

Baptist and Reflector

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Kazakh arrives at Belmont — after Moscow stopover

Reunited with Baptist friend

By Connie Davis, assistant editor
NASHVILLE — Moscow was just as she had been warned — its downtown streets were filled with armored tanks and dissenters.

Alia Dzhimbaeva and her father were in Moscow to see her off for a year of study at Belmont University directed by her new Baptist friends in the United States. Her father had decided it was less dangerous for them to be in Moscow during last week's coup than for Alia to stay in the country.

A Baptist friend, Tennessean Harry Rowland, whom she met during the Kazakh-American Cultural Exchange held in the republic of Kazakhstan June 21-July 7, arranged her exchange program. Dzhimbaeva served as an interpreter for the exchange, which was developed by Southern Baptists through the Central Asian Foundation, a non-profit corporation that directs Christian aid.

Her father feared her American friends, and her appearances in meetings and on TV with them, might place her under the suspicion of new Soviet leaders.

In Moscow, Dzhimbaeva and her father couldn't help remembering the Soviet tanks and troops which entered Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, in 1985. The military quelled the rioting against the new Kazakh president, but people died — about 100 though the number was never reported, said Dzhimbaeva.

And her father recalled a former era of Soviet violence. "My father remembered the Stalinist period of

time when people just disappeared and no one knew where they were. Sometimes it was because they had friends that were foreigners," she said. "I had many friends who were Americans."

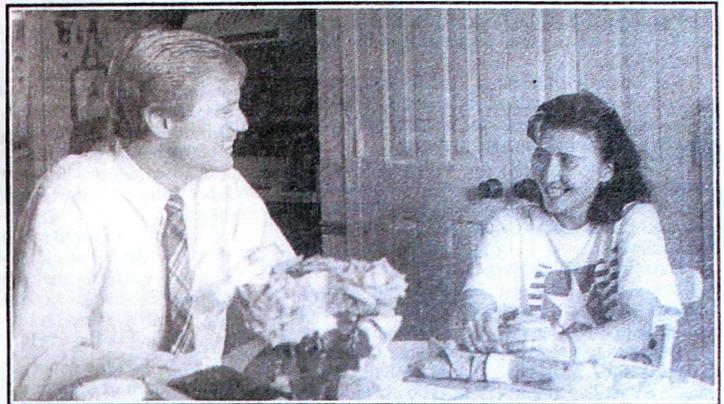
Her father, who had been ambivalent about her plans to study in the U.S., quickly changed his mind after the news of the coup. "He wanted me to be safe. . . . Many people were worried about our future when the army came to power," she explained.

Because of her father's persistence in the face of little information and his influence as a chemist at the Academy of Sciences, Kazakhstan, they caught the last flight out of Alma-Ata after the coup — a Tuesday morning flight.

In Moscow, information was even at a higher premium. Except for one TV and radio channel directed by the coup leaders, word of mouth and unauthorized information were the only sources. One-page newspapers were posted in subways and trolleybus stations, only to be removed by soldiers, said Dzhimbaeva. If one had the proper equipment, unauthorized radio transmissions could be picked up, she added.

Housed downtown in the Kazak Embassy and forced to move about the city to complete paperwork for her trip, Dzhimbaeva saw the crowds, mostly young people and students, gathering to protest. In spite of the military presence, she also viewed Moscovites going to work and shopping, she said.

"The soldiers were not impolite to



SAFE IN THE US — Alia Dzhimbaeva shares her experiences during the coup in Moscow with her sponsor, Harry Rowland, in his Nashville home. She is currently staying with the Rowland family. — Photo by Connie Davis

us," she said.

On Thursday she and her father waited about two hours to cross a street jammed by tanks leaving downtown, which they assumed were going to a battle. Then they heard the news of the failed coup. Everyone was "shocked," she said, when Boris Yeltsin, Russian Republic president, and an emergency session of the Rus-

sian parliament appeared on TV exposing the junta and its leaders.

"Young persons, every person wants to be against this dictatorship. . . . They guarded parliament; they stopped tanks — everybody — that it might be like that."

On the way to the airport on Thursday evening, she saw fireworks

(— See Kazakh student, page 3)

Tennessee volunteers help relief efforts in wake of hurricane

CAPE COD, Mass. (BP) — Seventy-eight Southern Baptist Brotherhood disaster relief volunteers from six states fed over 6000 meals and removed about 500 dump truck loads of debris within six days of Hurricane Bob, said Robert Simpkins, Kentucky Brotherhood and disaster relief director.

"God has painted broad healing strokes through the lives of loving disaster relief volunteers who have come to meet the needs created by the devastation of this hurricane," said Simpkins, who is serving as on-site coordinator for the multistate response.

Additional volunteers, including at least 18 Tennessee Baptists, have gone into the Cape Cod area as cleanup crews.

Cameron Byler, Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood director, reported there was more damage than people first realized.

Fourteen volunteers from three churches in Clinton Association — Clinch River, Clear Branch, and Moran — were scheduled to return to Tennessee Aug. 31. The team was led by Clinch River Pastor Tom Byrge.

Four men from Cumberland Plateau Association, headed by Clyde Thurmond of Crossville, left Aug. 30 to assist with cleanup operations, Byler added.

Additional volunteers are being sought, he said. For more information, contact Byler at (615) 371-2026.

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, began co-

ordinating the disaster response with the Baptist Convention of New England and Greater Boston Association leaders as Hurricane Bob made its course through the Atlantic ocean toward land.

Local officials estimate that damage on Cape Cod to public property will exceed \$12 million. Massachusetts Lt. Gov. A. Paul Cellucci is predicting a total price tag of \$1 billion to public and private property.

As Hurricane Bob cut its path across

(— See Tennessee, page 3)



BAPTIST MEN — The Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood Convention met Aug. 23-24 at Judson Church, Nashville. James Williams, left, incoming executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, spoke, as did Mike Pearson, right, director of missions, Clinton Association. Other program personalities included missionaries Wade Watts, Dr. Bill Skinner, Doc Lindsey; Tennessee pastors Mike Adams and Tony McClanahan; John Pippin, Shiloh DOM; Barry Barrett, Murfreesboro layman; and Andy Grossholz, Crusader Royal Ambassador "Speak Out" winner.

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Registration cards available for TBC

Registration cards for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, set for Nov. 19-20 at Broadmoor Church in Memphis, have been mailed to state directors of missions.

Cards also are available from Pat Porter, TBC registration secretary, by writing to P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0780.

Convention registration begins at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 18, at Broadmoor Church.

Any color registration card, except white, will be accepted at the registration tables.

If you have questions about the number of messengers eligible from your church or need additional information, contact Porter at (615) 371-2010.

Editorials

Baptists must be at their best in times of change

This is not a good time for writing a world history, unless it is written to fit the style of many products today — a throw-away book. As this editorial is being prepared, radio news tells of further developments in the Soviet Union.

History is being made at a pace faster than most of us can absorb comfortably.

The Berlin Wall was smashed into oblivion almost two years ago and now is only a monument in memory. Events of the past fortnight included the disintegration of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union and possible dissolution of the Soviet Union itself.

The Union is collapsing. That is good because the central system with all its vagaries is being thrown out. But problems are already facing those republics who would become nations.

Problems of economy and arms, defense and transportation will be tough to solve. Lack of food distribution systems and disputed boundaries, ethnic pride and nationalism — also make revolution a real possibility.

Everything shuts down during the severe Soviet winters. That means food shortages will be compounded by heating problems. People may become so disgruntled that anarchy could threaten.

The coup forged by hardline communists August 19 revealed a type of confusion not usually seen among Soviet Union leaders. It failed because Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, refused to back down and the United States government was firm in its refusal to panic.

One ingredient seldom seen in public was the bravery and courage by Russian people facing powerful weapons and foreboding threats. For the first time since communism became entrenched in the Soviet Union in 1917 — the leaders were disobeyed. The people were not afraid. The entire scene was remarkable, a pageant of freedom.

Some seventy years ago, V. I. Lenin led the seizing of power in war-devastated Russia. In November 1917, just a few months after the overthrow of Czar Nicholas, the communists were in power.

They have held it ever since — often with iron-fisted domination. Freedom as it is known in much

of the Western nations has not been evidenced in the Russian-led Soviet Union.

Using Moscow and Russia, the communists broadened their front, seizing every opportunity to gobble up nations like Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, the Ukraine, and others. Soon the Soviet Union was the largest nation in the world, with fifteen republics, an expanse that crosses eleven time zones and encompasses many diverse ethnic regions and population centers.

"A godless dictatorship both sullies and disfigures a man. Only a deep religious faith can provide him with stout armor. When the church is destroyed and people are left on their own, it is easy for them to fall in with evil schemes," wrote Dimitri Panin, in *The Notebooks of Sologdin*.

Panin, a compatriot of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, was an engineer who was in Soviet prisons and labor camps for thirteen years — on trumped up charges.

He and others like him were certain the Western nations would rescue Russia from communism, realizing that it was not the will of the people nor the best government for any nation. They had an early grasp on the misery communism would bring to the world.

Until 1917 the concept of honesty was drilled into children of Christian families, he said, and was reinforced by church, school, and good literature. Because of the 1917 revolution and the beginning of the Bolshevik era, the process declined.

Because of habit, the words honesty, truth, and honor were still used; but the new regime, he said, encouraged people to behave "in despicable and devious ways and threatened with destruction all those who did not conform." The word "honesty" began to be used in derision and mockery.

Panin made these points in his notes:

- The real Russia came to an end in 1917. Even the name of the country was immediately changed and "anything traditionally Russian was rooted up and destroyed."
- Replacing the real Russia was "a gang of political bandits and torturers."
- The force of armies would be the method of

birthing the new Russia.

• The population was divided into oppressors and victims by the brute force and "wholesale criminality" of the Communist regime.

And, said Panin, a huge, basically Christian country was made over into "a nursery for rearing a new breed of men under conditions of widescale terror and atheism. It was a new society governed by primitives, taking shape without asking the consent of the people. The nation was fettered in a kind of slavery.

V. I. Lenin and later Josef Stalin proved Panin correct in his analysis. Other leaders followed suit — to a lesser extent.

And now the iron grip of communism has been loosened. We cannot cover in one attempt this most dramatic news story of worldwide impact.

The influence of communism, Karl Marx thought, would first be tested in Great Britain, Germany, or some other industrialized nation. But Russia was the laboratory where his theories were thrust forth.

Answers must come even before we know the right questions. Who has control of nuclear weapons if the Soviet Union completely disintegrates? Who will the new leaders be — and what will be their view of individual rights? Will Western nations answer the call for economic aid — beginning with massive amounts of food supplies?

Will the Communist Party be dead? What will replace it?

The most important question we Baptists must answer for ourselves. Ways and means must be found to feed people's hearts and stomachs. We must quickly learn how to fulfill our marching orders found in the Great Commission.

The void of totalitarianism must be filled with governments that spring from among the people — and love the people, not for power's sake, but for the benefit of the people.

This is not the last chapter on this continuing saga. By the time this appears in print — some of it will be outdated. We must bend our knees and praise the Lord for freedoms gained — and ask Him for a clear vision of our task. — WFA

Baptists pray during massive demonstrations in Madagascar

By Craig Bird

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (BP) — Madagascar may have two presidents and two prime ministers — but it doesn't have a functioning government.

Daily crowds of up to 400,000 people clog the streets of the island nation's capital, Antananarivo, demanding political change while taxes go uncollected, banks refuse to open, and postal services are paralyzed.

Southern Baptist missionary Fred Sorrells of Brady, Texas, has continued to work in the chaotic situation. It has erupted into real violence only once, when demonstrators were shot to death on the streets in front of the Sorrells' residence. The Sorrells, who live across from the presidential

palace, were not at home.

The shootings occurred Aug. 10 when President Didier Ratsiraka's North Korean-trained presidential guard fired on the demonstrators. The Madagascar Red Cross said 31 people died that day in the capital, while another 20 deaths were reported in related violence in the north.

About 1000 Baptists in the city "aren't very visible on either side politically," according to Sorrells. "They feel their main role is praying for the situation."

Sorrells left Madagascar Aug. 21 enroute to the United States to join his family for a furlough in Austin, Texas. His wife, Sami, a Houston native, and their three children left Aug. 1.

More than two months of massive street demonstrations and a nationwide general strike spawned the dual chief executives Aug. 19. Opposition leaders declared President Ratsiraka stripped of all powers and themselves the legitimate government.

They also "voided" the 1975 constitution and "dissolved" Madagascar's National Assembly and High Court. Ratsiraka dissolved his own government three weeks ago and named a new prime minister, but has not moved beyond that point.

Since the shootings Ratsiraka has remained holed up in the presidential palace issuing decrees banning public assemblies and imposing curfews, which are flaunted publicly and

massively. Even his order giving the military extensive powers of search and arrest has been largely ineffectual as the army has tried to distance itself from the Aug. 10 violence, according to Associated Press reports.

Sorrells credits the relative calm that still prevails to the basic nature of the peaceful Malagasy people.

"Violence is the last resort in their culture, so the manifestation of these demonstrations shows how serious the situation is," he said.

Sorrells, who also is trying to

establish an evangelistic outreach in the Comoro Islands, remained in the country after his family left to lead evangelistic efforts at a multinational cultural and athletic festival set for Aug. 6-13. The festival was canceled Aug. 4 and his plans to visit the Comoros went awry when all flights leaving the country were overbooked.

"I spent a couple of days standing in line at the airport trying to get a ticket on any plane to anywhere," he explained. "I even considered flying out on Aeroflot (the Soviet airline)."

Lakewood Church calls Keith Cameron

Lakewood Church in Donelson recently called Keith Cameron as pastor.

Cameron comes to the new post from Williams Road Church, Fort Worth, Texas, where he served as pastor since 1985. He also has been pastor of churches in Georgia.

Cameron is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, Patsy, have two children, Nathan and Christopher.

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New provost urges SBTS to focus on 'inclusion'

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Declaring the Southern Baptist Convention denominational battle is over, new Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Provost Larry L. McSwain urged the school to expand its role as an institution of "denominational inclusion."

President Bush vetoes abortion funding bill

WASHINGTON (BP) — President George Bush has used the first of what promises to be several vetoes of congressional attempts to weaken abortion funding restrictions this year.

On Aug. 17, the president vetoed a District of Columbia appropriations bill (H.R. 2699) that would have allowed the district government to pay for abortions with local tax money.

The House of Representatives had passed the bill by a vote of 239-180. The Senate had approved it by a voice vote.

"From the outset of my Administration, I have repeatedly stated my deep personal concern about the tragedy in America of abortion on demand," Bush said in a statement released on the day of the veto. "As a nation, we must protect the unborn. H.R. 2699 does not provide such protection."

Kazakh student arrives at Belmont after . . .

(Continued from page 1)

lighting the sky to celebrate the end of the coup. Arriving the evening before her scheduled Friday morning flight because of the curfew, they found crowds that didn't allow them seating room.

The fact that she was able to leave was a "miracle," Dzhiembaeva stated. She not only referred to the political barriers, but logistic, noting many people wait two years for an airline ticket to the U.S.

The efforts of Rowland, associate pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville, allowed her departure, which was "so unSoviet," she explained.

"God has had His hand in this in a lot of ways," said Rowland, who noted the biggest hurdle was initiating the process because a student exchange is still an uncommon procedure in the USSR. He added the Ministry of Education usually has a three-month waiting period and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires a 21-day delay for issuing exchange permits. Then she had to get an airline ticket.

Tennessee volunteers help relief . . .

(Continued from page 1)

New England, Southern Baptist church buildings in the area weathered the storm with little structural damage.

"None of our church buildings were damaged," said Jack Parrot, associate director of the Greater Boston Association. "We have two congregations and one Bible study on the South Shore and one congregation and one Bible study on Cape Cod.

Lack of electricity was the biggest problem on Cape Cod, where many residents use electric-powered water wells," Parrot said.

David Leary, director of missions for Long Island (N.Y.) Association, said the ten churches in his association also received no structural damage. He cited fallen trees, flooding, and no electricity as the major problems caused by the storm.

During Aug. 27 convocation services opening the fall semester at the Louisville, Ky., school, McSwain said anyone who doubts "conservatives" have won the 12-year fight for control of the SBC should "take a high school course in political science." Still, he maintained Southern Seminary must be a place that includes all Southern Baptists regardless of their theological/political persuasion, educational attainment, economic background, ethnic origin, or gender.

The school should pursue a future of "excellence without arrogance," McSwain emphasized: "What must be maintained in this place is the reality that the brightest and most resourceful do have at least one place in this convention, but never as a snobbish elite that excludes any with the willingness to learn."

McSwain, who became provost Aug. 1, formally was installed during convocation by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt. A member of the Southern Seminary faculty since 1970, McSwain had been dean of the School of Theology for three years.

McSwain expressed his commitment to implement the "Covenant Renewal" document approved by the seminary's faculty and trustees earlier this year. He insisted the seminary will not

Rowland and his wife also spent about 30 hours trying to make contact with the Dzhiembaeva family during the coup as were thousands of others worldwide. Another miracle allowed them to make phone contact twice, he reported.

He and his family, with assistance from Woodmont Church, will sponsor Dzhiembaeva for a year while she studies at Belmont University, Nashville. He also is working toward an exchange for another interpreter to return to Mobile (Ala.) College, where she studied previously.

He noted the colleges, both Baptist, are making the exchange possible, by offering financial assistance.

The exchange will allow Dzhiembaeva "to have a chance to grow as a Christian," said Rowland. She learned about God for the first time while studying at Ouachita Baptist University, Ark., last year for four months. She competed with about 1000 other students for one of 18 openings. Since then she has become a Christian.

The hurricane's winds were clocked at 105 mph near Hanover, Mass. But the only interruption in church life was changing one committee meeting, said Neal Davidson, pastor of Fellowship Church in Hanover.

Smith Hill Baptist Ministries, a mission center in Providence, Conn., canceled one program because the lack of electricity, but the building received no structural damage.

"Our people are all OK. Nobody is hurt or homeless. Everything considered, we came through it pretty well," said Kip Brady-Mobley, director of the Smith Hill Ministries and pastor of a 14-member church that meets in the same building. — Jim Burton, Brotherhood Commission; Sarah Zimmerman, Home Mission Board; and Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story.

sacrifice academic excellence by abiding by the covenant's provision that future faculty openings be filled by "conservative" evangelical scholars. Rather, he said the covenant can help "broaden the perspectives" of the faculty.

The seminary's faculty always has been fully committed to the authority of Scripture, McSwain said. "The covenant spells out what some have misunderstood. This faculty has stood and continues to stand unreserved in its commitment to the full and complete authority of Scripture as the norm for faith and practice."

McSwain described the Southern Seminary classroom as "a marketplace of ideas, where every current of

contemporary thought can be explored and where students are challenged to know the theological foundations on which they stand and are given freedom to think for themselves."

The classroom must remain the central focus of the seminary's mission, he said: "The heart of Southern Seminary is what happens when a professor walks into (the classroom) and begins the magical experience of interaction with a group of students who want to learn. As long as we have that, we can lose everything else and still have a dream."

In addition to traditional learning opportunities, McSwain challenged the seminary to be an "increasingly international" school.

Toalston selected as BP editor

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff writer Art Toalston, Jr. will be recommended to fill the new position of Editor at Baptist Press, according to Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Bennett's recommendation, which has been affirmed by the committee's officers, will be considered by the administrative subcommittee of the Executive Committee when it meets Sept.

17 in Nashville.

If approved, Toalston, 40, would begin no later than Jan. 2, 1992.

The new position was created from two former positions at the national office of Baptist Press, the denomination's daily news service. An earlier reorganization of the Executive Committee's staff had separated Baptist Press and the public relations function with each headed by a vice president. Baptist Press news editor and the features editor were then combined into one editor position.

Toalston has been with the FMB in Richmond, Va., since January 1985 following positions with a number of newspapers as a religion editor/writer. He was also co-news director for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas during 1984 while attending the seminary.

As staff writer/secular news coordinator at the FMB, Toalston is responsible for coverage of missions news in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa as well as coordinating news releases to secular news media, including television and radio.

As Editor, Baptist Press, he would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the news service, said Herb Hollinger, vice president for Baptist Press, with considerable work in editing and working with the various BP bureaus and SBC agencies.

Toalston and his wife, Karen, have one daughter.



ANNIVERSARY HONOREE — During the 50th anniversary events of Woodmont Church, Nashville, former pastor G. Allen West, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the first of the church's two pastors, is honored along with his late wife on the dedication of the G. Allen and Kitty West Chapel. Recognized at the Aug. 11 event were, from left, Julie West, Brentwood; Jean and G. Allen West, Louisville, Ky.; George West III, Brentwood; Bill Sherman, pastor; and charter members Clayborne McEmore and R. D. Fulcher Jr.

Memphis church begins apartment house ministry

MEMPHIS — Graceland Church in Memphis has begun a multifamily housing ministry with the help of missions volunteers from south Alabama.

The staff of Graceland Church, headed by Pastor Ronnie Mitchell and Minister of Education Jim Palmer, began exploring the possibility of a new ministry earlier this summer.

A primary concern was where would they get enough workers to staff backyard Bible clubs.

In June, the church profiled 21 apartment complexes, consisting primarily of black residents. The Graceland members, along with assistance from members of Westhaven Church, a black Southern Baptist congregation in Memphis, visited each apartment manager to gather information and to pray with them about their concerns for their residents.

All 21 managers expressed an interest in opening their doors for ministry. Some of the managers even

offered a place on site where a ministry could be held, Mitchell said.

About ten managers indicated an interest in having some type of Vacation Bible School ministry on site during the summer.

The staff knew that the church could not possibly staff ten sites unless help came from another source.

God already knew where that help would come from, affirmed Mitchell, who has been pastor of the Graceland church since 1988.

A group of Alabama mission volunteers, led by James Best, director of missions for Bethlehem and Pine Barren associations in south Alabama, had planned to go to Indiana on a mission trip, but the doors were closed there.

One of the Alabama volunteers, Ruby Lambert of Uriah, wrote later to the Graceland church, noting that "at first I wondered why God closed the door on the Indiana trip, but I believe

God opened the door to Memphis as surely as he opened the door to Macedonia to Paul."

Best had read about the need for volunteer work at the McCall House, a new Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission training facility in Memphis, so he contacted the commission.

The commission could only use part of the Alabama volunteers. Sheri Mitchell, wife of the Graceland pastor, who works at the Brotherhood Commission, suggested the remaining volunteers could help Graceland conduct backyard Bible clubs in the apartment complexes.

Correspondence took place between Best and Graceland Church and plans were set into motion.

Graceland members were enlisted to work with the Alabama volunteers. "Everything was pulled together beautifully in a short period of time," Mitchell said, crediting the leadership of Best and Palmer.

The pastor noted the week went "better than expected." Enrollment increased daily and a number of children made decisions for Christ, he added. About 36 volunteers from Graceland and Alabama worked with the backyard Bible clubs.

Everyone involved was impressed with what took place during the week.

"Our children were taught that someone cares for them and that happiness comes from loving God and loving others like you would want to be treated," said one apartment manager.

Graceland church member Bonnie Dorough noted the children in the apartment complexes "were open and responsive and it was a very enjoyable experience."

Dorough observed "the potential is excellent to start Bible classes and later on churches. They were hungry

for true, genuine, Christian attention," she said.

Don Davidson, youth minister at Graceland, agreed. "They were hungry for the Word of God and were overjoyed that we came to be a part of their lives," he said.

Palmer noted the week of backyard Bible clubs "was a rich spiritual experience for me."

And, though, the week has passed, the desire of Graceland to continue ministry in the apartment complexes is still strong.

A weekly program for children already has been established in one of the complexes, reported Palmer.

Graceland also plans to begin outreach Bible studies in each complex, working toward establishing at least five mission churches in the next two years, Mitchell said.

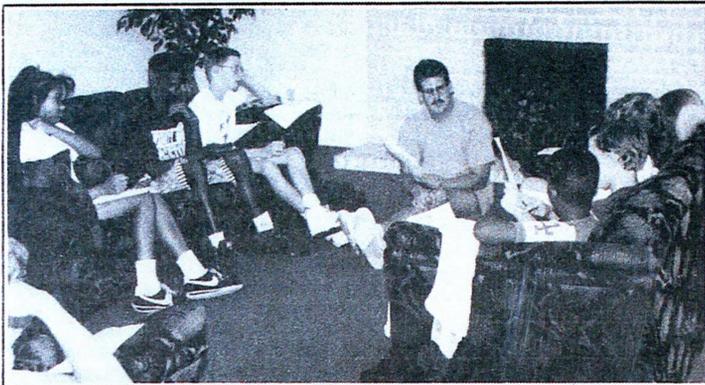
Mitchell, who serves as multifamily housing director for Shelby County Association, cited statistics showing the need for apartment housing ministries.

He noted that 40 to 50 percent of the population of most large cities live in multifamily dwellings. The numbers will probably increase drastically in the days ahead, he predicted.

"Apartment complexes are truly a field white unto harvest," Mitchell said. He believes strongly that more churches should consider establishing multifamily housing ministries.

"Each church could be a mission outpost sending missionaries into untouched areas that are waiting to be reached.

"Multifamily housing ministry is the most exciting ministry opportunity that I have seen for some time. It is my prayer that all of us will begin to look at the apartment complexes with the eyes of Christ."



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY — Don Davidson, center, minister of music and youth at Graceland Church, Memphis, and some of the church's youth lead a Bible study for youth in an apartment complex near the church.

Central Church, Bearden, members 'clown' around in Alaska

By Connie J. Umstead, news assistant

KNOXVILLE — They paint their faces with bright smiles, don garish clothes, sing happy songs, pass out balloons, and play games, but the goal is not to only have fun. They have a serious message to impart.

The Love Clowns (TLC), a part of the creative arts ministry at Central Church, Bearden, in Knoxville, recently returned from a mission trip to Anchorage, Alaska, where they shared the joy of Christian clowning with members of South Anchorage Church and the community.

While in Alaska, 18 youth and eight adults led a Sunday morning worship service, participated in a Vacation Bible School carnival, entertained at two church picnics, performed at a downtown Anchorage amphitheatre, and visited a nursing home and hospital.

Susan Fendley, who co-directs TLC with Pat Irick, said the troupe bases its ministry on II Corinthians 5:17, which speaks of becoming a new person through Christ.

"Just as a clown puts on a white face to cover up the old self, we in our salvation experience die to our old selves," Fendley explained. "As a clown puts on bright colors to become a new person, so we in our Christian experience put on a new life to become the people God wants us to be," she

added.

The clown troupe shares the message of Christ in a unique way. They often teach Bible truths through skits, by miming and signing a parable or a Christian song, or by interpretive movement.

Fendley described a skit where the clowns used a secular song, "You Decorated My Life," and gave it a Christian message. A clown dressed only in white is "decorated" as other clowns share parts of themselves — a red nose, a colorful wig. The other clowns share enough to make the white clown complete.

"We teach a sermon rather than preach a sermon," Fendley said.

TLC visited the Baptist family services center in Anchorage. After the entertainment, a six-year-old boy approached a clown, played by Ed Neely, and said, "Mr. Peanuts, a lot of people have come to tell us Jesus loves us, but you're the first to show us."

Fendley said the clowns' message reached people of all ages. "We expected a positive response from youth and children. We were amazed by the adults' responses. They took what we did very seriously. Some cried," she said.

The clowns also have a side that is purely fun. They have been known to throw pies in the faces of pastors; do magic and hand tricks; make balloon

sculptures; and act out Ray Stevens songs, such as the "Mississippi Squirrel."

The clown ministry began in 1981 to provide "youth who were not musicians a way to express their Christianity," Fendley said. The clowns made their debut at the 1982 World's Fair Baptist pavilion.

During the rest of the year, the troupe, 35 youth and five adults, visits nursing homes, and entertain at parades, festivals, shopping malls, campgrounds, Vacation Bible Schools, backyard Bible clubs, and other

churches. They have performed in South Dakota, New York, Washington, and around Tennessee.

"We try to go to the community and take the message outside the church," Fendley said.

In addition, they hold a training session in September, teach local clown troupes, and have hosted the East Tennessee Drama/Clowning/Puppetry Festival sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Working with Fendley and Irick are Celia Montgomery, costumer, and John and Cathy Smith, makeup directors.



HAPPY FACES — The Love Clowns, from Central Church, Bearden, visited the Mary Conrad Nursing Home while on mission in Anchorage, Alaska. Pictured are front row, left, Diana Hall, Demetria Neely, Amanda Garrison; back row, left, Jenny Montgomery, Alyson Justus, a nursing home patient, and Meg Pattison.

Tennesseans participate in Hawaiian music effort

By Charles Willis

HONOLULU (BP) — Christian musicians seeking to return power to "Godly things" have that ability through their musical skills, a Southern Baptist professor told mainland U.S. and Hawaii Baptists during the 15th and final Musicians on Mission workshop, Aug. 9-11.

William L. Hendricks, professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., spoke to 150 workshop registrants at Olivet Church in Honolulu.

Included in the workshop were 69

mainland U.S. Southern Baptists, who volunteered to attend the workshop at their own expense and to work afterward in Hawaii Baptist churches requesting musical training.

"The demonic have torn the power from godly things," Hendricks said. "The world sings the songs of lust and greed and hate. There is a god-shaped vacuum in the heart of every soul, and the world tries to fill it with lust, money, and alcohol that tourists bring to this place."

Jim L. Harvey, director of the

church development division of the Hawaii Baptist Convention, agreed the music for which the islands are famous is not Christian music. The involvement of volunteers to strengthen church music programs in Hawaii provided "enhancement of our worship and personal inspirational help.

"We're very concerned about training more people in the congregation in using the hymnal in singing and personal devotional life," Harvey continued. "We want to help the churches become more attractive to outsiders with better worship services and better music."

The 150 workshop participants came from ten mainland states, including Tennessee, and the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

The workshop and mission project concluded a six-year project sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department. Since the first workshop and volunteer effort in 1985, 1400 volunteers have served in 620 churches in California, Kansas, Nebraska, Maryland, Indiana, the District of Columbia, Ohio,

Massachusetts, Oregon, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Hawaii.

Peggy Martin, a technical editor and member of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, said the six events in which she participated provided her opportunities to introduce children to Jesus and "convinced me of the urgency to witness."

She said not only did she have the opportunity to win children to Christ during her volunteer experiences, but also family members of children eventually accepted the Lord.

In Hawaii, volunteers led choir clinics, provided sound equipment advice, and helped local leaders with congregational singing needs. They also offered keyboard help, instrumental training, worship planning guidance, and solo and ensemble improvements.

Classes provided in the workshop dealt with staff relationships and small-church needs, as well as practical sessions in keyboard, handbell, instrumental, vocal, graded choir, worship planning, and music resource concerns.

FMB taps Tennessee couple

A couple with Tennessee ties have been named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board. Among a group of 40, they were named on Aug.

13 at Colonial Heights Church, Richmond, Va.

Alan and Andrea Duncan will serve in Southern Africa where he will develop youth ministries in local churches and both will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Alan Duncan has been associate pastor of First Church, Cleveland, since 1986. His parents were missionaries in Kenya for 19 years, Marshall and the late Margie Duncan.

Duncan lived in Kenya and Clinton, Tenn., while growing up. He considers First Church, Cleveland, his home church. He is a graduate of University of Tennessee and attended seminary extension at Carson-Newman College.

Andrea Duncan, a native of Greenville, is the daughter of Marvin Ogles.

She attended University of Tennessee and Memphis State University. She is a piano teacher in Cleveland.



DUNCANS

From Calvary Church

Knoxvillians minister in Philippines

KNOXVILLE — Four college students from Calvary Church, Knoxville, recently returned from a summer-long mission trip in the Philippines.

The students — Tim Carnes, Byron Davis, and Pamela Hodnet of University of Tennessee, and Jennifer Jones of Carson-Newman College — assisted Southern Baptist missionary Darrel Seale in beginning a college ministry in Manila.

The thrust of their activities during the summer was the establishment of the Joy Student Center in Manila. The student center is convenient to four universities in the Manila area. The schools have a combined enrollment of more than 25,000 students.

The center is important because the Filipino students have little to do between breaks in classes. The center became very attractive to the students during the summer.

Students were able to play ping-pong, chess, Scrabble, or just sit and talk. The Calvary mission team took advantage of the activities to build relationships with the students who visited the center.

They were able to tell the Filipinos about the "joy" (hence the center's name) they could receive by knowing Jesus as personal Lord and Savior.

The team also led evangelical Bible studies. Some students who

were not responsive to personal witnessing participated in the Bible studies and later accepted Christ. Others rededicated their lives as a result of the Bible studies.

The team experienced some unusual excitement during their time in Manila. They were there when Mt. Pinatubo, a volcano that had been dormant for 600 years, erupted. Though many Filipinos who lived near the volcano were adversely affected, the team was not. Manila received two dustings of ash during the ten weeks. The dustings were a nuisance, but not a significant problem, team members reported.

Seale and his wife, Shirley, in a letter to the church after the team members returned, reported the new student center continued to have record crowds.

"We have had over 1200 new students come to the center for the first time in just eight weeks. The most wonderful statistic is that over 500 of them have returned for at least a second visit and many are coming almost every day.

"We have been witnessing and leading Bible studies and about 30 students have received Christ as Savior with many more in evangelistic Bible studies," the Seales wrote.

The missionary couple asked for continued prayer as they minister to students in the Manila area.



MUSICIANS ON MISSION — James Hawkins, a member of Grace Church, Nashville, and a music consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, worked with the music program at Waiialae Church in Honolulu. In a Sunday afternoon handbell rehearsal, he demonstrated proper ringing technique. — Photo by Charles Willis

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Did anyone ever ask you — after conversion — whether you were a Christian?

Keith Miller says that happened to him. Writing in one of his earliest books, *The Taste of New Wine*, Miller says Romans 14:7 reached him in an unusual way.

In describing how a person can have Christ with him or her in the marketplace, Miller emphasizes the disparity of being Christian on Sunday and pagan during the week.

There's where Paul's words helped him. "For none of us lives for himself only; if we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die," he wrote.

Miller says he first realized this one morning when a friend said to him, "Gee, Keith, I didn't realize you were a Christian." Miller went on to admit that he had been leaving Christ at the parking lot when he went to work each

morning. That is typical of many of us — but there can be a difference.

Applying that same lesson to Christians and the church lifestyle, Findley Edge also admonishes reluctant Christians. The retired Southern Seminary professor and Southern Baptist "gadfly" wrote a book about it.

"Most church members — even the leaders — do not have enough understanding about the nature of the Christian life and the essential mission of the people of God in the world to see why a regenerate church membership is such an impelling necessity," he said in *A Quest for Vitality in Religion*.

He added that the church cannot change the world unless it is composed of changed people — radical and not shallow, resulting from a fresh encounter with the Living God.

Many people tell us they have the secret to victory and joy in Christ. We need to make sure that the "secret" is Jesus — and not a strategy, activity, list of rules. Experiences come from Jesus. Jesus does not come from experiences.



ALLEN

Church communications conference set for Jackson

The public relations office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will sponsor its annual communications conference Oct. 10 at Englewood Church in Jackson.

The conference, "Communications and the Local Church," will begin at 9:45 a.m. and last until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

The one-day training event is designed for pastors, directors of mis-

Seymour accepts call

Piedmont Church in Dandridge has called Richard Seymour to serve as pastor, effective Aug. 18.

Seymour, a native of Chattanooga, holds degrees from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Seymour and his wife, Margaret, have two children, Kimberly and Christopher.

sions, church and associational staff members, committee chairmen and members, and others with special interests, said Barbara Owen, public relations coordinator at the TBC.

Conferences and their leaders include:

- Communicating with the Un-churched — Ray Newcomb, pastor, First Church, Millington

- The Church Secretary — Image Builder — Ruth Bradley, TBC Executive Board

- Planning Special Events for the Local Congregation — Gary Williams, director of education and promotion, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations

- Keeping your Church in the News — Michael Mercer, assistant city

editor, *The Jackson Sun*

- Preparing a Church Newsletter — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor, *Baptist and Reflector*

- Church History: How to find it, record it, preserve it, celebrate it — Steve Barber, archivist, Union University

- Why Have a Public Relations Committee in your Church? — Larry Murphy, associate pastor and minister of education, Englewood Church

- Photography Can Help Your Church — Bob Arnold, Bob Arnold Photography

Registration for the seminar is \$15 and includes lunch served at the church. For additional information, contact Owen at (615) 371-2015.

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Idolatry led by Israel's kings

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

During the 41 years the southern kingdom of Judah was enjoying the righteous rule of King Asa, six wicked kings ruled the northern kingdom of Israel. The last of the six continued to rule after Asa's death. In the midst of the idolatrous worship of Israel led by Israel's kings, God still continued to call them "my people," (ch. 16:2). We cannot help marveling at the long-suffering of God.



BROWN

It would be good for us to recall that Jeroboam had two sons, Abijah and Nadab. Abijah died after a severe illness, as predicted by the prophet Ahijah. Jeroboam died after reigning as king of Israel for 22 years and his only remaining son, Nadab, "reigned in his

stead." During the two years of his reign Nadab seemed to accomplish nothing worthy of being noted except that "he did evil in the sight of the Lord." Nadab was assassinated while laying siege to the Philistine city of Gibbethon (v. 27). The assassin was Baasha, one of Nadab's soldiers.

We note the providential ways of God in II Kings 16:2. From the human side Baasha appeared to take the kingdom by his own force. In this verse we are told God "exalted" Baasha over Israel (v. 2). Daniel 5:21 tells us "the most high God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone He wishes," (NIV). James Gray in the Christian Worker's Commentary makes the observation that "although God had decreed the death of Jeroboam's house, He had not authorized Baasha as his executive, and hence the latter is punished for murder," (v. 7). Baasha reigned 24

years, but he too "walked in the sins of Jeroboam."

Elah, son of Baasha reigned two years. He was assassinated while he was drunk, by Zimri, the commander of half his chariots.

BIBLE BOOK

September 8 Lesson

Basic Passage: I Kings 15:25-16:34

Zimri reigned just long enough to fulfill the words of the prophet Jehu (vv. 2-3). He exterminated the Baasha dynasty. When word reached the Israelite army once again encamped at Gibbethon that Zimri had killed the king and all his house, the troops proclaimed their commander, Omri, as king. Zimri saw the situation was hopeless and to avoid public humiliation, he went into the palace, set the king's house on fire, and died in the flames. His reign lasted only seven

days.

Omri reigned 12 years after subduing a rival to the throne. He held the distinction of being "wicked above all who had been before him" and setting up Samaria as the new capital city. Omri died and was succeeded by his son Ahab.

Ahab came to be one of the most infamous of Israel's kings. Ahab married Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon (Phoenicia). An ardent devotee of Baal worship, from the start Jezebel seems to have determined to destroy the worship of Jehovah in Israel. Under her devilish influence, Ahab was the climax of the wickedness and constant decline in the kingdom of Israel (ch. 16:33).

People in the United States of America are closer to worship of tangible idols than they have ever been in our nation's history. As spiritual darkness has moved in by degrees, our Christian citizenry has largely condoned it. What will it take for us to wake up and intercede for spiritual reform?

Barnabas and Saul

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

As in most great dramas played before us on the stage of life, major actors often overshadow the roles of somewhat minor characters. Paul (formerly Saul of Tarsus) with his life-changing conversion experience on the road to Damascus and his ministry to the Gentiles certainly played the lead role. However, the work of others such as Ananias, Silas, Barnabas, and John Mark cannot be minimized or overlooked. No doubt Paul's work was enhanced by those who played supporting roles.



WILLIAMS

Barnabas was such a character. His friendship with Paul should encourage each of us to do all we can to support, work, and further the cause of Christ. We do not see any written record of Barnabas after Acts 15:36-41. But rest

assured that the story would not be complete without the Saul/Barnabas relationship.

Barnabas first appears in Acts 4:36-37. The infant Christian community was struggling financially in Jerusalem. The name Barnabas was actually a "nickname" for Joseph, a Jew born in Cyprus who sold a piece of land and donated the money to the church. Hence, even today, persons who display a friendly, generous spirit with the gifts of exhortation and consolation are referred to as a "Barnabas."

We first see Saul encountering Barnabas in Jerusalem. Paul (Saul), following his conversion, began to aggressively proclaim Christ as the Son of God (ch. 9:20). Folks were amazed that this was the same man who came from Jerusalem as a persecutor of the church (v. 21). What a testimony to the life-changing power of the resurrected Jesus!

Saul barely escaped with his life for

he had angered Jews in Damascus as his message gained strength (vv. 22-25). As Saul fled back to Jerusalem, it would prove to be a suspicious encounter at best.

Saul sought to join the disciples. Understandably, they were afraid of him considering his previous reputation (v. 26). Perhaps they feared he was a spy faking commitment to Christ to infiltrate their ranks. But it was Barnabas who brought Saul to them, giving testimony to Saul's conversion and his witnessing efforts in Damascus (v. 27). From then on Saul was able to move freely about the group without their suspicion (v. 28).

Perhaps, taking Stephen's place as a witness to the Hellenistics (Greek-speaking Jews), Saul was in danger of attack from those who had stoned Stephen (v. 29). His fellow Christians helped Saul escape, first to Caesarea, then to his hometown of Tarsus, an outpost of Rome for more than 100 years (v. 30). In Tarsus, Saul engaged in aggressive evangelism, reports of which reached Judean churches (Galatians 1:23).

Predominantly Hellenistic Jews were scattered to Phenice, Cyprus, and

Syrian Antioch because of Stephen's death. These early Christians were preaching to Jews only (ch. 11:19). The Gospel was preached and many were added to the church (vv. 20-21). Barnabas received word of the efforts in Antioch and was sent there by the church in Jerusalem (v. 22). Before departing for Tarsus to meet Saul, Barnabas, being an encourager, exhorted them to "cleave unto the Lord" (v. 24).

CONVENTION UNIFORM

September 8 Lesson

Basic Passage: Acts 9:26-30; 11:19-30, 12:25

Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch and worked for a year. How significant that the disciples were first called "Christians" at Antioch (v. 26).

We see in Acts 11:27-28 where Agabus visited Antioch with a special revelation from God. He told of a coming famine which did, indeed, occur in A.D. 41-54. The church at Antioch took a special offering which was taken to the Jerusalem church by Saul and Barnabas (vv. 29-30). What a role model for all New Testament churches!

Pray in this way

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

The passage we study today is part of the Sermon on the Mount, and was probably delivered by Jesus about mid-way through his ministry. The message was designed to help people understand how to live the Christian life. Our focal passage deals with prayer.



COOPER

Jesus spoke plainly and openly about prayer (ch. 6:7-8). He said when you pray, don't babble like the pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Jesus reminded us our Father knows what we need before we ask him.

This passage has come to mean a great deal to me over the years as I have become more involved in

discipleship. When Jesus told us not to imitate those who babble like pagans, He was saying to be careful how we pray. Sometimes when folks pray in public, they are really trying to get a point across to certain listeners. If we pray for the public praise of others, we receive our reward, not from God, but from men... those to whom we are truly praying. Jesus cautioned against this type of prayer. Sincerity is imperative in prayer.

Jesus taught the proper attitude and emotion in prayer in verses 9-13. He told us to pray, "Our Father," which denotes an intimate relationship between a father and his children. I believe that means, my heavenly Father is a friend, who understands me, who hears me, and who wants the best for me.

The phrase "which art in heaven" tells us who God is, where He is, and that He is the one true God. God is

present in all of time and space. We are to approach God in prayer with awe and reverence. When we say, "Hallowed is thy name," we understand God's name is to be held as holy, not to be taken for granted or used flippantly.

We are told to pray, "thy kingdom come." Jesus spoke of the kingdom in terms of God's part of our human hearts, as well as the end of the age. God's kingdom is present and future.

LIFE AND WORK

September 8 Lesson

Basic Passage: Matthew 6:1, 5-15

Then Jesus said, "may God's will be done in earth as it is in heaven." Our mission as Christians is to lead others to know Jesus as personal Savior that the kingdom of God might become a reality in people's hearts and minds.

The request "give us our daily bread" refers to prayer for life's necessities.

Jesus also instructed us to ask him to forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. We are to be forgiving people.

Jesus tells us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever." God does not tempt us to do evil. God does test us, though, to make sure what we are doing is genuine. Satan tempts us as we allow it, but all that Satan does to us eventually proves to be false.

Jesus concluded his model prayer by saying, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. If you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Forgiveness is very important to the Christian. We must not only be willing to forgive, we must realize forgiveness is not between two people. God judges the sincerity of our forgiveness.

Christ's followers are to be forgiving people. It is easier to carry grudges than to forgive. This kind of behavior can destroy our ability to minister and witness to others.

Jesus' model prayer teaches us to be very honest with God. We must be willing to forgive others when we ask God to forgive us.

TenneScene

... Starting at Elora, up to Allisona,
on to Orlinda ...

People ...

James Sauceman, a member of Brown Springs Church, Mosheim, recently announced his calling into the Gospel ministry. He preached his first sermon at Brown Springs. Sauceman is a Greene County schoolteacher and graduated from Tusculum College, Greeneville.

Ordinations ...

Central Heights Church, Dandridge, ordained **Jim Smith** as deacon Aug. 11.

Kelly Sorrell was recently ordained to the deacon ministry of Highland Park Church, Jackson.

Kim Sam was recently ordained and installed as pastor of the Cambodian ministry of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

Leadership ...

Thomas B. Guinn has accepted the interim pastorate of Avondale Church, Chattanooga. He served as pastor of churches in Texas for 35 years before returning to Tennessee.

Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet, recently called two bivocational staff members. **Jim Coe** is the new minister of education. This is his first ministerial position. **Ken Morrell** formerly of Neely's Bend Church, Madison, is the new minister of music.

Calvary Church, Parsons, called **Paul Wallace** as director of music and youth. The Union University graduate was director of music and youth at First Church, Michie.

Jeff Jones is the new minister of youth and children at First Church, Martin.

Associate Pastor **Larry Robertson** recently resigned the Hopewell Church, Savannah, staff to accept the pastorate of Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, Miss. His new address is Rt. 4, Box 380, Poplarville, MS 39470.

Three Tennesseans graduate from NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS - Three students with Tennessee ties recently graduated from New Orleans

(La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Timothy B. Crosby, **Heman McDade**, and **Joel C. Tilson** received master of divinity degrees.

Crosby, pastor of Lucien Church,

Brookhaven, Miss., is the son of Mrs. Evelyn Knight of Bell Buckle.

McDade, whose home church is Bayside Church in Harrison, is married to the former Linda Davis of Harrison.

Tilson, minister of music and youth at Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia, Miss., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Tilson of Maryville. His home church is Piney Grove in Maryville. Tilson is married to the former Lu Anne Borden of Sweetwater.

New Orleans Seminary did not provide photos for McDade or Tilson.



CROSBY

Chantel Messer has been called to Westwood Church, Cleveland, as director of preschool ministries. **Keith Goforth** is the new intern in the singles ministry.

Stephen Hodges recently joined the staff of Central Church, Oak Ridge, as associate pastor: singles/counseling.

Sammy Tillman, Ripley, has been called as minister of music, youth, and children at Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville.

Missions ...

ALPHA Association sent a six-member team to Fairview Church, Detroit, this summer in support of the Tennessee/Michigan partnership. The Tennesseans helped their partners lead backyard Bible clubs. Team members were **David Watts**, pastor, First Church, Centerville; **Carol Gilmer**, Fairfield Church, Centerville; and **Sharri Donegan**, **Angela Davis**, **Alyssa Cannon**, and **Debbie Farley**, all from Wrigley Church, Lyles.

The youth of First Church, Goodlettsville, recently volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, Nashville. Led by Minister of Youth **Ken Allman**, they compared yard and office work.

A volunteer mission team from Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, traveled to Grand Forks, N.D., in August to work with Catoosa County Association.

Missionaries to Liberia **Bradley** and **Carolyn Brown** are in the states and may be addressed at 925 W. Skyline Drive, Morristown, TN 37813.

C. F. and Polly Clark, missionaries to Japan since 1953, have retired from active missionary service. They served at the Japan Baptist Hospital in Kyoto, where he was a pediatrician and she was a nursing instructor. He was born in Cleveland and lived in Covington, Chattanooga, and Nashville. They may be written to at 202 Wicklow Road, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27106

Missionaries to Malawi **Gary** and **Carolyn Swafford** are on the field and may be written to at Box 361, Blantyre, Malawi. He grew up in Winchester.

Churches ...

Homecoming will be celebrated Sept. 8 at First Church, Ridgetop. A luncheon will follow the morning worship service.

Cumberland Drive Church, Clarksville, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 8. A covered-dish meal will be held in the church's picnic area. The theme is "Sharing Our Talents for God."

Members of **Northside Church, Chattanooga**, will celebrate the church's 65th anniversary and homecoming Sept. 8. **Paul Forgey** will be guest speaker and former Music Director **David Fowler** will lead music.

The congregation of **First Church, Paris**, recently celebrated the church's 158th anniversary.

Homecoming will be held Sept. 8 at **Island Home Church, Knoxville**.

The date for homecoming at **First Church, Old Hickory**, has been changed to Sept. 8.

A single parents Bible study will begin Sept. 8 at **First Church, Nashville**. The class will begin at 9 a.m. Other programs for single adults include divorce recovery workshops and support groups, loss recovery support groups, and other Bible study and social activities.

Members of **Rogers Creek Church, Athens**, recently celebrated the church's 150th anniversary. **Bill Bates**, Tennessee Baptist Convention president, delivered the message.

Homecoming will be held Sept. 8 at **Huron Church, Huron**.

Members of **Sand Springs Church, Sand Springs**, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 8.

The congregation of **Silver Point Church, Silver Point**, observed the church's 16th anniversary Aug. 25.

Luncheon and singing will highlight the homecoming celebration Sept. 8 at **Dodson's Branch Church, Cookeville**.

Members of **First Church, Tracy City**, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 8. **Merrill Aldridge**, former pastor, will be the morning speaker. The theme is, "1991: The Year of Preparation for Century II." In 1992, First Church will be 100 years old. Dinner and fellowship will follow the service.

First Church, Gatlinburg, will dedicate its new building on Sept. 15, 11 a.m. The church will have open house for members and the community from 2 to 4 p.m., including laying of the cornerstone. **Marvin Cameron** is pastor.

Revivals ...

Joe Jernigan will lead revival Sept. 22-25 at **First Church, Monterey**.

First Church, Old Hickory, will hold revival services Sept. 22-25 with **Tim**



FINE TUNED MINISTRY — **Charles Wilson** of Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, tunes a piano at Wildwood Church in Buchanan, Mich. Wilson, a semi-retired piano tuner, has donated his time and efforts over the past three years to travel to Michigan to assist churches. In June, Wilson and his wife, **Joyce**, tuned 35 pianos in churches and missions throughout the state.

Floyd, pastor of **First Church, Columbia**.

Revival will be held Sept. 15-18 at **Antioch Church, Brownsville**. **Adrian Knipper** will be evangelist, and **Marvin Russell** will lead music.

Jesse Newton will speak at revival Sept. 15-18 at **Harmony Church, Whiteville**.

Whorton Springs Church, Smithville, will hold revival Sept. 22-29. **Mark Stinnett**, pastor of **Prosperity Church, Auburntown**, will lead the services.

Revival will be held Sept. 8-11 at **First Church, Goodlettsville**. **Henry Linginfelter** will be evangelist and **Pat Roper** will lead music.

A revival is being held this week at **First Church, Englewood**. Evangelist **Benny Jackson** is leading the services which conclude Sept. 5.

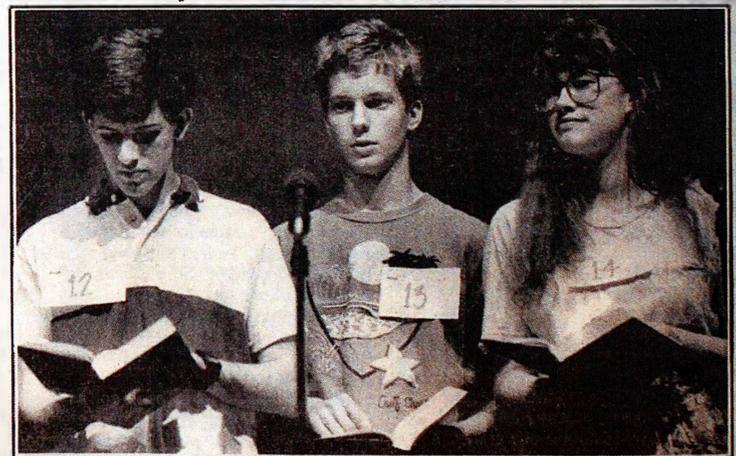
King accepts call from Lakeview Church

Harold King began duties Aug. 4 as pastor of **Lakeview Church in Selmer**.

King has also served as pastor of **Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro**, and **First Church, Collinwood**.

A native of Alabama, King has attended **Belmont College, Nashville**.

King and his wife, **Carol**, have three children.



TENNESSEAN AT RIDGECREST — **Bridget Diggs**, right, of **Southside Church, Pinson**, participated in a Youth Bible Drill demonstration recently at **Ridgcrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center** where she was invited to attend **Discipleship Training Week** sponsored by the **Southern Baptist Sunday School Board**. Diggs was the state Bible drill winner from Tennessee. Shown with her are **Keith Sheritan**, left, **Florida**, and **Chris Wallace**, of **Mississippi**.