

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 157/NO. 37/SEPTEMBER 11, 1991

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

\$27.3 million budget proposed by TBC Executive Board

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board members approved a \$27.3 million budget for 1991-92, elected a new director for the TBC Protection Plans Department, and finalized an agreement with Baptist Hospital of Nashville.

These actions, along with others, took place during the Board's Sept. 6 meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

The new budget of \$27,333,817, which must be approved by messengers to the annual meeting of the TBC, Nov. 19-20 in Memphis, is a two percent or \$535,957 increase over the current budget.

A preferred item, Expanded Annuity program for Tennessee Baptist ministers and staff, was continued and is a part of the total goal. The \$1,188,479 is the same as the 1990-91 allocation.

Cooperative Program receipts will be distributed 65.4 percent through the Tennessee Baptist Convention and 34.6 percent through the Southern Baptist Convention.

The distribution total includes a one-time adjustment of 2.9 percent from the SBC distribution to implement equalization of funding for the three TBC colleges. This action was ap-

proved by the Board in its May meeting.

The present budget is distributed on a 62.5 percent basis for the TBC while the SBC portion is 37.5 percent.

Board members later approved a plan which would work toward adding the 2.9 percent back to the SBC portion of the budget.

Budget and Program Committee chairman Larry Gilmore of Gallatin noted the equalization of funds fulfills a promise made to the colleges five years ago.

Rickman elected

Chattanooga pastor Gary Rickman of Ridgeview Church was unanimously elected to serve as director of the Protection Plans Department.

Rickman replaces Vern Powers, who retired from the position last December and who has been serving on a part-time basis.

Leonard Markham, of Hendersonville, chairman of the committee which recommended Rickman, noted the committee received 33 resumes and interviewed nine candidates.

Rickman, whose father is a retired Tennessee Baptist pastor, is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

He has been pastor of Burt Church in Woodbury and Powell's Chapel Church in Murfreesboro. He also held a pastorate in North Carolina while attending seminary.

Rickman's wife, Joyce, is presently



FELLOWSHIP TIME — Tennessee pastors visit prior to the Sept. 6 Executive Board meeting. From left, Doug Baker, Bolivar; David Crocker, Johnson City; and John Compton, Mt. Carmel.

BSU director at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. They have two children.

Rickman will assume his new post on Oct. 1, with a salary and housing package of \$41,500 plus benefits.

Agreement approved

The agreement with Baptist Hospital is essentially the one approved by the Executive Board in May with some adjustments.

Raymond Boston of Dyersburg, chairman of the Christian Services Committee, noted the ten-point agreement approved in May was expanded and "is stronger in its language and aspect of legal ramifications."

The agreement stipulates that if the hospital corporation were to dissolve, the property would be conveyed or distributed to the TBC Executive Board.

Board members approved the document with six dissenting votes.

The agreement becomes effective upon approval of messengers at the TBC meeting in November.

In other actions, Board members approved several recommendations from standing committees.

Abortion study committee

The abortion issue study committee, chaired by Anne Nolan of Signal Mountain — See \$27.3 million, page 5

Tennessee volunteers aid evangelism effort

Twenty-six Tennessee Baptist volunteers went to Chile recently for an evangelism campaign as a forerunner of the upcoming Tennessee-Chile Partnership Mission. That partnership begins next January.

The team was led by Clarence Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Convention director of partnership missions; and Jarvis Hearn, TBC telecommunications director. Team members worked in the nation's southern, or Austral, region.

More than 270 professions of faith were recorded, along with 315 recommitted lives. One person surrendered to Christian ministry.

Archie Jones, veteran Southern Baptist missionary stationed in Puerto Varas, said the campaign was "one of the best South Austral has ever had."

Most of the 11 teams participated in press conferences and met with mayors of the cities where they served.

A report from missionary Caroline Jones and photos by Jarvis Hearn appear on page 7.

Belmont marks move to university status

By Mona Collett

NASHVILLE — Marking the first milestone in the life of Belmont University, fall convocation on Sept. 4 presented an opportunity to reflect on the past, look at the present, and anticipate the future.

A dignified interpretation of the institution's past was delivered by Herbert C. Gabhart, president of Belmont from 1959 to 1982. "Old men dream dreams," he said, "and young men see visions." Commending the school's present leadership, the chancellor recognized many changes in the physical grounds. Functional, modern, high-tech new and renovated buildings are used in place of dilapidated, and in one memorable instance, burned, buildings. One building, Freeman Hall, has been a part of the historic campus for 100 years. Built in 1890, Freeman adjoins The Massey Business Center, which opened in 1990. Gabhart pointed out that while the physical campus serves as a reminder of the institution's rich

history, the heart of Belmont is the people.

Sara Beth McPherson and Rusty Jackson spoke about Belmont's present from students' perspectives. A 1990 Presidential Scholar, McPherson is the daughter of James and Carolyn McPherson of Clinton. Her father is pastor of Second Church. A sophomore biology major, she will spend the next three years not only in academic preparation, but also in spiritual growth. She expressed appreciation for an environment that encourages groups of students to get together for Bible study without fear of ridicule from fellow students, as might be the case at a secular university.

The son of Gail and Ron Jackson of Nashville, Rusty Jackson is a member of Two Rivers Church. The sophomore psychology major told his fellow students and other chapel attendees that he will not be able to play baseball after an operation on his arm. Still emotional from the news, he said he came to Belmont on a baseball scholarship. The current president of the campus chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes acknowledged that his affiliation with that organization, as well as the support of other close Belmont friendships, have helped him through his disappointments.

Encouraging Belmont students in

their "thirst to find the truth ... and thirst to find eternal life."

D. L. Lowrie told students why the Tennessee Baptist Convention contributes to their education. "We believe in you ... what you will be in the future," said TBC executive — See Belmont, page 5

Final push needed for state CP giving

Total Cooperative Program gifts for the month of August through Tennessee Baptist Convention churches amounted to \$1,954,991.07, some \$316,500 less than August 1990.

According to the CP report released by D. L. Lowrie, executive director-treasurer, CP budget gifts for the year thus far amount to \$19,928,535.31. Through August 1990, gifts amounted to \$21,028,854.95 — a loss of more than \$1.1 million for the 1991 budget.

Budget requirements for the first ten months are \$22,331,550 and CP giving from the churches is \$2,403,024.69 short of that — or a deficit of 10.76 percent — for all gifts.

There are two more months in the current budget — September and October.

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Historical * 127
* Mission, SBC COMMISSION
* 201 Commerce St Suite 400
* NASHVILLE TN 37203

Editorials

The world for Christ — more than normal efforts

Living in one of time's greatest moments, Southern Baptists stand on the threshold of a giant step forward, a leap toward the goal. Victory is within our grasp.

What Southern Baptists cannot do — or would not do — God is able to achieve. Could it be that God has seized the day and that we can be actors in the most decisive drama of all time?

Bold Mission Thrust is perhaps the most amazing effort ever made in the battle for souls. When planned and approved, it called for telling every person in the world about Jesus Christ by the year 2000. It seemed we had "all the time in the world" to accomplish that task. It was worthy, a goal reachable though monumental.

The goal of reaching the entire world for Christ is admirable, and it deserved unstinting effort, the highest commitment, the strongest loyalty. But we frittered away the years.

Some funny things happened to us on the way to the battlefield. We sent out scouts to survey the dangers of sin, and engaged in some fitful skirmishes. Now and then we scored some early victories.

And then Baptists decided we could do it by ourselves. We determined we could do it without help from others — if only God was with us. That is possible, of course, but we even wandered from God.

The strife has lasted for twelve years — and may be easing, but no one really knows. Baptists have virtually wasted a precious decade. We have barely held our pace while millions more lost people come into the world each year.

How many people are affected? Writing in *Open Windows*' devotional thought for Sept. 5, Lucien Coleman Jr., says there were about 300 million people alive when Jesus gave the Great Commission.

A thousand years later, he says, there were approximately 202 million non-Christians on earth. Now there are more than a billion unsaved people. Yes, the urgency of Bold Mission Thrust, truly a

mission born from prayer, is more evident than ever.

At a time when our best efforts, our very strongest commitments should have been made — we have inched along at a snail's pace. Because we have not been centered on the original goal of sharing Christ with everyone by 2000, summer is almost past.

But all is not gloom and doom. Good reports are coming from all around the world. God's Spirit is moving in places where He has been fettered for decades. Christians are stepping up to wage all-out war against Satan. God is opening doors.

The Soviet Union is dissolving before our eyes. People who are fifty or sixty have lived with the ogre of communism threatening the free world for several decades. We have always thought, "We could do this, we could do that — but what about the Soviet Union?"

No more can we use that for an excuse.

The Foreign Mission Board already has felt the breath of God's Spirit blowing through the open doors of Europe and Asia. As communism wheezes its last gasps — God offers the world a great opportunity. Will it be our last chance to tell the world about Christ by 2000? What enormous love God has for lost people! Do we share it?

Item: The Bible Society in Moscow distributed more than 6000 New Testaments to Soviet soldiers during the recent coup attempt in the Soviet Union. Did God's Word strike a decisive blow that flung open the door to freedom? Will we follow God's Spirit through that door?

Item: The Foreign Mission Board has sounded the signal for the first "Green Alert" to seize mission opportunities on the stage of social upheaval. Only God takes advantage of such uncertainty — for good. All other forces move in like scavengers to destroy everything.

Green Alert, say FMB leaders, demands more than normal procedures. Did we hear that — demands more than normal procedures. Beginning with the fall of the Berlin Wall two years ago and

continuing through the Gulf War, the board has used "more than normal procedures."

And now the first Green Alert has sounded in the Soviet Union situation. FMB President Keith Parks says the board's procedures are planned, well thought through. He says Southern Baptists now have the structure to "go in" to the situation — and make a lasting impression for Christ.

Item: Harold Bennett, SBC Executive Committee president, in reporting on Bold Mission Thrust for 1985-90, says 1.7 million people have been baptized in that period — and the percentage of increase was up by almost ten percent last year.

He reports that 2188 new churches were started, along with 5981 new church-type missions. The goal was 5000 new churches.

We are also short of our Bible study enrollment goal, though the report was good. The goal for home and foreign missionaries was 7660 by September 1990 — and the actual figure was 8436.

But it must be acknowledged that pastors and missionaries, WMU workers, and BSU workers alone cannot win the world for Christ. Bennett reported that the 1985-90 goal for short-term mission volunteers was 200,000. Baptists shattered that goal — by 82,097. Tennesseans serving in Venezuela, the Philippines, and elsewhere helped substantially.

Now comes the clincher. What are we going to do now that God has given us another opportunity by opening the door wider — jerking it off the hinges?

As noble and necessary as are pastors and teachers, and all the paid denominational people — God needs every Christian actively pursuing a lifestyle of witnessing. And that witness needs to be expressed by speaking — a kind of spiritual resuscitation. Living as an obedient servant means more than simply being a good neighbor.

Tell the good news! Don't be afraid. Speak the salvation message to everyone you know — and to those you don't know. Did it ever occur to us that God puts people beside us and in front of us and all around us — in all kinds of situations — so that they may hear the Gospel?—WFA

SBC, WMU success based on operating in '90s style

By Susan Todd Doyle
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptists in general and Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in particular must begin operating in a '90s style, not a '50s style, in order to survive, said a leading researcher.

"We find ourselves an aging denomination of aging churches with an aging constituency operating from a set of paradigms that are largely irrelevant to ministry in the '90s," said Carol S. Childress, research and program information consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"It's not that the Gospel is irrelevant. It's that the method is irrelevant," she said.

Paradigms are mental filters or parameters within an organization such as WMU sees the world and then operates, according to Childress.

"In times of rapid changes — the kind we are in now — you can't predict the future simply based on the paradigms of the past," she said.

Childress recently researched "paradigm shifts" within WMU for the organization's top leadership to use in planning.

"One of the common perceptions about WMU is that you are a declining organization — not reaching younger women," she said. "When you look at the data, actually the reverse is true."

Baptist Young Women, the missions organization for Baptist women ages 18-34, has steadily increased in enrollment since the organization's creation in 1971.

Another misperception centers on the total enrollment of WMU. While WMU total enrollment declined in 1990 by 4476 members, a look at membership over the last 40 years shows the organization's upward trend exactly parallels increases in the Southern Baptist Convention and the nation's population.

"Demography is destiny," Childress said as she explained the losses and gains. "WMU organizations are merely a reflection of who is in the churches. The churches are a reflection of our population."

A closer look at the population reveals:

- Southern Baptists born between 1915 and 1930 have traditionally been "the strongest givers, the strongest proponents of organized religion, the strongest proponents of missions, and have provided a solid base of support both in membership and in giving," she said.

Organizations such as WMU must brace for the loss of these members' influence during the next decade as they die or become unable to be as active as they have been, she said.

- Following them, the group which was born between 1930 and 1940 also will have a marked impact on WMU. The lowest birth rate to occur in the nation from 1915 to 1974 happened between 1930 and 1940. Therefore, fewer people are following the 1915-30 group to take up their role in mission support.

- Baby boomers have a different attitude toward church from that which

their parents had.

"The era of loyalty to denomination-oriented, program-driven churches is waning," Childress said. "It's not that the denomination is not important. What's more important to young adults is 'Where can I go to get my needs met?'"

Churches reaching the young adult of today must respond to their spiritual needs and provide quality religious education for their children, but in a different way from the church of the 1950s, Childress said.

Some of the factors WMU leaders must remember as they reach out to this group are most women in this age

range work; they are not readers, but rely on video for information; and they are looking for programs relevant to their lives, she said.

But the future cannot be viewed based on the successes of the past, she cautioned. Childress cited examples of things WMU must do to continue to be a viable and growing organization. Two of them are: retaining the members now in WMU and continuing to involve members in each age-level organization as they grow older.

Handling change rapidly is probably the most important thing WMU can do to remain viable, she said.

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

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

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Susie Edwards, Administrative Secretary
Mary Nimmo, Production Assistant
Mary Page Coordinator

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

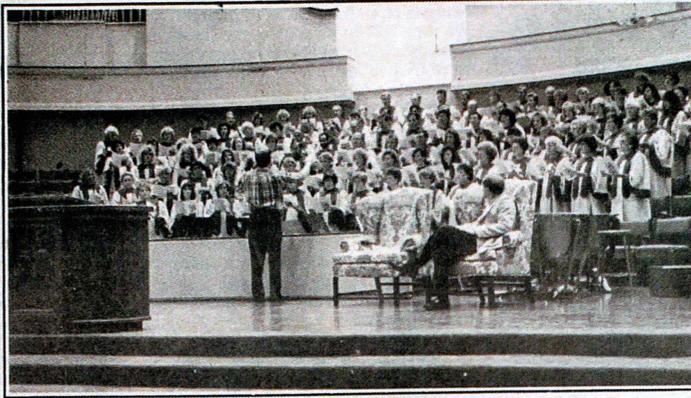
Space forbids printing of resolutions, obituaries, and poetry. Advertising rates on request.

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

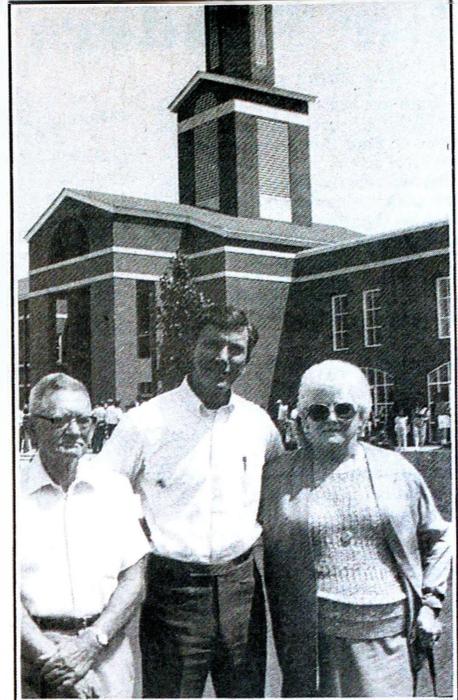
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

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

CHOIR SINGS — With baptismal pool in background, the choir sings praises.



PLANTING LIFE — Representatives of the church helped building committee chairman Bob Moon, second from left, plant a tree on Dedication Sunday.

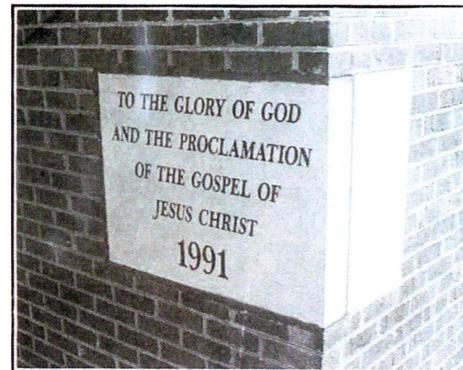


A GREAT DAY — Pastor Glenn Weekley, center, with Robert Huggins, who helped lay cornerstones in 1947 and for the new facility; and Nancy Smithson, charter member.



LUNCHING — The D. L. Lowries and the Glenn Weekleys enjoy fellowship — and box lunches after the morning worship.

'God considered all persons, all things, and selected his Son, Jesus Christ, as the Foundation, the only cornerstone.'
— D. L. Lowrie



Hendersonville walks to new site; facility dedicated

The march down West Main Street, Hendersonville, was five miles. But on that hot July morning, members of First Church felt it was more like a stroll in the park.

The congregation of the 47-year-old church was walking to the new "home." All the furniture had been moved — and though they took with them on July 14 some wonderful memories, church members knew they were moving toward the future.

Seven weeks later, the congregation of First Church, Hendersonville, dedicated a completely new facility — on a new street, Bluegrass Memorial Boulevard.

A series of dedication Sundays in September is underway, each with a different guest speaker. The setting

of the cornerstone for the \$11.6 million, 163,000-square-foot building took place Sept. 1. That morning, Pastor Glenn Weekley told members and guests that 83 persons had joined the church since the July 14 move. An open house followed the morning service and cornerstone laying.

On the first dedication Sunday, D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was the speaker. Lloyd Elder, retired Sunday School Board president and now professor at Belmont University, Nashville, spoke Sept. 8. Others include Jimmy Draper, Sunday School Board president, and Courtney Wilson, pastor emeritus of the church.

During the July 14 service,

Weekley recognized committees instrumental in the planning and relocation, including building and preparation.

Bob Moon was building committee chairman. L. H. Hardaway Jr., general contractor for the project, also is a church member. Other committee chairmen were John Lasater, days of remembrance; Ray Maddux, transition; and Pat Cassette, on-site preparation. Andrea Moore was co-chairman of the building committee.

Moon said the building committee served for three years of planning, with 70 committee meetings and 15 months of actual construction.

Nancy Smithson of Orlinda was recognized as one of two remaining charter members.

After lunch, the cornerstone was laid at the front of the sanctuary. Herbert Gabhart, president emeritus of Belmont University and former interim pastor, gave the invocation. The stone, containing memorabilia from church life including some from the former building, was laid by Robert Huggins, who helped lay the first building cornerstone in 1947; Mike Shelton; and Paul Craig.

The facility includes a 63,000-square-foot sanctuary/administration building, a 63,000-square-foot education building, and a 37,000-square-foot family life center.

Even with the new facility, the 4000-member church has two Sunday School sessions and plans a second morning worship hour.

Our Readers Write

My home church

I wrote this honoring our pastor, Jim Best, at First Church, Greeneville. Down on Main Street at my home church

us Baptists meet to pray and listen to the preacher preach the word who is the BEST we could find. No one else cares so much loving always, on our minds.

Touching lives with what we have, money and giving of our time.

N. Jean Simms
P.O. Box 1374
Greeneville 37744

Advocates reading

The Baptist and Reflector should be read by all Tennessee Baptists so they may know about the activities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

I have been a reader for more than 50 years. Every church where I have been pastor has put the paper in its budget for all members - I have insisted on it.

The first church I pastored in 1935 put the paper in the budget and it is still included today.

We have many papers in the Southern Baptist Convention. However, if I could have only one, I would have the Tennessee paper, the Baptist and Reflector.

Clarence H. Petty
2507 Goforth Lane
Chattanooga 37421

HMB taps Tennessean

ATLANTA - Tennessee native Hannah Holtzclaw was appointed as a US-2 missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in August.

A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who works in home missions for two years.

A graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College, Holtzclaw will serve in Myrtle Beach, S.C., as a resort worker. A native of Kingsport, her home church is First Church. Holtzclaw served as a summer missionary in Kingsport in 1986 and in Sacramento, Calif., in 1988. She intends to pursue a full-time career in missions after her US-2 service.

She is the daughter of Tommy and Sandra Holtzclaw of Kingsport. Holtzclaw is director of missions for Sullivan Association.



HOLTZCLAW

These actions show total disregard for the will of the convention. Both actions constitute a declaration of independence from the convention, and are perhaps the first above board actions of the group.

Blessings unfold

I am Brotherhood director at Beaver Church in Brighton. We recently organized our Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador chapter, and have two strong programs going now.

We had our meeting Aug. 24 and had a most wonderful time. The fellowship was great and I am excited about our program. This is our first time to report - but it won't be the last time!

We also are so pleased with Bo Gross, our Royal Ambassador leader, and the work he is doing with the boys.

Jim Strevel, pastor
82 Melanie
Burlison 38015

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.

Group should leave

Anyone who still believed leaders of the "moderate" group of Southern Baptists intended to be cooperating and participating members of the convention should have been disabused of those illusions on July 29.

Leaders of the "moderate" group declared their intention to establish their own Center for Ethics to compete with the Christian Life Commission. And an independent seminary has been announced for Richmond in which professors won't be required to state they believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God.

These actions show total disregard for the will of the convention. Both actions constitute a declaration of independence from the convention, and are perhaps the first above board actions of the group.

We had been told the problem was with convention leadership and that "moderate" leaders chose to support the Baptist Joint Committee when the convention chose not to do so. We were told the Executive Committee was wrong in dismissing (with an enormous golden

parachute) Baptist Press directors because of an impression of impartiality. We were told these people were hired by Associated Baptist Press because they were treated unfairly - and the issue was never addressed.

The hidden agenda is now revealed as "moderates" disregard convention voting and Christian Life Commission pursuit of ethical issues. Rather than attempting to influence the convention to change the CLC's direction, apparently their objective is to establish a competing organization.

It is time for "moderates" to declare their intentions and to establish a new mainline denomination. The SBC will be more effective.

John W. Lamb, M.D.
Mid-South Medical Center
2010 Church Street
Nashville 37203

• Al Shackelford and Dan Martin of Baptist Press were fired by the SBC Executive Committee on July 17, 1990. Martin moved to North Carolina and worked for ABP part-time for several months and is now a bivocational pastor. Shackelford remained in the Brentwood area, did not work for ABP, and has worked for a Brentwood grocery. — Editor

Student loan fund

The latest report of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation shows that 188 students have been helped by the Good News Bible Class, First Church, Nashville, through its memorial student loan fund.

Assets of the loan fund now total \$208,880. All Tennessee Baptist students may apply for loans from the fund.

For loan information interested students and/or parents may contact Walter Harwood, 6009 Andover Drive, Nashville 37215.

Elbert Walker
342 Jocelyn Hollow Cr.
Nashville 37205

Political parties

I agree in part with our good Christian neighbor, A. C. Lock (Aug. 28) criticizing these highly honored, respected leaders and nation's protectors, Bush, Reagan, and North - SBC speakers. I agree with his right to protest - but restricting these courageous patriotic messages, so well received by the convention, would be reprehensible.

I agree that his request to invite next year Al Gore, Dick Gephardt, Jimmy Carter, and Jesse Jackson be considered. His loyalty to the liberal democratic party is undoubtedly sincere. It could be refreshing, enlightening, and revealing. Gore could explain his quick-switching vote strategy and the real reason for presidential race withdrawal. Gephardt could relate his fund-withholding action while our nation was at war. Jackson could explicate his "tax unto death," cradle to coffin, welfare for all plan. Carter might reveal his "what he knew and when he knew it" about British "BCCI" scam.

Maybe we should set aside this suggestion. It could set a precedent or political pattern analogous to the ultra-liberal's 12-year struggle to regain control of SBC, as evidenced by the dissident's latest - organizations called Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Cooperative?

W. T. Barner
3655 Rhodes #4
Memphis, 38111



Week of Prayer for State Missions

Goal: \$1,000,000

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

I have spent much of my time thinking and talking about the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its institutions in recent months. I have been confronted with much anger over action taken by one institution and many questions about the future of our other institutions. Let me share some very personal impressions



LOWRIE

with you.

First, the relationship between our convention and our institutions is healthy. Tensions will develop from time to time in this kind of relationship, but that is normal.

Second, our trustee system is still the best system for us. It has certain risks in it, but it has more strengths. Our trustee system has produced institutions for which all of us have gratitude. We must continue to elect and trust our trustees.

Third, lawyers and legal documents cannot and should not be expected to secure the relationship between the convention and its institutions. Character and mutual trust must be our security. If we cannot maintain a healthy relationship with the institution in this context, no legal restriction we will place on them will do it. If we do not have character enough to work together in mutual trust, then everything, including our convention itself is in jeopardy. If the Gospel we preach is not producing such character in the local churches from which our leaders and trustees come, then we need to check the validity of our Gospel. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ does produce "new persons" and Godly character.

These are a few personal thoughts that have a place in my heart. What do you think? Did not our Lord say, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciple, if ye have love one to another"? Does not this love include "trust" and "mutual respect"?

'Let me introduce my brothers — and father'

Emerson Wiles, pastor of First Church, Fayetteville, has two brothers who also are pastors - one in Texas and the other in Virginia.

This summer the Wiles clan planned a vacation in Florida. A sister and her family from Birmingham, and the parents - would join the other three families at Navarre Beach. The 18 family members were anticipating a great week together.

Let Emerson Wiles tell the "rest of the story."

"We knew that while at the beach we would celebrate Dad's 70th birthday. I located a church in Navarre Beach.

"I called the pastor, Guy Kellum, whom none of us knew. I told him I was a Baptist preacher - and that my brothers Dennis and Tommy were also. I told him we would be in his community on vacation for a week and would visit

his church.

"My dad would be happy if he could hear us preach on his birthday, I told him. I asked him if he agreed - and if he wanted to pray about it.

"Pastor Kellum readily agreed. On Sunday morning I preached and gave an extended invitation. A young lady, who was a first time visitor, walked the aisle to give her heart to Jesus.

"Before my brother Tommy preached that night, the pastor told the congregation that God had been dealing with him all afternoon. He reminded them that revival plans had fallen through. He told the people that he believed God wanted the three Wiles brothers (who were on vacation) to preach a revival at the church - beginning immediately.

"After the worship service that night, he asked us. Tommy and I quickly agreed - but Dennis was hesitant. After

we returned to the hotel, he told us he was tired and hadn't had vacation in four years. In addition to that, he was writing his dissertation for his Ph.D. degree at Southwestern Seminary - and he didn't come on vacation in order to preach.

"The next morning he came to the beach with a shirt that read, 'Open Under New Management.' He told us that while studying the Bible earlier he was reading Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby.

"Blackaby had written that 'if you see God at work, that is his invitation for you to join him.' Dennis told us, 'I'm in this revival.'

"We preached in that revival at Navarre Beach - and the congregation and the Wiles family were blessed. And our Dad was able to hear his sons preach."

\$27.3 million budget proposed by TBC Executive . . .

— Continued from page 1

tain, presented its findings. The committee was approved by the Executive Board in November 1989 and appointed by then Executive Board President Howard Olive of Maryville and Convention President Murray Mathis of Murfreesboro.

The purpose of the committee was to study the abortion issue and bring recommendations to the Executive Board concerning positive steps the Tennessee Baptist Convention can take to confront the issue.

To assist associations and churches in responding more effectively to the wide range of needs for information and resources, the committee recommended the following actions:

- Design and publish a directory of resources which addresses the objective to increase awareness of the issue and to make a directory available to each state director of missions;
- Encourage churches to organize a Christian life committee;
- Encourage churches to conduct age-appropriate sex education classes;
- Encourage the development of workshops addressing the issue;
- Assign an office/officer at the state (TBC) level to maintain objectives;

- Make available a methodology for an abortion issues and human sexuality study committee which can be prosecuted by churches, associations, or other state conventions; and

- That local church members make their school boards aware that the Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49-Part 13 sets forth three different curricula for Family Life Education so that no one curriculum is presented to the discredit of the other two and that the law emphasizes abstinence from sexual relations outside of marriage.

In her report, Nolan concluded that "these recommendations are only a starting point. Each local church is encouraged to establish an appropriate committee, such as a Christian life

committee, or an appropriate contact person to serve as a liaison between the association and/or other churches, to address these and other relevant issues.

"It is our hope and prayer that ministries to the whole person encompassing spiritual, financial, medical, and emotional needs can be accomplished in the true spirit of Christian love and compassion."

The report was approved without opposition and a motion was made to present the report of the committee during the annual meeting of the TBC in November to let messengers know "we're addressing the need and are trying to meet it."

Board members also approved a resolution presented by the committee, commending the ministries of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and Tennessee Baptist hospitals.

The resolution cited the TBCH for "ministry to women and girls in crisis pregnancies and to children and families in adoption programs" and affirmed the hospitals "for their pastoral care and delivery of health care which demonstrates that abortions on demand are not available at these institutions."

Funding study

John Laida of Clarksville presented four recommendations from the Five-year Budget Funding Study Committee which he chaired.

Two of the recommendations approved noted that any new programs presented from the floor of the convention or from the Executive Board be referred to the TBC Executive Board for proper study.

The Board also approved that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee be requested to consider this as a new bylaw of the convention.

Laida defined programs as "anything that would require financial backing."

A third recommendation which was approved with only one dissenting vote set forth a plan on how the 2.9 percent adjusted distribution to the SBC could be restored, based on the percentage growth of the Cooperative Program using the following formula.

If CP giving increases at a six percent rate, the SBC funding would be restored within five years; if it grows at a four percent rate, it would be restored in seven years; and if funding increases at only a two percent rate, it would take 12 years to restore the 2.9 percent to the SBC budget.

The recommendation noted the restoration of the 2.9 percent would be shared by all TBC institutions.

Executive Director D. L. Lowrie



WELCOME — Executive Board President Paul Durham, left, welcomes Gary Rickman to the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention after his unanimous election as director of the Protection Plans Department.

noted the move to restore the 2.9 percent will "be tied to growth of income."

A fourth recommendation from the committee was referred to the Education Commission after extended discussion.

The original recommendation called for the TBC to form a special committee to study and evaluate the present ministry of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour and to bring recommendations to the convention concerning the future role of the school.

HBCA President Bill Palmer said he would be in favor of such a study because it would give the Board a better knowledge and understanding of "what is being accomplished in the

lives of teenagers" who attend the school. Palmer, however, questioned "the validity of this (proposal) coming from the budget planning study committee."

Several board members expressed opinions the matter should be handled by the Education Committee. Don Owens of Lebanon made a substitute motion that the matter be referred back to the Education Committee. The motion was approved.

Charters/bylaws committee

Gary Anderson of Dunlap, chairman of the TBC Institutions' Charters and Bylaws Study Committee, reported the committee had found the charters of the TBC's nine institutions to "be excellent and in order." He noted, however, all the boards of trustees had the authority to change their charters with the exception of Baptist Hospital in Memphis.

In his report, Anderson noted that "recognizing that one may never do on paper what only the Spirit can do, it is necessary to call on the strongest bond known to humans. That is trust," Anderson said.

Noting the committee could find no evidence that any institution wanted to change its charter, the committee recommended that "during the next year all boards of trusts respond to their assigned TBC Executive Board committees with an individual covenant statement expressing their relationship to the Convention."

After some language adjustments, the recommendation was approved without dissent.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be Nov. 18 at Broadmoor Church in Memphis, prior to the TBC annual meeting.

Clower to nominate Moody at SBC

NASHVILLE (BP) — Mississippi comedian Jerry Clower will nominate California pastor Jess Moody for president of the Southern Baptist Convention as the result of a campaign begun by an ad hoc group of Florida pastors.

Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Van Nuys, said he seeks to bring the convention together in what, he termed, may be the "last hope for the Southern Baptist Convention." Moody, 66, was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in 1965 and an unsuccessful candidate for president in 1966.

Moody said he "reluctantly" agreed to be nominated, would not actively pursue the nomination, and would bow out by December if he felt there was not an enthusiastic response to the an-

nouncement.

The ad hoc committee is led by Don Letzring, pastor of Wellwood Church, Tampa, Fla. In letters sent to Baptist leaders in a number of state conventions, Letzring was identified as chairman of the steering committee of "Convention Effort." The letters, sent in July, indicate Moody would be nominated and gave reasons for the effort.

SBC CP giving rises in August

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program unified gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for the month of August were up nearly ten percent compared to last year, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president-treasurer.

The August gifts totaled \$12,165,114 for August compared to last year of \$11,106,229, or a 9.53 percent increase of \$1,058,884. The required basic budget monthly figure is \$11,444,377.

For the 11 months of the SBC fiscal year, Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, the totals are \$129,399,470 compared to the previous year's 11 months of \$128,846,936 or a .43 percent increase.

Designated gifts for August also showed an increase, although just under two percent. August 1991 totals: \$2,284,771 compared to 1990 of \$2,241,089. The year-to-date designated gifts were still under last year, however, with \$122,410,610 compared to 1990 of \$123,153,814.

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

Belmont marks move to university . . .

— Continued from page 1

director-treasurer. He assured students that they were in the prayers of approximately 2900 Baptist churches across the state. Belmont College was founded by the TBC in 1951.

State Senator Douglas Henry read a proclamation signed by Governor Ned McWherter proclaiming Sept. 4-11 as Belmont University Week in Tennessee. The document stated in part that, "Belmont is committed to quality Christian education, emphasizing integrity and high moral values."

Beginning his tenth year as president, William E. Troutt told what is anticipated for the future of Belmont.

"We never intended to be a big place," he revealed. Belmont did not become a university in order to compete with large research universities. "We do intend to be the best teaching university we can be with a focus on individual attention that is unsurpassed anywhere."

Telling them Belmont became a university for her students, the president said, "You deserve the credibility of a university degree." Belmont faculty members teach at Belmont because they feel called, he told the student body. "They choose to be here because the future is here. You are the future," he proclaimed.

Preachers sought for Philippines trip

Preachers are needed in the Philippines.

Clarence Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions director, said an evangelism thrust in the Philippine Islands needs from 10-15 preachers.

The dates are Oct. 24-Nov. 5. "The missionaries and Filipino Baptist leaders already have had a very enthusiastic orientation," Stewart said, "and now we need to respond."

The volunteers will preach in the Greater Manila area on Luzon Island in 25 churches of the Luzon Baptist Convention. Cost for the trip is approximately \$1500.

Interested persons should call the Partnership Mission office, Tennessee Baptist Convention. Stewart's telephone number is (615) 371-2063. More information is available.

Foundation staff seeks to displace 'veil of secrecy'

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
Tennessee Baptist Foundation President Earl H. Wilson believes strongly that the Foundation is the "best kept secret" in Tennessee.

But, he maintains, the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention institution is working hard "to help displace that veil of secrecy."

Wilson, a native of Clinton and a long-time Tennessee pastor, joined the Foundation as president/treasurer in 1983 after 18 years as pastor of City View Church in Knoxville.

At the time Wilson said he felt God opened a door that would allow him to serve the Lord and Tennessee Baptists.

Eight years of service in the post have proven he made the right decision, Wilson maintains.

"At this point in my life, I feel I am where God wants me to be and am doing what He wants me to do," Wilson says.

When asked what is the purpose of the Foundation, Wilson is more than happy to explain.

"The Foundation's primary purpose is not fund-raising, but is to offer services to those who want to strengthen the financial foundations of our TBC and Southern Baptist Convention institutions and missions work," he relates.

The TBC Foundation was established in 1938 with five trust funds totaling \$7062.31. The Foundation now manages 950 trusts with assets exceeding \$40 million.

None of the funds generated from the trusts go directly to the Foundation. "The income from those trusts already has been designated by donors for Christian causes of their choice," Wilson points out.

Wilson observes the Foundation's growth over the years "strengthens my belief" in making sure every Tennessee Baptist is aware of the Foundation and what it does.

He is convinced that if more Tennessee Baptists knew about the institution they would want to use its services which include individual consultations about wills and trusts; investment counseling; and Christian estate planning seminars for Baptist churches, associations, and other groups.

"Time and time again the statement has been made to me, 'Why was I not told about the Foundation before? I didn't know these services were available to me,'" Wilson says.

He notes the key ingredient of the Foundation's services and ministries is "it permits Christian stewards who

have in life supported the Lord's work with their time, talents, and tithes to continue their financial support of our Lord's work and missions year after year until the Lord returns."

To help tell the Foundation's story, the institution has employed three part-time representatives, geographically located across Tennessee.

The field representatives all have a wealth of experience in Tennessee Baptist life. Currently serving are Grant L. Jones of Johnson City, retired pastor and former president of the TBC, east; Carl J. Duck, Nashville, recently retired director of missions for Nashville Association, middle; and Bill Bates, Jackson retired pastor and Union University administrator who is the current TBC president, west.

"These men's primary purpose is to speak in churches, pastors' conferences, senior citizens' meetings, associations, and with individuals to share about the work of the Foundation," Wilson explains.

"We want to let Tennessee Baptists know of the ministries and services available to them without charge," he adds.



ASSISTING TENNESSEE BAPTISTS — The staff of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, headed by Earl H. Wilson, center, is committed to helping Tennessee Baptists plan their wills and the distribution of their estates. Wilson is assisted by Richard Easterly, vice president for administration, and Barbara Cox, administrative assistant.

assistant for the Foundation. She works with wills, trusts, and estates. Cox has been with the Foundation for

scholarships and loans and church building loans. She has been with the Foundation for four years. Sneed, a staff member for three years, serves as secretary to the vice president.

Wilson notes the entire staff is dedicated to the work and ministry of the Foundation, which in turn contributes to the work of other TBC and SBC institutions.

"Next to the joy of preaching and ministering to spiritual needs, there is no greater joy than helping Christian stewards plan their estate so that at death a portion of what God has placed in their hands can continue to support Christian causes they select until the Lord returns," Wilson maintains.

This article is the eighth in a series articles on TBC departments and institutions.

September is Baptist Foundation Month

Another way the Foundation has sought to increase its visibility is through the publication of "Beyond," a quarterly newsletter mailed to more than 5000 people. The newsletter contains informative articles about taxes, charitable trusts, estate planning, and other areas.

Anyone interested in receiving the complimentary newsletter is encouraged to contact the Foundation at 1-(800)-552-4644 or (615) 371-2029, Wilson invites.

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation is managed by 15 trustees who are elected by Tennessee Baptists.

In addition to Wilson and the field representatives, the Foundation has five other staff members.

Richard E. Easterly serves as vice president for administration. Easterly, who has been with the Foundation for five years, is a certified public accountant. He assists in estate planning and makes sure trusts are in accordance with Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations.

Barbara Cox is the administrative five years. She also has worked in other TBC departments and agencies.

Teresa Garrett has the longest tenure of any Foundation staffer — 11 years. An accountant, Garrett handles data processing and trusts.

Also on the staff are Dena Carruth and Bonnie Sneed. Carruth is secretary/bookkeeper for student

An Occasional Word By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Sunday, Sept. 8, was "Grandparents' Day." It seemed to pass with little fanfare. Except for signs in card shops, or if you happened to look at the calendar, you probably did not know about this "day."

I don't know who thought of the concept of "Grandparents' Day." It may have been the owner of a card company, but, nevertheless, I think it's a worthy idea.

I owe so much to "Mom" and "Pop," the only grandparents I had the privilege of knowing. I lived all of my childhood and youth with them. Mom was a wonderful Christian woman. Because my mother worked, Mom and I developed an extra special relationship. I went to her with my problems. Mom was the person who laid the foundation that led to my decision to accept Christ as my personal Savior.

Pop also is special. He worked in construction so he was away a great deal when I was young. But on Sundays, when he should have been resting, he always seemed to find time to play catch.

After his retirement, and Mom's death 13 years ago, our relationship has continued to grow even stronger. He lives in South Carolina, but we stay

in contact almost weekly. He comes to visit if it's not "too hot" or "too cold." And, until just recently there was not much this 76-year-old man couldn't do. Health problems in recent weeks have slowed him down slightly.

Pop is an ordained deacon and he and Mom helped me develop the value system I have today. That's probably why Sept. 8 had special significance for me.

The originator of "Grandparents' Day" had a good idea, but, in reality, any day can be used to remember those people who played an important role in your life.

We don't need a "day" to drop them a note or dial a phone. We should never hesitate to let grandparents, or anyone else who means a great deal to us, know how we feel.

If those grandparents have already passed from this earth, we can reflect on those precious memories and thank God for those individuals.

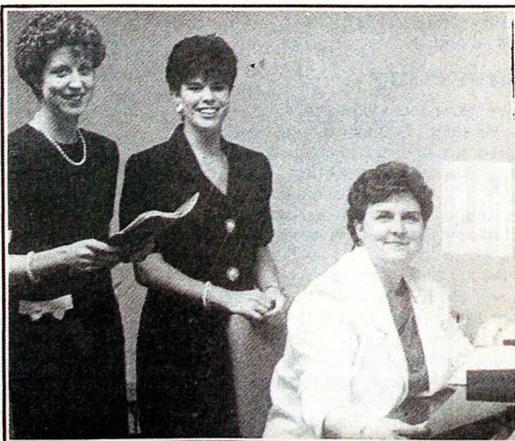
Good Christian grandparents are truly a blessing from God.



WILKEY

DEDICATED STAFF

— The staff of the Foundation includes accountant Teresa Garrett, seated, and secretaries Dena Carruth, left, and Bonnie Sneed.



Team in Chile prepares for '92 partnership

Most of us have heard the Gospel story so many times that it seems commonplace, a bit worn around the edges, and maybe not as shiny as it once was. But that is not the case for Edith Wilhelm, Rita Kretschmar, and Isabel Munoz. For in recent days these three women have been touched so profoundly by the love of Jesus that they have had to respond.

As Clarence Stewart and Raymond Atwood of Tennessee lead a group of 26 volunteers in the preparatory steps toward a trip to Chile to participate in an evangelistic campaign in the Austral Association, Aug. 17-25, the Holy Spirit was at work in the hearts of Edith, Rita, and Isabel. They were being prepared to hear messages preached in English by Charles Earl (DOM, Holston Valley Association) translated into Spanish by missionary Archie Jones and broken down into soul-changing truths by the Spirit of the Living God.

Charles and Christine Earl, along with 24 others, landed in Puerto Montt, Chile, on Aug. 16 after 20 hours of traveling. They were met at the airport by missionaries Archie and Caroline Jones and Karen Wright. There was the usual flurry of claiming baggage and trying to get everyone into vehicles and headed toward the Hotel Burg on the waterfront along the Reloncavi Bay in Puerto Montt.

Introductions were made and assignments confirmed. They would go out the following day and mesh with Chilean Baptists in an attempt to change the world. The team was broken into 11 teams and traveled by bus, barge, and private vehicles to their destinations to begin the revival efforts.

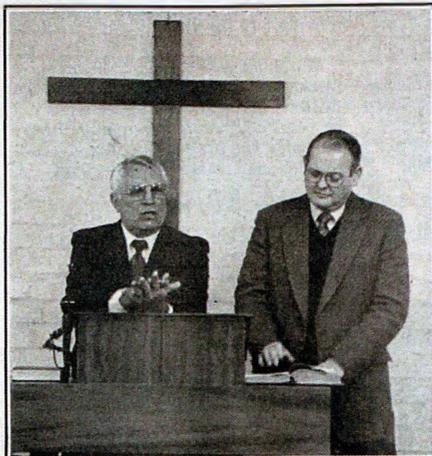
Most of the churches and missions had prepared a Saturday evening social event to meet their visitors and give the "gringos" a chance to meet their Baptist brothers and sisters. Some had visitation lined up. Church families had volunteered to have the Tennesseans in their homes for a meal. A brief orientation was given to help the visitors know what to expect as they began the series of services.

In Llanquihue, the Baptist church has a two-hour Sunday School but does not have a morning worship service. Charles Earl was told that perhaps he might want to visit the Baptist mission in Puerto Varas and then be with the Llanquihue church on Sunday night.

On Aug. 18 he and his wife visited with the Puerto Varas mission. As he preached and the message was translated, something began to happen in the heart and life of Edith Wilhelm. Edith was in town visiting with her son, Heribert Yunge, a member of the Baptist mission.

She had planned to return home on Chiloe Island, about two and a half hours south, several days earlier but had decided to stay over the weekend. Tears coursing down her 70-year-old cheeks, Edith took the hand of Archie Jones, missionary pastor of the mission, and thanked God that three weeks before her 71st birthday, she could be born again.

The Earls preached and worked Aug. 19-22 in Llanquihue and on Aug. 23 the revival began officially in Puerto Varas. On the first night, there were no decisions. The second night brought an eight-year-old down the aisle to proclaim her desire to be baptized. On the



PREACHING WITH HELP — Charles Earl, left, preaches at the Baptist Mission in Puerto Varas as Missionary Richard Poe interprets. — Photos by Jarvis Hearn

third night, the message was preached and there was no response.

But then came the fourth night, and Isabel Munoz, a school teacher who has struggled with the truth of the Gospel for more than a year, could not hold back any longer.

Even before the congregation began to sing the invitation hymn, Isabel was raising her arms toward heaven and opening her heart. She ran down the aisle and laughed and cried her way through her public profession of faith in a life-changing Savior, Jesus Christ.

But that is not the end of the story. Right behind her came Rita Kretschmar, Heribert Yunge's mother-in-law, ready to share her decision to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. It was impossible for anyone in the congregation to witness that moment without knowing the Holy Spirit was in their midst, touching and blessing and changing lives.

On Aug. 22 as Jim McAfee preached

in the Baptist church of Ancud on Chiloe Island, Manfred Yunge, Heribert's brother, claimed the gift of salvation in his life as well!

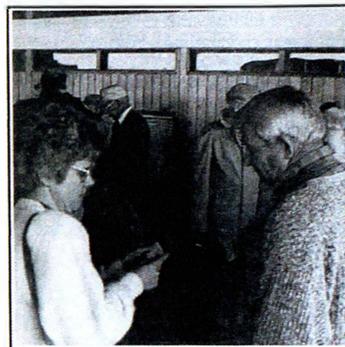
We do not believe in coincidences. We are convinced that Charles Earl was supposed to be preaching in the services in Puerto Varas, and that Archie Jones was supposed to be translating those sermons, and that Jim McAfee was supposed to preach in Ancud and that Bill Dyches was supposed to put his words into the "language of the angels" so that they could be understood. God planned from the beginning to use their words in such a way that the Kingdom would be increased.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for your part in what is a cause for rejoicing! These are but a few samples of what God has been doing here in the Tenth Region of Chile through your prayers, your gifts, your sending of 26 people ready and willing to travel a



SIGHTSEEING IN SANTIAGO — Volunteers, from left, Margaret Robbins of Byrdstown and Nell Greene of Sneedville, are escorted in Santiago by Missionaries Roy and Rebecca Worley.

► NEW FRIENDS — Missionary to Chile Karen Wright, left, visits with volunteer Jim Riner, pastor, Corinth Church, Loudon.



long way to tell an old, old, story that makes all things new.

Yes, the Gospel story may seem a little less than new, not as exciting as it once was to us ... but let me tell you one thing — it will be a long, long time before I forget the excitement of being in the delivery room when Edith, Rita, and Isabel were born into the family of God!! I'm looking forward to the Tennessee/Chile Partnership. — *Caroline Jones*

Merton Avenue Church honors senior members

Merton Avenue Church in Memphis held a recognition day Aug. 25 for church members age 90 and over.

Out of the 12 members in that age range, eight were present for the day's activities — Lula Magers, Bessie

McDonald, Hattie Brown, Ora Messer, Norris Crenshaw, Lillie Mitchell, Bessie Talley, and Rex Talley. Unable to attend were Virginia McKinley, Lena Mae Leake, F. P. Fuell, and Bessie Butler.

Biographies on each member were read by the 90+ COMMITTEE, comprised of Lorene Harris, Betty Richards, and Thedis Shrader.

During the service, Carolyn Murray sang a medley of old hymns that are favorites of the honorees and Pastor Roger Richards preached a sermon entitled, "The Longer I Serve Him, The Sweeter He Grows."

The church plans to make this an annual event in appreciation of members who have served the Lord for many years in the church.

Cordova to observe 125th anniversary

Cordova Church in Cordova will observe its 125th anniversary Sept. 19-22.

The church has chosen to emphasize the future God has for us, said Pastor Don Marston. He noted the church will take a revival approach to the celebration, using the title "If My People" as the theme.

The emphasis will begin Sept. 19, led by D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Harold Bryson, a New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary professor will preach on Friday night, Sept. 20.

On the following night, Rusty Eason, minister of music at First Church, Millington, will lead an outdoor service.

Larry Kirk of the TBC Missions Department will lead the morning service on Sept. 22.

The celebration will conclude that evening with a concert by the Crossbearers.



BREAKTHROUGH — A Sunday School literature workshop held Aug. 20 in Duck River Association attracted 227 participants, one of the largest association-sponsored Sunday School training leadership events ever held in the Tennessee Baptist Convention, according to TBC Sunday School Director Greer Ruble. The conference was designed to train Sunday School workers in an overview of the new BREAKTHROUGH literature which will debut in October. The workshop was organized by Director of Missions Baylon Hilliard, left, and Rod Collins, association Sunday School director from First Church, Manchester. — Photo by Greer Ruble

Well-drillers sought to provide Iraqi Kurds clean water

RICHMOND (BP) — Well-drilling specialists are needed to provide clean water for ten villages in Iraq where some 35,000 Kurdish refugees have settled.

The specialists should be skilled in operating a rotary drilling rig with mud pumps and in repairing water systems, said Tim Brendle, who heads the Persian Gulf Response Unit of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond.

"The need is urgent," Brendle said.

CBF seeks director

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, formed last May in Atlanta, will have an executive director.

John Hewitt, pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C., and Fellowship moderator, announced the search committee. "We are at the place where we need professional staff to support and implement the actions of the Fellowship," he said.

Named to the search committee: James Slatton, pastor of River Road Church, Richmond, chairman; Kirby Godsey, Mercer University president; Carolyn Cole Bucy, youth minister, Lake Shore Church, Waco, Texas; Lavonn Brown, pastor of First Church, Norman, Okla.; Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallowood Church, Houston;

Dorothy Sample, Flint, Mich.; Walter Shurden, Mercer University professor; Martha Smith, Gastonia, N.C.; and Hewitt.

A mud-drilling rig purchased in Turkey with \$125,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds was to be transported into Iraq Aug. 30, he noted.

Water systems operated in numerous villages inhabited by Arabs in northern Iraq until the recent Kurdish uprising forced them to flee. They ransacked their water sources as part of their

Big Springs Church celebrates 50 years

Approximately 130 people attended the 50th anniversary celebration Aug. 25 at Big Springs Church in Elizabethton.

The church's first pastor, Gordon Greenwell, now 77 years old, delivered the morning message.

Church members presented Greenwell and current pastor Harold Mains a commemorative plate with a picture of the church on the front and a brief history on the back.

Bob Polk, director of missions for Watauga Association, presented the church with a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.

Following lunch, an afternoon service was held featuring special music from church members Anita Mains,

angry exodus. Now displaced Kurds moving into the villages have no clean water.

Minimum commitments of three weeks are needed by the volunteer well drillers, and a series of specialists may be needed for up to six months, Brendle said. The project may expand to provide clean water to more than

100,000 Kurds settling in northern Iraq.

Volunteers will work in two-member teams, assisted by a worker fluent in English and Kurdish. The specialists also will train Kurdish workers to operate the equipment and ultimately take charge of the project.

Mud-drilling expertise is needed because of sandy soil and stones common to the region and similar to limited parts of the United States.

Two Southern Baptist volunteers — Buddy Kellett of Simpsonville, S.C., and Ed Brentham of Belton, Texas — helped save a considerable amount of money by negotiating the \$125,000 purchase of the well-drilling equipment in Turkey. Initially, the board had planned to buy it in Texas for \$250,000, along with \$150,000 in related supplies, and airlift it to Iraq.

Sherry Hutchins, Donna Fletcher, Chris Mathis, JoAnn Burchfield, and Karen Barnett. Mains closed the afternoon service with a message.

Also present during the anniversary service were former pastors Earl Berry and Kenneth Kyker and former interim pastor Haven Lowe. The three men also were presented commemorative plates.



Annie would have been proud of

Tennessee Baptists

A century ago, Annie Armstrong rallied Southern Baptists to new frontiers of missions involvement. In handwritten letters mailed daily, she petitioned Home Mission Board president Isaac Tichenor to act on mission needs in America. Today, missions and evangelism are still the heartbeat of our denomination. Through your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, you help share the message of Christ for our nation.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for continuing to support the very essence of our heritage.

Special thanks to these churches with . . .

- | | |
|---|---|
| HIGHEST TOTAL GIVING | HIGHEST PER CAPITA GIVING |
| Two Rivers Baptist Church
Nashville, \$35,000 | China Grove Baptist Church
Rutherford, \$64.30 |
| Bellevue Baptist Church
Memphis, \$34,550 | Hickman Baptist Church
Hickman, \$27.03 |
| Germantown Baptist Church
Germantown, \$31,917 | Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
Mt. Juliet, \$20.85 |
| First Baptist Church
Memphis, \$27,364 | Silerton Baptist Church
Silerton, \$20.63 |
| First Baptist Church
Kingsport, \$26,516 | Oak Grove Baptist Church
Mt. Carmel, \$18.46 |
| First Baptist Church
Athens, \$23,618 | Bethlehem Baptist Church
Whiteville, \$16.67 |
| Woodmont Baptist Church
Nashville, \$21,675 | Lake Drive Baptist Church
Sale Creek, \$16.33 |
| Brenwood Baptist Church
Brenwood, \$21,653 | Woodlawn Baptist Church
Brownsville, \$16.25 |
| Central Baptist Church
Knoxville, \$21,153 | Charjean Baptist Church
Memphis, \$16.10 |
| Brainerd Baptist Church
Chattanooga, \$19,258 | First Baptist Church
Athens, \$15.70 |

HMB HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

A Southern Baptist Convention agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HINSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COSTS

Age	\$100,000	\$250,000
30	8.30	14.30
40	10.20	16.90
50	14.30	24.30
60	20.30	41.80
70	54.30	121.80

PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER (KNOXVILLE, TN)
TOLL FREE 1-800-274-0776 • 9-9 Mon.-Sat.
Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, KY. Newlife graded premium life insurance form #76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 85 and then remain level. Female rates illustrated above.

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeples
- Baptistries
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- KivaLight Windows
- Baptistry Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-521-1459
PO Box 1340
Henderson, TN 37653-1340

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

PEWS

TOLL FREE (800) 366-1716

Overholtzer

CHURCH STEEPLES

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALL CROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL, CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS

ERECTION AVAILABLE

WRITE OR CALL FOR LITERATURE OR PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE 1-800-241-3152
IN NC 1-800-523-9058

Produce Plastic Church Products 28 Years

A & O STEEPLES & BAPTISTRIES
4871 HARVEY RD. • BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NC 27282

NONDRINKERS

Get More For Your Money With PREFERRED RISK INSURANCE!

America's Nondrinkers Insurance Company

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

Call the following offices in Tennessee:

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

PREFERRED RISK GROUP Home Office West Des Moines, Iowa

TenneScene

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

Churches ...

Members of Big Springs Church, Elizabethton, celebrated the church's 56th anniversary Aug. 25. Harold Mains is pastor.

An all-day service and dinner on the church grounds will be held Sept. 15 at Conasauga Church, Etowah, in honor of the church's 150th anniversary.

The congregation of Hodges Chapel Church, Palmersville, celebrated the church's 75th anniversary Sept. 8. Gerry Gallimore is pastor.

The annual homecoming celebration at Wilsonville Church, Newport, will be held Sept. 15. J. Harold Smith, president of the Radio Bible Hour, will be speaker at the 11 a.m. worship service. The King's Servants quartet will sing. Dinner will be served at noon.

Homecoming held recently at First Church, Iron City, was highlighted by a note burning service to celebrate final payment of the church's remodeling debt.

An open house of newly renovated church facilities will be held Sept. 15, 2-4 p.m. at Brook Hollow Church, Nashville. New Pastor Pierce McIntyre and his family will also be honored. Church organist Clinton Flowers will perform.

First Church, Nashville, will host a grief/loss support group beginning Sept. 15 at 5:15 p.m. First Church member Louis Twyman, a licensed clinical therapist, will lead the group, which is open to the public and free of charge.

Homecoming will be held Sept. 15 at First Church, Linden. A fellowship dinner and Gospel singing featuring the Joylanders and the Singing C's will follow morning worship.

McLean Church, Memphis, will hold revival Sept. 13-15 led by Ken Story, pastor of Germantown Church, Memphis.

A groundbreaking service for a new family life center at Mt. Gilead Church, Bethel Springs, was held Aug. 25.

OPEN HOUSE!

Brook Hollow Baptist Church
September 15, 1991
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Be our special guest.
Celebrate with us. Meet our new pastor and his family.

Also, tour our newly renovated Sanctuary and educational facilities.

Enjoy special organ and instrumental music during the open house.

Nursery provided

Brook Hollow Baptist Church
678 Brook Hollow Road
Nashville, TN 37205

Rev. Pierce McIntyre, pastor

Leadership ...

Burl Studer is the new pastor of Enon Church, Jonesboro.

Bruce Coyle has been called as interim pastor of First Church, Alcoa. He has been director of planned giving at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, since 1983. He is also acting vice president for development. The Memphis native is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

First Church, Monterey, called Steven Tiebout as assistant pastor in charge of youth ministries. He recently graduated from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville. The church also called Cami Conger of Soddy Daisy, also a Tennessee Tech graduate, as minister of music.

R. G. "Bob" Elliott, vice president for business affairs at Union University, Jackson, retired Aug. 31 after 27 years of service.

Elliott joined Union as bookstore manager in 1953 as a part-time student and then served three years as bursar from 1954 to 1957. He received his master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in 1960. After serving as pastor of First Church, Selmer, for eight years, Elliott returned to Union as business manager in 1968, and was promoted to vice president in 1980.

Auburn Church, Auburntown, called Archie King as interim pastor.

Leawood Church, Memphis, recently honored John Ellzey for 20 years as minister of music.

Willingham Memorial Church, Ridgeley, called Michael O'Guin as pastor.

Tim Wuester, a student at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, has been called as music and youth director of First Church, St. Bethlehem.

First Church, Niota, called Greg



ELLIOTT

Jones as part-time minister of music. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville.

Henry Colvard recently retired from the pastorate of First Church, Hunter, in Elizabethton, where he served for 28 years.

Bill Williams is serving as interim pastor of White Hall Church, Trenton.

Walnut Grove Church, Kenton, called Noel Edwards as interim pastor.

Paul Wallace has been called as music/youth director to Calvary Church, Parsons. He formerly served in the same position at First Church, Michie.

Associations ...

Western District Association sponsored a camp out for 42 RAs in August at Big Eagle Base Camp near Paris Landing State Park. Youth from Buchanan Church, Buchanan, and Temple and Fairview churches in Paris, sang. Mike Nichols is association RA director.

Revivals ...

Grace Church, Springfield, will hold revival services Sept. 22-26. Don Hodges, Panama City, Fla., will be evangelist. Morning worship Sept. 22 will be followed by dinner on the church grounds.

W. B. Oakley will lead revival Sept. 22-26 at First Church, Troy.

The following churches in Salem Association will hold revival beginning Sept. 15: Wolf Creek Church, Silver Point, led by Carlos Walker; Mt. Herman Church, Hickman, led by Bill Robertson; and West Main Church, Alexandria, led by W. W. Harrison.

Bethel Church, Greenfield, will be in revival Sept. 15-18. John Wilton will be evangelist.

Revival services will be held Sept. 22-25 at First Church, Dresden.

Kim Allen, pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville, will lead revival Sept. 22-28 at Gum Springs Church, Cunningham.

Revival began Sept. 8 at Pleasant View Church, Clarksville. Services, which will conclude Sept. 15, are being

led by Jeff Brooks, Knoxville.

Harold Hunter will lead revival Sept. 15-18 at Fairview Church, Lebanon.

Members of Macedonia Church, Gordonsville, will be led in revival Sept. 15-19 by Dean Hawn.

The following churches in Shiloh Association will hold revival during September: First Church, Bethel Springs, Sept. 27-29, Q. T. Curtis of Mobile, Ala.; Olive Hill West Church, Olive Hill, Sept. 11-14, Chester Harrison and James Young of Sturgiss, Miss.; West Shiloh Church, Stantonville, Sept. 22-27, George Weaver; and Mt. Gilead Church, Bethel Springs, Sept. 15-20, John Pippin.

Upcoming revivals in Gibson County Association will be held at First Church, Dyer, Sept. 15-20, Hoyt Wilson; Emmanuel Church, Humboldt, Sept. 22-25, Joe Trybone; First Church, Kenton, Sept. 29-Oct. 4, Tommy Pirtle; First Church, Medina, Sept. 29-Oct. 4, Paul Clark; Smyrna Church, Humboldt, Oct. 13-16, Bob Elliott; and First Church, Trenton, Oct. 20-27, Bill Hammonds.

Hospitals ...

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Aug. 29 at Baptist Hospital, Nashville, for a new \$1.5 million, multi-level parking garage, the initial component of a multi-phased construction and expansion project that includes the planned North Tower. The four-story structure will provide 300 additional parking spaces for hospital patients and visitors, as well as physicians and office staff located in the Mid-State Medical Center. The structure will also provide direct access to the first four floors of the Mid-State Medical Center and the Baptist Diagnostic Pavilion, which serves as the location for the majority of the hospital's pre-admission testing services.

Missions ...

Seven men from Memorial Church, Hixson, recently traveled to Reed City, Mich., to help renovate Calvary Church.

A volunteer mission team from Cedar Grove Church, Kingsport, recently completed a mission trip to Pidgeon Creek, W.V., where they conducted mission Vacation Bible School and revival services.

Bill and Lila Roden have been appointed for one year of Cooperative Services International English-language work in Asia. Roden was recently employed as director of admissions and registrar and director of records for Carson-Newman College, Jefferson, City. He earned a bachelor's degree there in 1950. His wife was most recently a teacher in Jefferson City. She is also a graduate of Carson-Newman College. Both are members of First Church, Jefferson City.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: 19 church pews (approximately 12 feet in length) with padded seats, upholstered in medium brown. If interested, contact: Farmington Baptist Church, 2777 Nashville Highway, Lewisburg, Tenn., 37091 or call (615) 364-7090.

Ministry Opportunity

Baptist couple needed immediately as houseparents for Christian Group Home for 8 mildly to moderately retarded men in Lebanon, Tenn. Excellent home; all men are in day jobs. Experience with mentally retarded preferred. Call (615) 792-3419, 259-2944 or write P.O. Box 24821 Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

SOUTHEASTERN BIBLE CONFERENCE

1991 SOUTHEASTERN BIBLE CONFERENCE

December 26-28, 1991 or December 29-31, 1991
Peraldo Beach • Hilton Hotel • Gulf Shores, Alabama

Jay Strack † "Ike" Reighard † Kolly Green † Chuck Kolloy † Scott Dawson † Rick Stanley † 4-Him † Lako Garrett ...plus others!

Free Conference T-Shirt To All Students Registered By October 31, 1991

Write:
S.B.C. 1991
P.O. BOX 7822
Midfield, Alabama 35228-7822

Or call:
1-800-869-8738
For further details

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

A&O CHURCH FURNITURE

4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

SOLID OAK PEWS
PEW UPHOLSTERY REUPHOLSTERY
BAPTIST'S SUPPLIES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
1 (800) 523-9058
NC 1 (800) 222-7895

Preparing You to Meet the Challenges of Aging

Making the most of life is the desire of people of all ages. Of particular interest to senior adults are the issues of improving nutrition, coping with the physical changes of aging, staying fit and surviving the red tape of the Medicare Maze.

These issues will be addressed September 20th and 21st at the Stage of Life Conference at the Windlands Retirement Communities. The conference includes morning refreshments, lunch, entertainment, medical screenings, and speakers on these topics:

- Arthritis and Its Treatment
- Good Fats/Bad Fats: Learning the Fats of Life
- Staying Fit
- The Medicare Maze

Seating is limited, so send in your registration today.



Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Conference Cost: \$ 8.00 Conference Date:

September 20

Medical Screenings: \$10.00

(Cholesterol, Glucose, Blood Pressure)

September 21

Yes No

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Send check by September 16, payable to: Windlands Retirement Communities, c/o Hardaway Management, Community Relations, P. O. 60484, Nashville, TN 37206-9902.

STAGE of LIFE CONFERENCE

**Friday,
September 20**
Windlands East
200 E. Webster
Street
860-2189

**Saturday,
September 21**
Windlands South
3800 Sam Boney
Drive
834-1951



This conference is staffed
by personnel from:

**Baptist Hospital
Home Care**

Elijah confronts Baal worship

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

Elijah, an uncompromising prophet of Jehovah, was God's answer to Ahab and Jezebel, who had substituted Baal for God. "There was none like unto Ahab which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel stirred up," (I Kings 21:25). God always has a man to match the hour. As J. Sidlow Baster notes in his *Explore The Book*, "when wickedness develops into extraordinary proportions God meets it with extraordinary measures," (p. 113). The story that unfolds in our next two lessons proves this statement to be true.

God gave Elijah the faith to pray that it would not rain for three and one-half years (ch. 17:1; see also James 5:17-18). Elijah was not distressed by the thoughts of a drought. He knew God would honor his proclamation of faith (v. 1) and by miraculous means God did so. During the three and one-half years, he was fed by ravens at the brook Cherith until it dried up (vv. 2-7), and by the widow of Sarepta, whose jar of meal

and cruse of oil "failed not," (vv. 8-16). Both the raven and the widow were obedient to God, the former directly and the latter to a God-like man.

The widow's faith to feed Elijah before she fed herself and her son is an example of the fulfilled promise of Matthew 6:33. It is also a fulfillment of the honor bestowed on one who "receives a prophet in the name of a prophet," (Matthew 10:41). She certainly received the prophet's reward in that Christ spoke of her (Luke 4:24-26), along with Elijah, as a widow He could honor because of her faith. In this Gospel account we are encouraged to be people of faith so God can use us. It should also be noted that it is not what we possess, but how much He possesses us that qualifies us to be used of God.

The miracle of God raising the widow's dead child to life is an indication of Elijah's compassion and also his gratitude, not to mention Elijah's power with God in prayer. When com-

passion is accompanied by gratitude there is power in intercession. Elijah evidently could not stand the thought of one so used of God being distraught by the death of her child. This account should also encourage us to ask Godly people to pray for us in our time of need.

BIBLE BOOK
September 15 Lesson
Basic Passage: I Kings 17:1-18:46

Obadiah, the servant of Ahab, is the case of one who feared God and loved God enough to endanger his own life for God's cause. The prophets of the Lord were being destroyed by his master. They may have been completely annihilated had not Obadiah secretly hidden 100 of them in a cave and fed them. He was honored by being named with Elijah in the Scriptures as the one who helped arrange the confrontation of the prophets of Baal with Elijah on Mount Carmel.

Evidently there were at least these

100 prophets of God, besides Elijah, left alive at this time. Elijah felt, however, that he alone was left to speak out openly against the worship of Baal.

The contest between the 450 prophets of Baal and Elijah exposed the false religion of Baalism. The drought had reached a very serious stage. Baal was thought to control the weather, but the severe drought had proved his helplessness. The ineffectiveness of the prophets of Baal and the miraculous power of God were contrasted with clarity on Mount Carmel. The Israelites were shown that the real God was Jehovah. Eight hundred and fifty prophets of Baal were slain that day at the river Kishon by the Israelites. Elijah then announced rain was on the way! He prayed for rain till there was the sign of a small cloud. Elijah warned Ahab to prepare his chariot and to get off the mountain before the rain stopped him. The heavens became "black with clouds and wind and there was rain," (18:45).

Elijah's fearless confrontation with Ahab and his pagan prophets won the day for Israel and for God. How much praying do we do to convince our pagan society that our Lord is God?

A sermon at Antioch of Pisidia

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

Many towns across America have the same name. Such was the case in Paul's day as well. In Luke's account, we see two towns with the name of Antioch: Antioch in Syria and Antioch in Pisidia. This lesson explores the spread of the Gospel from one to the other. After being sent out by the Syrian Antioch church, Barnabas took Saul to Cyprus, Barnabas' native land. From there they traveled to Asia Minor, a major part of what was to be Paul's work. The primary preaching point was still Jewish synagogues. However, as we shall see, the hostility became so intense that Paul declared his intentions to turn to the Gentiles with the Gospel message. We see God's

plan for sharing the Gospel with the whole world initiated (Acts 1:8).

In view of Saul's Gentile mission, it was to his advantage to assume the Roman counterpart of his Jewish name. Hence, we see in Acts 13:9, 13 that Saul became known as Paul.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
September 15 Lesson
Basic Passage: Acts 13:1-3, 13-52

From Cyprus Paul and his party took a ship from Paphos north to Asia Minor (ch. 13:13), traveling inland to Perga in Pamphylia. It was at this point that Paul experienced some sort of disagreement with John Mark. While we are not certain what the

disagreement was about, it was serious enough for John to leave. We do not read about their reconciliation until Philemon 24.

The next stop was Antioch of Pisidia, a city with a large Jewish population. Paul and Barnabas were invited to speak after the two customary readings from the Old Testament. The congregation was made up of "men of Israel" (true Jews) and "ye that fear God" (Gentiles who were drawn to the Jewish faith), (v. 16).

Paul identified his subject immediately: "This word of salvation," (v. 26). Paul paid close attention to details of Christ's condemnation (v. 27), his death and burial (v. 28-29), and his resurrection at the hand of God (v.

30). Paul placed major emphasis on the resurrection of our Lord. It was a primary point in all apostolic preaching.

It is important to note that Paul quoted the "good news" (v. 32) by quoting Psalms 2:7, Psalms 16:10, and Isaiah 55:3. God's promises had been fulfilled, not in David, who was long since deceased and buried (v. 36), but in the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, David's descendant.

Paul was a good teacher. He made a direct application of his message. Salvation through the forgiveness of sins, justified by Christ himself, was available to all who would hear and accept (v. 38-39).

This message which Paul preached is the same message we proclaim today. The crucified Christ of Calvary, raised from the dead by God, lives to give us hope.

Your attitude is important

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

Jesus' teachings in this week's Bible study were addressed to his disciples. The two parables in the passage emphasize the importance of attitude.

In the first parable (vv. 1-8), Jesus described a judge's response to the persistent pleas of a widow. Verse 2 tells us that the judge did not fear God or care about people. The widow came to him pleading, "Grant me justice against my adversary." For a time the judge refused. Still the woman kept coming to him. Even though the judge did not fear God or care about others, he reasoned, "I'll have to do something about this woman so she will stop coming and bothering me." Because of the widow's persistence, she was able to obtain justice.

Jesus contrasted the attitude of the unrighteous judge with the attitude of God. The judge's justice was granted because of irritation, not because of what was right. Jesus taught God will not put us off. He will be faithful in granting justice. We can expect that from our God.

In verses 9-14, Jesus shared a second parable. He told the story of a

Pharisee and a tax collector who went to the temple to pray. Verse 11 says the Pharisee stood where men could hear and see him. He said, "God, I thank you that I am who I am, and that I am not like other men, robbers, evil doers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I do all the right things. I fast and I bring my offering of all that I get." The tax collector could hear the Pharisee's prayer, of course. When he prayed he stood at a distance, and out of humility he would not even look to heaven. He beat his breast, and prayed, "God have mercy on me, a sinner."

In Jesus' application of this parable, he says to his disciples, "I tell you that this man rather than the other (the tax collector rather than the Pharisee) went home justified before God. He was forgiven." Jesus continued, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

All of us know self-righteous people who walk around rather proud of what they have done for God. Some Christians have a self-righteous attitude

about their way of doing God's work. Jesus taught that honesty is important to God. He knows us. He knows our weaknesses and our strengths. We need to be honest with him, not praying before men to say, "Look what I'm doing, and look how well I have done things."

Instead, we ought to pray, "Father, sometimes I fail you. Sometimes I don't do the things I ought to do, and I am sorry about that. I am trying, and I want to do better."

LIFE AND WORK
September 15 Lesson
Basic Passage: Luke 18:1-14

We worship a God who cares, who loves, who is concerned, who wants us to be our best, who wants us to succeed. Through our witness, other people are helped to see what God's kingdom is really like. We must reach out and help other people to see Jesus in us.

Our attitudes are very important. Jesus knows our attitude about our work, whether it be in the marketplace or in church. He also knows how we act. When our attitudes reflect self-righteousness and pride, Jesus knows it. Those who work with humility, trying to do their best while knowing they

are not perfect, are also seen by him.

Earnestly but humbly, we are to strive to be what God wants us to be and to do our very best. Our attitude is to be like that of the tax collector who prayed, "God, you know who I am, and you know what I've done, and you know I want to do better, and I want to serve you." The Christian whose attitude reflects genuine trust and humility can be used and molded by God. Great things can happen in and through our own humility. God grant we can be his humble people.

9 Day
HOLY LAND TOUR

Fulfill your lifetime dream to "Walk in the steps of Jesus" in Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem with outstanding Tennessee Pastors/Bible Teachers.

Departures:
Dec. 26, Dec. 30, Jan. 6

Extensions to:
Egypt, Rome, Athens/Corinth

BibleLand Travel
1204 S. 3rd, Louisville, KY 40203
Phone 1-800-325-6708

Write or call for brochure/details.
Visit Israel now.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Child abuse troubles college students

GLORIETA, N.M. — Mirroring the concern of their parents, child abuse is the social issue that most troubles college students who participated in a survey of readers of *The Student* magazine.

Asked to choose from a list of 28 "societal needs and concerns" five that concerned them most, 46.7 percent of the 501 survey respondents checked child abuse. Editor Milt Hughes said readers of the magazine have chosen child abuse as their number one societal concern for four years in a row.

Other societal concerns frequently checked by *The Student* readers included: abortion, 45.1 percent; the homeless, 29.5 percent; poverty, 28.7 percent; drug abuse, 28.7 percent; world peace, 28.1 percent; drunk driving, 26.3 percent; racism, 25.7 percent; AIDS, 25.7 percent; and hunger, 24.4 percent.

Hughes said the questionnaire was published in the September 1990 issue of the magazine, and results have appeared sporadically throughout 1991 editions. Complete results were shared with state student directors at the 1991 Glorieta Student Conference Aug. 10-16 in Glorieta, N.M. A new questionnaire is published in the October 1991 issue with results to be published in next year's editions of the magazine, Hughes said.

Of the 501 respondents in *The Student* survey, 56 percent were female and 44 percent were male. Eighty-five percent identified themselves as Baptist, 4.2 from other Protestant denominations, 1.4 percent Catholic, and 6.6 percent from "other" religious backgrounds. The racial breakdown of the respondents was 93.4 percent white, 2.8 percent black, 2.2 Asian, and 1 percent Hispanic.

Student missions applications drop, field requests increase

GLORIETA, N.M. — A staff member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board expressed concern during an Aug. 14 Student Conference Forum at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center over what he termed a "disturbing" drop in summer missions applications by college students.

According to Van Simmons, associate director of short-term volunteers at the Home Mission Board, the number of HMB-paid student summer missionaries has dropped by more than 200 in the last five years, from 739 in 1986 to 526 for 1991. During the same time period, however, requests for student summer missionaries from the field have increased, he said. "We did not fill 288 positions this summer for our 8-10 week summer missions program," Simmons said. "That to me is a very disturbing figure and it concerns me."

Simmons was part of a panel that addressed the topic, "Student Missions:

Where are We Now." Other panel members included Bill Lee, director of the HMB's special ministries department; and Karen Park, consultant for the Foreign Mission Board's international services department. Several possible reasons for the decline in student missions applications were discussed. Factors included: a growing trend toward Baptist Student Unions, state conventions, and local churches organizing and funding their own mission trips separate from the organized missions program; a growing number of students who cannot take summer missions positions because they need to earn more money to pay increasing tuition costs; and a lack of awareness about mission opportunities among students and student leaders. Another factor in the decline, panel leaders said, is many students are opting for shorter-term summer mission projects offered by the HMB, FMB, BSUs, and state conventions.

PrayerLife course changes name effective in October

NASHVILLE — Due to trademark infringement upon an already existing name, "PrayerLife: Walking in Fellowship with God" will change its name effective in October.

The 13-week Lay Institute for Equipping Course, published through the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training department, will become "Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God."

Avery Willis, manager of the adult section of the Discipleship Training department, said he received a call early this year from Glaphrey Gilliland, owner of a corporation in Bethany, Okla., that had received trademark rights on the name PrayerLife in 1978.

Officials at the firm had just learned the Sunday School Board had a product with the same name as their company, he said. PrayerLife, written by T. W. Hunt, was first released in 1988, Willis said. Gilliland agreed to let the Discipleship Training department use the new name and did not require them to change the name on the current stock of PrayerLife notebooks and videos, Willis said.

Texas Baptists plan exploratory trip to Estonia

DALLAS — In spite of a failed coup in the USSR and resultant upheaval in the Baltic republics, a Texas Baptist Partnership Missions research team still plans to visit Estonia this month.

A three-member Baptist General Convention of Texas fact-finding team will travel to the Baltic republic Sept. 12-15 to explore a possible partnership with the Baptist Union of Estonia before proceeding to Romania to discuss a partnership with Baptist leaders there.

Ed Schmeltekopf, BGCT associate executive director; Bill Gray, coordinator of Partnership Missions; and Joy Fenner, Texas Woman's Missionary Union executive director-treasurer; will be joined by three Foreign Mission Board representatives for the exploratory trip.

102-year-old Chinese woman still on the move for God

By Lounette Templeton

HONG KONG (BP) — Ng Leung Shiu Ha is under five feet tall and weighs less than an average 12-year-old, but she stands out in any crowd.

The tiny woman with the stately presence is 102 years old.

On most Sundays she walks to Wanchai Church, Hong Kong. If it rains she takes a taxi.

Sunday School and Sunday worship services are top priorities for Ng. Not far behind are women's fellowships and deacons' meetings. Occasionally she chides her fellow deacons for not having mission education for the children. Still in good voice, Ng sang an old Chinese version of Psalm 23 at the Christmas banquet last year.

Ng climbs two flights of stairs to reach her home. She shares quarters with another woman, but she takes care of herself. "I even do the washing and cleaning," she said. A food service delivers meals to her during the week, but on weekends she eats at a nearby restaurant where she is instantly recognized.

Ng became a Christian in China at age 24. At the time, since her husband and brother worked in another village, she lived with her sister-in-law.

"I was very ill," she recalled, "and although I worshiped the idols and had incantations around the house, my illness persisted." She finally visited a Christian doctor who knelt and prayed for her. "I was healed instantly," she said.

She accepted Christ as Savior and "threw away all the idols." Her belief in Christ, however, caused her sister-



WHEN SHE SPEAKS, PEOPLE LISTEN — Ng Leung Shiu Ha of Hong Kong is under 5 feet tall, but the 102-year-old woman commands respect — and attention — wherever she goes. A Christian since she was 24, Mrs. Ng still walks to Wanchai Baptist Church in Hong Kong unless it's raining. "You're never too old to serve God," she said. "I pray. I read the Bible every day."

in-law to send her away.

In a neighboring village, Ng found a missionary living in a church building. The woman took her in and "treated her as a godchild," she said. She learned to read by studying the Bible with the missionary.

Ng joined her husband two years later and he, too, became a Christian. At 28, she was ordained a deacon in a Baptist church.

Life was hard and sometimes dangerous for Ng Leung Shiu Ha. Once she and her two small children were kidnapped by bandits. The bandit leader wanted her for his concubine,

but when his wife would not allow it, he turned Ng and her children over to an elderly man who wanted her.

Fortunately, the old man treated her "like a daughter," she said. Eventually her husband found her and rescued his family. "In those times of danger," she said, "God protected my family and me."

Her husband died when he was about 50, and she was on her own. Over the years she worked as a shopkeeper and midwife. "The Lord is good to me," she said. "My grandchildren in Hong Kong earn a good living for themselves and they treat me well. My health is good. I have no worries."

The church ministers to Ng in many ways. "When I have gone through hard times, they have always helped," she said. She believes the church can provide both spiritual and physical help for the elderly — particularly "those who have no family or friends."

Stage of life conference set for Sept. 20-21

A stage of life conference will be held Sept. 20-21 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Windlands Retirement Communities in Nashville.

The Sept. 20 conference will be held at Windlands East and will repeat Sept. 21 at Windlands South.

Topics of interest for senior adults are arthritis and its treatment, the Medicare maze, good fats-bad fats, and staying fit. Activities also include entertainment, book exhibits, blood pressure checks, and glucose tests.

The conferences will be led by professionals from Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

Cost of the conference is \$8. Reserva-

And she lives what she preaches. Her pastor reports she has opened her home over the years for young and old alike who "needed a place to stay." One "practically homeless" young man who stayed with her for a time is now an architect, the pastor said. She still shelters elderly people in need.

What advice does she give young people today? "Study the Bible diligently, be obedient, and always strive to do your best."

As for older folks, she reminds them serving God is a lifetime matter. "You're never too old to serve God," she said. "I pray. I read the Bible every day."

Although she's unable to "go visiting" as she did a few years ago, Ng still finds elderly people to invite to church. "I don't want them to be afraid of growing old," she said. "If you're a Christian, growing old means you're getting closer to Heaven."

tions are required and must be made by Sept. 16. For additional information, call (615) 254-5461.

Baptist provides seminar

Treatment methods for arthritis of the hip will be the topic of an upcoming free seminar offered by the ArthritisCare Center at Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

On Thursday, Sept. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., "Arthritis and Hip Pain" is being offered in conjunction with the Center's "Advances in Arthritis Care" series. Tom John, M.D., rheumatologist, and Frank Berkclach, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, will speak.