A volunteer team from Antioch Church, Humboldt, recently traveled to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on a mission trip.

A Gibson County Association construction team left July 19 to do brick work at Emmanuel Church, Rochester, Minn. Team members will also conduct backyard Bible clubs.

A mission team of youth from First Church, Englewood, spent July 12-15 in Atlanta canvassing neighborhoods for people not affiliated with a church. They also presented the musical, "Here's My Heart" at Donaldson Road Church in Atlanta.

Trinity Church, Memphis, recently sent a mission team to Flagstaff, Ariz., to minister to the Navajo Indians.

Several youth from First Church, Goodlettsville, will leave July 27 for Dayton, Ohio, where they will conduct backyard Bible clubs, take a census, and repair a local church.

The youth from Ebenezer Church, Knoxville, recently completed their first summer mission trip. Twenty-six people conducted Sunday worship services and Vacation Bible School at Antioch Church, Roseville, Mich., July 7-12.

A volunteer mission team from First Church, Donelson, will spend July 27-Aug. 3 in Circleville, W. Va., working in construction, Vacation Bible School, and youth Bible studies at Norfolk Church.

Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, will send a mission team to Cartersville, Ga., July 28-Aug. 2 to help Tabernacle Church start the Valley Community Church. The team will hold backyard Bible clubs in several subdivisions.

A medical mission team from First Church, Crossville, recently left for Maracaibo, Venezuela.

The Lighthouse Choir and Harbor Ensemble from North Knoxville Church, Knoxville, left July 20 for Philadelphia, Pa., to work at New Macedonia Church, an inner-city black church. The group will help with building renovations and participate in the ministry at a counseling center.

Revivals ...

East Chattanooga Church, Chattanooga, began revival July 21 led by Jimmy Arms. Terry Shannon is music evangelist. Services will conclude July 25.

Ralph Langley, interim pastor of First Church, Montgomery, Ala., will lead revival services held on Sunday mornings and evenings during August at First Church, Nashville. His topics include "what to wear to church in August," "the body language of Christ," and "the miracle that couldn't happen in Nazareth."

Oak Grove Church, Milan, will be led in revival Aug. 4-8 by Fred Wood of Memphis.

Phil Glisson will lead revival July 28-31 at Meridian Church, Knoxville. The Lord's Witness Choir will provide music.

Many churches in Gibson County Association have revivals scheduled in the coming weeks. Churches, dates,

and leaders follow: Chapel Hill Church, Milan, July 28-Aug. 2, Windal Walker; Poplar Springs Church, Milan, July 28-Aug. 2, speaker to be determined; Poplar Grove Church, Trenton, July 28-Aug. 2, Greg McFadden; Antioch Church, Humboldt, Aug. 4-9, R.A. Boston; Bethel Church, Yorkville, Aug. 4-9, Kenny Bruce; Bethpage Church, Kenton, Aug. 4-9, W. B. Oakley; Spring Hill Church, Trenton, Aug. 4-9, Gary Burkacki; China Grove Church, Rutherford, Aug. 11-16, Wayne Perkins; Clear Creek Church, Dyer, Aug. 11-16, Kyle Rudd; Hickory Grove Church, Trenton, Aug. 11-16, Eddie Mallonee; New Bethlehem Church, Dyer, Aug. 11-16, W. B. Oakley; Oakwood Church, Milan, Aug. 11-16, Ed Griffin; Mt. Pleasant Church, Bradford, Aug. 18-23, Randy Wheeler; Beech Grove Church, Dyer, Aug. 25-30, Bill Oakley; Eldad Church, Trenton, Aug. 25-30, Kelly Campbell; and Latham's Chapel Church, Milan, Sept. 8-13, Greg McFadden.

Churches ...

The congregation of Apison Church, Apison, celebrated the church's 135th anniversary June 29. Former pastors Carlton Peters, pastor of Rogers Church, Commerce, Ga., and Leroy Spinks, pastor of First Church, Lakeview, Ga., spoke during the celebration. The church began in 1856 as New Prospect Church.

Members of Graceland Church, Memphis, will celebrate their church's anniversary July 28 with a potluck luncheon at noon.

People ...

Alma Howard Vinson was honored as "Woman of the Year" recently by

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First Church, Pulaski. Vinson taught women's Sunday School classes for several years, as well as worked in Vacation Bible School for 16 years. She taught third grade at Pulaski Elementary for 24 years.

Frank Black, a member of First Church, Memphis, and former Brotherhood Commission staffer, was one of several recipients of the 1991 International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders Award of Merit from the Brotherhood Commission. Black served Southern Baptists through the RA program as Brotherhood Commission staff member for 24 years, beginning in 1955.

Covington native Thomas S. Roote Jr., has been elected associate professor of church administration in the division of Christian education ministries at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Leadership ...

Terry W. Grooms, former pastor of Washington Avenue Church, Knoxville, is now serving as pastor of Greenway Church, also in Knoxville.

Chewalla Church, Chewalla, called Mike Beasley, Corinth, Miss., as pastor.

Ruggles Ferry Church, Strawberry Plains, recently called Mark Large as pastor. Large was ordained in April at Loveland Church, Knoxville.

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Woodmont Baptist Church
Nashville
celebrates its 50th anniversary
August 11

Pastor Bill Sherman and congregation cordially invite all friends and former members.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Morning worship service
Noon Celebration luncheon
2:00 p.m. Celebration service featuring G. Allen West, speaker, former pastor and professor of Southern Baptist Seminary

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TENNESSEE BROTHERHOOD CONVENTION
August 23-24, 1991
Judson Baptist Church
4900 Franklin Road, Nashville, Tenn.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
James Williams, president elect, Brotherhood Commission

Music by: The Freedom Quartet
Church Hill, Tenn.

Welcome to ALL Baptist Men
and Royal Ambassador Leadership,
Fellowships, and spouses

Begins Friday, August 23, 7:00 p.m.
Ends Noon Saturday, August 24

Inspiration — Testimonies — Fellowship

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(615) 371-2025

**Top Fifty
Cooperative Program Percentage
1989-90**

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PERCENTAGE
1 Flint Gap	Knox County	36.29
2 Brighton	Big Hatchie	32.15
3 Piedmont	Jefferson County	32.04
4 New Hope	Judson	31.72
5 Rogers Creek	McMinn-Meigs	31.21
6 Eastanallee	McMinn-Meigs	30.86
7 Byrdstown, First	Riverside	30.19
8 Oak Grove	Holston Valley	29.55
9 Siam	Watauga	26.62
10 Pleasant Hill	Loudon County	25.89
11 Niota, First	McMinn-Meigs	25.53
12 Bluff City, First	Holston	25.31
13 Goodlettsville, First	Nashville	25.21
14 Bethel	Robertson County	25.08
15 Oak Grove	Big Hatchie	24.96
16 Shiloh	Big Emory	24.95
17 Highland	Duck River	23.51
18 Stock Creek	Chilhowee	23.49
19 Mine City	Copper Basin	23.20
20 Beulah	Holston	23.16
21 Wallace Memorial	Knox County	23.09
22 Pleasant Grove Piney	Jefferson County	22.18
23 Woodmont	Nashville	22.12
24 Dandridge, First	Jefferson County	22.05
25 Monterey, First	Stone	22.00
26 Armona	Chilhowee	21.69
27 Mt. Lebanon	Chilhowee	21.19
28 Madisonville, First	Sweetwater	21.16
29 Calhoun, First	McMinn-Meigs	21.10
30 Sharon, First	Weakley County	21.10
31 Athens, First	McMinn-Meigs	21.08
32 McPheeters Bend Msnr	Holston Valley	21.00
33 Mouth of Richland	Grainger County	20.77
34 Kingsport, First	Sullivan	20.58
35 Cordova	Shelby County	20.48
36 Locust Grove	Grainger County	20.41
37 Paris, First	Western District	20.36
38 Rutledge Falls	Duck River	20.29
39 Fall Creek	Wilson County	20.15
40 Smyrna	Big Hatchie	20.06
41 Maplewood	Western District	20.03
42 Piney	Big Emory	20.00
43 Ridgedale	Hamilton County	19.97
44 Woodbury, First	Salem	19.80
45 Litz Manor	Sullivan	19.80
46 Erwin, First	Holston	19.72
47 Friendsville, First	Chilhowee	19.69
48 Blairland	Loudon County	19.57
49 Maryville, First	Chilhowee	19.45
50 Valley View	Bradley County	19.39

*Percentage determined by dividing Cooperative Program figure by the undesignated receipts as reported in the 1989-90 uniform church letter.

**Top Fifty
Cooperative Program Amount
November 1990-July 5, 1991**

CHURCH NAME	ASSOCIATION NAME	CP AMOUNT
1 Bellevue	Shelby County	370,997.00
2 Germantown	Shelby County	168,009.48
3 Wallace Memorial	Knox County	163,060.76
4 Woodmont	Nashville	149,364.19
5 Two Rivers	Nashville	139,062.53
6 Memphis, First	Shelby County	136,548.00
7 Brentwood	Nashville	131,482.99
8 Central, Bearden	Knox County	126,164.99
9 Red Bank	Hamilton County	124,819.17
10 Bartlett	Shelby County	121,583.03
11 Nashville, First	Nashville	119,430.13
12 Concord, First	Knox County	119,007.24
13 (H) Central	Hamilton County	115,533.72
14 Athens, First	McMinn-Meigs	111,168.71
15 Franklin, First	Nashville	106,538.55
16 Hendersonville, First	Nashville	104,750.00
17 Central, Fountain City	Knox County	102,731.53
18 Judson	Nashville	101,651.61
19 Ridgeway	Shelby County	99,458.54
20 Oak Grove	Holston Valley	93,921.89
21 Broadmoor	Shelby County	90,356.81
22 Donelson, First	Nashville	86,671.13
23 Collierville, First	Shelby County	82,542.29
24 Brainerd	Hamilton County	81,249.98
25 Cleveland, First	Bradley County	79,541.66
26 Cookeville, First	Stone	75,254.42
27 Westwood	Bradley County	74,612.57
28 Leawood	Shelby County	74,591.65
29 Calvary	Knox County	74,005.79
30 West Jackson	Madison-Chester	73,396.30
31 Central	Clinton	71,478.99
32 Manley	Nolachucky	69,095.63
33 Murfreesboro, First	Concord	68,312.18
34 Clarksville, First	Cumberland	66,666.68
35 Tullahoma, First	Duck River	65,530.79
36 Mt. Juliet, First	Wilson County	65,307.66
37 Lenoir City, First	Loudon County	63,833.38
38 Columbia, First	Mauy	63,125.17
39 (C) Central	Hamilton County	62,926.75
40 Colonial Heights	Sullivan	62,485.65
41 Englewood	Madison-Chester	62,333.37
42 Millington, First	Shelby County	60,417.52
43 Sevierville, First	Sevier County	60,000.00
44 Tusculum Hills	Nashville	57,749.66
45 Highland Heights	Shelby County	57,278.46
46 Dalewood	Nashville	55,593.47
47 Dyersburg, First	Dyer	54,583.35
48 Grace	Knox County	53,573.13
49 Lebanon, First	Wilson County	53,452.82
50 Paris, First	Western District	53,088.52

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Tennessee Baptists agree on one mission: The Gospel message is for all people everywhere. For more than 65 years, Tennessee Baptists have united around one mission support plan — the Cooperative Program.

All Tennessee Baptists are encouraged (II Corinthians 8:1-8) by those who are pacesetters in giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program.

Here are the top 50 churches in giving through the Cooperative Program in the percent of undesignated receipts, amount given, and resident membership per capita gifts.

• For additional information, contact Archer Thorpe, director, TBC Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department, at (615) 371-2018.

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

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



**Top Fifty
Cooperative Program Per Capita
1989-1990**

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PER CAPITA
1 Woodmont	Nashville	152.72
2 Kingsport, First	Sullivan	149.47
3 Goodlettsville, First	Nashville	143.47
4 Colonial Heights	Sullivan	141.88
5 Eastanallee	McMinn-Meigs	141.69
6 Athens, First	McMinn-Meigs	136.53
7 Oak Grove	Holston Valley	134.84
8 Calvary, Rutherford	Gibson County	128.04
9 Brentwood	Nashville	125.22
10 Fairview	Clinton	125.16
11 Nashville, First	Nashville	119.48
12 Bethel	Robertson County	115.28
13 Southwestern	Holston	108.84
14 Armona	Chilhowee	106.48
15 Grand Junction, First	Hardeman County	104.29
16 Red Bank	Hamilton County	103.89
17 Byrdstown, First	Riverside	101.61
18 Donelson, First	Nashville	100.78
19 Ridgedale	Hamilton County	100.13
20 Highland	Duck River	98.90
21 Dandridge, First	Jefferson County	97.67
22 Bethel	Weakley County	96.14
23 Paris, First	Western District	95.89
24 Allen	Haywood	95.88
25 Immanuel	Nashville	95.69
26 Wallace Memorial	Knox County	95.59
27 Colonial	Shelby County	95.44
28 Erwin, First	Holston	94.76
29 Tullahoma, First	Duck River	94.47
30 Beulah	Holston	94.45
31 Dyersburg, First	Dyer	93.71
32 Cordova	Shelby County	91.63
33 New Providence	Loudon County	90.71
34 Mt. Lebanon	Chilhowee	88.78
35 Oakland	Sweetwater	87.86
36 Pleasant Hill	Loudon County	87.55
37 Maryville, First	Chilhowee	87.40
38 Central, Johnson City	Holston	87.24
39 Calvary	Knox County	86.66
40 West Jackson	Madison-Chester	86.35
41 Indian Springs	Sullivan	85.95
42 Lincova Hills	Nashville	85.60
43 Bluff City, First	Holston	85.26
44 Niota, First	McMinn-Meigs	84.88
45 Ararat	Madison-Chester	84.59
46 Memphis, First	Shelby County	84.33
47 Crossville	Cumberland Plateau	82.61
48 Memorial	Hamilton County	81.80
49 Collierville, First	Shelby County	81.77
50 Gray Southern	Holston	81.67

*Per capita determined by dividing Cooperative Program figure by the church resident membership as reported in the 1989-90 uniform church letter.

**Observe Cooperative Program
Month in October**

(Advertisement)



Solomon dedicates the temple

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

When the temple was finished, Solomon summoned all the nation's leaders to assemble in Jerusalem for dedicatory procedures that would honor God. The first procedure was to bring the ark of the covenant into the temple.

The ark of the covenant was a special sacred chest. Built of acacia wood and covered with gold, different holy objects were kept in it at different times. In Hebrews 9:4 we read that the ark contained a pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of stone. Here in I Kings 8, the ark contained only the tables of stone. In the Pilgrim's Edition of the Bible, the notation is made that "Hebrews 9:4 refers to the ark of the tabernacle, and not in the temple. Because Aaron's rod and the pot of manna were provisions for the wilderness, they would not have been in keeping with the reign of glory and peace, for now the people had come to a time of rest . . . The Ten Commandments were included . . . for

the word of the Lord endures forever." The account makes clear the ark of the covenant was a necessary furnishing of the temple. It had been a visible sign of God's invisible presence with His people. Matthew Henry so fittingly states: "The temple, though richly beautified, yet while it was without the ark was like a body without a soul, or a candlestick without a candle, or (to speak more properly) a house without an inhabitant."

In Solomon's dedicatory sermon, he recognized the cloud as a symbol of God's presence and favor (v. 12; see also Exodus 19:9; Leviticus 16:2). The shekinah glory that filled the temple was a visible effluence of the divine glory and indicated that God honored the ark as a token of His presence. When Solomon spoke the words in verses 12 and 13, his face was turned to the temple, beholding the cloud which told him that God was there. In verse 14, Solomon now turned to the

people who stood in reverence in the outer court. He spoke briefly to the priests and then to the congregation at large. He blessed them, recounting with thanksgiving how God had led him to this time and place of dedicating this house unto God. Solomon states "the Lord hath performed His word that He spoke." In doing so, Solomon acknowledged God's leadership in the building process and God's sufficiency in enabling it to be done.

whenever the people sinned and repented of that sin against God. The space given to the sermon was brief compared with the length of the prayer of Solomon. This should help us observe the importance of prayer in worship and its connection with all our service.

When Solomon finished his prayer and supplication, he rose to bless the people (vv. 54-61). He magnified God's name and referred to the promises God always keeps. He solemnly charged his people to persevere in their obedience of God (v. 58), "that all the people may know that the Lord is God," (v. 60).

The king and all Israel sacrificed and celebrated the temple's completion with a feast that lasted 14 days. Then they went home joyful and glad for the goodness God had shown His people (v. 66). We should leave our worship services saying, "It has been good to be in the house of the Lord."

BIBLE BOOK
July 28 Lesson
Basic Passage: I Kings 8:1-66

Solomon's prayer of dedication (vv. 22-53) praised God's greatness and faithfulness. He asked for His continued presence and protection (vv. 25-30); for a continuous demonstration of His holiness (vv. 31-32); for answered prayer for the foreigner (vv. 41-43), and generally to forgive Israel

The wall is finished

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

Many mighty leaders have been threatened in an effort to deflect them from their tasks. Because of his personal courage and trust in God, Nehemiah was able to resist all enemy efforts. Nehemiah serves as an example for all of us and teaches us that courageous determination will help us accomplish the tasks God sets before us, no matter what distractions may come.

Nehemiah was determined to finish rebuilding the Jerusalem wall. When the plan for an armed attack failed, Sanballot, Tobiah, and Geshem resorted to a more subtle method of destruction. They sought to undermine Nehemiah's leadership and halt the efforts to rebuild, (vv. 1-2).

The enemy sought to lure Nehemiah

20 miles away from the city. Perhaps they intended to kill him or attack the city of Jerusalem while he was away. Regardless of the reason for the meeting, it can be assumed that Sanballot and his cohorts were up to no good.

Nehemiah saw through the trick. He simply replied that he was much too busy for such a meeting (v. 3). Nehemiah steadfastly adhered to the task, avoiding the enemies' entrapment. Repeated attempts by Sanballot and his men to lure Nehemiah away were futile.

When we cannot be diverted because of courage and persistence, many times our enemies will seek to discredit us. Such was the case with Nehemiah and his adversaries. The

four invitations for the meeting at Ono were probably verbal. However, a fifth communication came in the form of an open letter. In other words, it was not sealed and could be read by a number of people. The information in the letter sought to discredit Nehemiah among his people. Charges of treason and revolt would discourage the Jews who were working on the wall. Threats of this information leaking back to the Persian king would cause anyone else to halt their work, but not Nehemiah! (v. 7)

Nehemiah accused Sanballot and his friends of fabricating these lies, saying, "but you are inventing them in your own mind," (v. 8, NAS).

The greatest source of strength for Nehemiah, however, was his persistent

prayer life. We see evidence of this in verse 9: "but now, O God, strengthen my hands."

The efforts to undermine Nehemiah's leadership were not successful. In fact, it caused him to rely more heavily than ever on God's leadership. The end result: the wall was finished! It took only 52 days to complete this monumental task (v. 15)

CONVENTION UNIFORM
July 28 Lesson
Basic Passage: Nehemiah 6

Their enemies upon observing the completion of the wall, were afraid. They had observed the strong and mighty hand of God at work.

Standing for justice

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

Everywhere in our country today there is injustice. People want to be treated with fairness and equality. Too often the motto in our world is, "To get ahead, I will do whatever I have to do, no matter who gets hurt, or how many people get in my way."

In this week's Bible passage we study about a man who had that philosophy, Ahab. When he saw something he wanted, nothing stopped him from obtaining it.

Near Ahab's palace was a vineyard owned by Naboth, the Jezreelite. It was a beautiful vineyard, pleasing to the eye, and Ahab wanted it.

Ahab ordered Naboth to give him the vineyard. Ahab wanted it for a garden of herbs. He told Naboth, "I will give you a better vineyard. I'll even give you money." Naboth, being a good Israelite, said the Lord had forbidden him to give the vineyard away, and to keep it for his heirs.

Ahab, like a child, went home to pout. He went so far as turning face down in his bed. He would not eat at all.

Jezebel asked, Ahab, "Why are you so sad? Why don't you eat?" When Ahab explained that Naboth, the Jezreelite, had turned down his offer for the vineyard, Jezebel told him, "You are the king of Israel. Arise and go eat, and let your heart be merry. I'll take care of the vineyard."

Jezebel was a vicious, calculating, evil woman. She plotted to get the vineyard and kill Naboth. Jezebel proclaimed a feast, set Naboth high above the other people, and sent two men, sons of Belial, to falsely accuse Naboth of blasphemy to God and the king. Then they carried him out and stoned him to death.

LIFE AND WORK
July 28 Lesson
Basic Passage: I Kings 21

Jezebel returned to Ahab and told him, "Get up and go out and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. Don't worry about Naboth, for he is now dead." Ahab got up, went down to look at his vineyard,

and took possession of it.

At this point we see a classic encounter between Elijah and Ahab. The prophet was commanded to confront the king in God's behalf. Elijah asked, "Have you killed and taken possession?" Then in words from the Lord, Elijah pronounced judgment: "In this place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood."

Ahab's response was different from the first encounter when he called Elijah "troubler of Israel." Elijah became Ahab's personal enemy because Ahab had been discovered. He sold himself into sin, and God pronounced judgment upon him. Ahab sold himself into slavery, the slavery

of sin.

When Jesus Christ is not at the center of life, a person may become little more than an animal seeking to satisfy his own desires. But when one receives Jesus Christ, one's life is changed, reborn into something with meaning. When we take God's agenda for our own, we deny self, taking up our cross and following Him daily.

Ahab's and Jezebel's sins caused their downfall. They turned their eyes away from God and toward themselves, and they were destroyed. In contrast, Christians seek to live daily for Christ, always seeking His will, rather than following their own agendas.

Belmont, medical center collaborate

Centennial Medical Center and Belmont College School of Nursing are collaborating to implement continuous quality improvement (QI) in nursing.

Nursing representatives from Centennial and Belmont announce a common mission "to translate our shared vision into a working nursing model, founded on continuous quality improvement."

In addition to immediate benefits to both institutions, Belmont School of

Nursing Dean Peggy Jean Ledbetter predicts long-term effects. "We see the potential for the project setting the pace for nursing in the 21st century," she said. Centennial will act as a divided resource.

Joint appointments from the arrangement will include Centennial clinical nurse specialists serving as adjunct faculty at Belmont. In turn Belmont faculty will be available to assist at Centennial.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Jericho participants urged to color outside the lines

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Southern Baptists, it's OK — absolutely necessary, in fact — to color outside the lines to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That was the single-focused message in worship services, conferences, missions fairs, global walkaround, a world awareness game, and even a construction project during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival held July 6-12 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"If the people don't come to us, we must take the Gospel to them," said Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "A church meeting in a game room of a high-rise apartment building is just as much church as the congregation that gathers in a brick building with white columns. 'It's hard to imagine a place where we can't start a church if we color outside the lines,'" said Lewis.

Designed to increase awareness of Southern Baptist home and foreign missions and to help participants see themselves as missionaries wherever they are, Jericho has been held at Southern Baptists' two national conference centers, Ridgecrest and Glorieta, N.M., since 1989. It is sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union. A total of 241 of the 1348 participants made public commitments to career missions, volunteer missions, or pledged to pray or give more to missions during the Thursday night and Friday morning sessions.

"If I understand anything at all about what God is doing, he has again laid before us an open door beyond anything in the last 50 years," R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said. In some places, increased mission efforts bear immediate, dramatic results, while work in other places will be "slow and difficult," he said. One of the first "unreached people" groups for whom the FMB called for prayer in 1988 was the Kurdish people of the Middle East, then virtually unknown, he noted.

"God moved in the hearts of Southern Baptists three and one-half years ago to get ready for the time when He opened the door," said Parks. "God brought it together in His time." However, he warned doors could close unless Southern Baptists are willing to pray, give, and become personally involved as never before.

Soviet church leaders receive additional training

NASHVILLE — A second training session aimed at Bible study education for

Evangelical-Christian Baptists provides enormous possibilities for the Christian movement in that country, according to Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School division at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Piland and three other Sunday School division leaders conducted the training to develop a strategy for implementing a Bible study education program in the Soviet Union for 11 Evangelical-Christian Baptist leaders participating in the 1991 Summer Institute for Theological Education in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The institute is conducted each June by the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The seminary invited Sunday School Board leaders to conduct the specialized training for the Soviet participants, based on a specific request for help. The request followed an earlier session at the seminary in November 1989 when the Sunday School division provided training and materials for church leaders from 16 countries including the Soviet Union.

Some of the Soviet participants in the 1989 conference adapted and published the materials for distribution throughout the Soviet Union. More than 50,000 copies of some of those materials have been sold in the Soviet Union, according to John David Hopper, president of the seminary.

Crusade evangelist task force formed

ATLANTA — A crusade evangelist task force has been formed to develop a strategy to plan and implement area-wide and city-wide crusades.

Initiated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism section, the task force will encourage quality crusade leadership, cooperative training, and the use of crusade evangelists. Long-term goals include developing materials for conducting effective and affordable multi-church crusades.

Members of the volunteer task force are Richard H. Harris and Tom McEachin of the HMB mass evangelism department and full-time evangelists Kelly Green of Mobile, Ala.; Paul Jackson of Little Rock, Ark.; Jerry Johnston of Overland Park, Kan.; Rick Stanley of Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Jay Strack of Dallas; and Jim Wilson of Orlando, Fla.

Discipleship is another concern of the task force. The group will help churches "conduct crusades which lead individuals to profess their faith in Christ and obediently express their commitment in believers' baptism and meaningful church membership," Green said.

Shorter College receives \$1.5 million estate gift

ROME, Ga. — Edward Swift Shorter, former trustee and long-time benefactor of Shorter College has given the college an estate gift of just over \$1.5 million. Shorter, a resident of Columbus, Ga., died in 1987.

His wife, Mildred Watts Shorter, received income from the estate until her death in 1990, after which the entire estate went to Shorter's three favorite charities: Shorter College, Mercer University, and The Columbus Museum.

The gift is the largest received by Shorter College in its 118-year history.

Baptist volunteers minister at North Carolina flea market

By Sarah Zimmerman

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — Like an auctioneer hawking his wares, Bill Jones drives a hard bargain.

"Can I give you a cup of ice water?" he asks people at the Dreamland Flea Market in Asheville, N.C. "It's wet. It's cold. It's free."

The thought of something for nothing at a flea market makes most people at least stop to look. If they linger long enough, Jones tells them about another free offer, the gift of salvation.

Last month Jones and volunteers from North Carolina's Buncombe Association began giving away cold water to shoppers and sellers at the flea market. One Sunday, they gave away 1227 cups of water.

Seemingly endless rows of everything from tire rims to hair bows fill the lot of the abandoned drive-in movie theater. Customers and vendors line up at the gates by 7 a.m. every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, eager to conduct their business.

Next to a woman selling rugs and across from a man selling T-shirts, Jones makes his pitch.

"People are suspicious," Jones says. "They want to know, 'What's the catch?' One person thought we were selling filtered water."

There is no catch, other than volunteers asking people who take the water to also take a tract. Jones says one person refused to take a tract, but

another person read the tract and prayed to receive Christ.

Patsy Hilliard, retired foreign missionary and member of Merrimom Avenue Church in Asheville, worked at the booth one weekend. She recalls one child who came to her saying, "My mother said for you to tell me more about God." The child's mother was working at the flea market.

Chairs are set up behind the water counter so volunteers can talk to people away from the mainstream of shoppers. A directory of the association's 92 churches is on hand to help people who say they do not have a

church home.

As chairman of the association's resort ministries committee, Jones is responsible for logistics of the operation. Participating churches rotate the responsibility of providing volunteers.

In time, Jones hopes to begin a Sunday Bible study for people working at the flea market.

Taking the Gospel to people instead of requiring them to come to church buildings is essence of the project, Jones says.

"If we're sitting in church and the people are out here, we're never going to reach them."

HMB seeks Civil Air Patrol chaplains

ATLANTA (BP) — There are currently 1000 openings nationwide for volunteer chaplaincy ministries in the Civil Air Patrol.

Lew Dawson, associate director of military chaplaincy with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, believes Southern Baptist ministers could fill these positions and provide an important ministry to their communities.

Currently there are 125 Southern Baptist chaplains serving Civil Air Patrol units. A total of 1000 chaplains of all faiths serve only half the 2000 Civil Air Patrol units nationwide.

Col. Dennis Dwyer, director of Civil Air Patrol chaplain services, has launched a campaign to enlist 1000 additional chaplains so every unit will have at least one chaplain.

Civil Air Patrol is a corps of 66,000 members who serve as a civilian auxiliary to the U.S. Air Force.

Civil Air Patrol guidelines require all chaplains to receive endorsement from their denominational chaplaincy authority. Southern Baptist chaplains are endorsed by the SBC Chaplains Commission, which is housed at the Home Mission Board.

Individuals interested in Civil Air Patrol chaplaincy may contact Dawson at the HMB, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601.

North Clinton Church calls Mickey Laffew

Mickey Laffew recently became pastor of North Clinton Church, Clinton.

The Harriman native also has been pastor of Mountain View Church, Rockwood, and Grieviers Chapel Church, Westel.

Laffew was ordained in 1982 at Mars Hill Church, Kingston.



CUP OF WATER — Volunteers Russell Hilliard and his daughter, Rebecca Krauss, right, give cold water and a Christian tract to a flea market shopper in Asheville, N.C. The flea market rest area is sponsored by Buncombe Association to present the Gospel to people who may not attend church.