

Baptist and Reflector

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Leaders reach agreement on family-related issues

By Linda Lawson & Louis Moore
NASHVILLE (BP) — A joint working agreement calling for cooperative efforts on family-related issues has been announced by the top executives of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the SBC Christian Life Commission, James T. Draper Jr. and Richard D. Land.

The agreement was affirmed by the CLC special committee on program assignment meeting in Nashville Dec. 9.

In the area of family life, the SSB carries out the SBC assignment of family ministry in local churches. The CLC deals with the ethical implications of a wide range of issues including family life.

According to the agreement, its intent "is to provide specific channels for Christian Life Commission family-related concerns to flow to the church through the (SSB) family ministry program-related administrative structure, periodicals, and other resources."

In addition, the agreement calls for consultation between the two agencies

on product development, program and conference planning, and identifying "Christian values that apply to family living."

Land and Draper emphasized the cooperative work between the agencies will center on areas of family life where program assignments are complementary. Each agency will continue to work independently on individual assignments.

For example, providing information and educational materials on public policy issues related to family life will be the sole purview of the CLC. Helping churches structure ministries to families, senior adults, and single adults, will continue to be the task exclusively of the SSB.

"What we sought to do was hammer out a working agreement on areas where our assignments complement one another," Land told the CLC commissioners.

The joint agreement specifies the family ministry program allows both the SSB's family ministry department and the CLC to have avenues "to the

life of the local church through the single adult council, senior adult council, and family enrichment committee for the purpose of providing information to help the church help people apply Christian values to daily living."

Draper said he hopes the agreement can be a model for similar kinds of cooperative efforts among other agencies. He affirmed the efforts of Lamar Cooper of the CLC staff and of Doug Anderson and Morlee Maynard of the board's family ministry department who drafted the document.

"We have the channels and resources to help the CLC in ways that don't cost us anything but save them a lot," said Draper. For example, the agreement states the board's annual "Family Idea Book" will include information on CLC events related to family issues and on obtaining CLC catalogs.

Draper told Baptist Press he reported to a special CLC task force Dec. 9 that in light of the SSB assignment of family ministry in churches, an assignment that does not include in-

volvement in political issues, the SSB would not integrate the Atlanta-based Family Concerns Inc. into the board's program of family ministry.

Family Concerns, headed by CLC trustee Nancy Schaefer, organizes family advocacy groups in local churches and seeks to educate and mobilize church members on social and legislative issues affecting the traditional family.

Schaefer proposed a motion at the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention asking the CLC to create a family concerns division to recommend a family concerns ministry for local churches. The motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee which, in its September meeting, recommended no change in the SSB assignment for family ministry in local churches. The CLC assignment which presently precludes direct involvement with churches was not a matter of consideration by the Executive Committee.

Hal Lane, chairman of the CLC and pastor of West Side Church, Greenwood, S.C., said the joint agreement will enable the commission "to achieve 60-70 percent of what we want to accomplish. They (SSB) are willing to work with us in providing space in periodicals, saving us money, and giving us entree into areas that agree with their program assignment. On moral, ethical, and religious liberty issues, they would not help us."

Draper told the CLC program assignment committee: "No one relationship will solve all your interests, all the concerns you have. Don't disparage the first efforts at doing that. The things outside the purview of our ministry assignment we're not going to be able to deal with."

TBC earns award, music educators honored

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Baptist Convention received a national Discipleship Training award, and two state music educators were honored during annual December planning meetings at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Johnnie Hall, Discipleship Training director for Tennessee, accepted an award for the largest percentage of associations reporting "M" Nights, with 87 percent reporting.

Mary Charlotte and Louis Ball of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City were honored with Musician on Mission awards as outstanding music

educators by state music directors, music deans of Southern Baptist seminaries, and the staff of the Sunday School Board's church music department.

Mary Charlotte Ball is associate professor of music at Carson-Newman where she has served on the faculty since 1968. In addition to teaching organ, piano, and piano pedagogy, she supervises the music library. She and her husband have arranged several volumes of music for organ and piano, and she has contributed works to a variety of publications.

A long-time organist, she has served churches in Knoxville, Elizabethtown,

Ky., and Jefferson City, where she has been organist at First Church for more than 25 years.

She is a conference leader for both national and state music conferences.

Louis Ball has been chairman of the division of music at Carson-Newman since 1983. Earlier, he was chairman of the division of fine arts and coordinator of the department of music, chairman of the music department, and a faculty member at the college.

He has been active in both denominational and public music events and organizations and is widely published.



TENNESSEANS HONORED — Mary Charlotte and Louis Ball, center, of Jefferson City, talked with Wesley Forbis, director of the Sunday School Board's church music department, left, and Julian Suggs, music director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, following annual December planning meetings in Nashville. The Balls were honored as outstanding music educators for 1991 during the meetings. — Photo by Jim Veneman

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.

Pray for Chile/Tennessee partnership



The Chile/Tennessee Partnership Mission begins today, Jan. 1.

Judy Trivette will furnish to the Baptist and Reflector, on a regular basis, prayer requests for the partnership. They will be listed weekly, or as particular needs arise.

Current prayer concerns for Tennessee Baptists:

Jan. 1 — Begin praying for the three-year partnership between Baptists.

Jan. 2 — Tennessee WMU representatives Katharine Bryan and Judy Trivette traveling to Chile to attend the National WMU meeting in Temuco.

Jan. 4 — Jim Bitner, retired missionary to Chile, now in Yukon, Okla., birthday.

Jan. 7 — Don Givens, TBC Executive Board president, traveling to Chile for National Convention of Chilean Baptists, and as he speaks Jan. 10.

Jan. 7-8 — WMU meets in Temuco. Prayer Partnership officially launched Jan. 7.

Jan. 9 — Raymond Langlois, Judson (Nashville) Church pastor, traveling to Temuco to lead group in VBS for missionaries' children (MKs). Team members: Carolyn Langlois, Karen Reeves, Juanita Shaver, Nancy Malone, Wesley and Nancy Becker, Chuck and Lydia Padilla — and Sandra Gail West of Narrow Valley Church, Rutledge.

Jan. 9-10 — For Chilean Baptists, missionaries, the eleven Tennesseans at the Chilean Baptist convention — for business, fellowship, and prayer times.

Jan. 10-18 — For the 92 Southern Baptist missionaries and families in Temuco for mission meeting; for Charles Alexander, president of the mission group.

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Editorials

Commitment to a miracle-making Lord can win in 1992

There are almost 3000 Southern Baptist churches in the 68 associations of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

These churches have more than 700,000 resident members and half a million are enrolled in Sunday School. Representatives of the churches voting in the November state convention, approved a 1991-92 budget of more than \$28 million — our largest.

Newspapers, television, radio, remind us daily that the United States is in a recession. Even those who have denied persistently the reality of recession — are now admitting it.

However, IMPACTennessee, a mission thrust for Tennessee Baptists, cannot be sacrificed. As churches consider retrenching, drawing back, cutting down on spending, the excitement of IMPACTennessee subsides even though the challenge will not.

What will this new year of 1992 be like? Will Tennessee Baptists respond affirmatively — or will we join the long-faced, hand-wringing clan?

God is omnipotent. His power, like his love, compassion, wisdom, is beyond compare. If our IMPACT goals are achieved — more souls will be won to Christ, more churches will be established, more people will be involved in Sunday School.

We are praying for and seeking an increase in baptisms of six percent each year. Goals for seeking new enrollment in Sunday School (three percent) and attendance (five percent) are admirable.

At least half our churches are being asked to incorporate new member orientation into Discipleship Training programs.

Other areas of ministry, just as important, are included in IMPACTennessee. We will seek to aid associations and churches in establishing 175 churches by 1995.

How do Tennessee Baptists relate to these plans — and to the capriciousness of the world? Is it vainglorious to keep on trying?

The ranking of news articles on the front page of a large daily paper one late December morning helps state the case. The large headline at the top related that "Bush says 'recession' after worst poll news," while "Hammer and sickle won't fly after New Year's eve," was relegated to the bottom of the page in small type.

In other words, in December 1991 the recession was bigger news than the fact that the Soviet Union is being dissolved completely. To those of us who built bomb shelters in the 1960s, this is incredible.

It should not be lost in the shuffle, however, that the same God who worked in his own good time to snuff out communism as a world nemesis — is also the God who opens doors and who can provide for his church even in recession!

This is the challenge of the next few months — perhaps years. Without communism as a world power, less money will be spent on weaponry of war. We don't know how much that will help a

recession, but it will dramatically improve the safety status of the human race.

In 1930, a time of deep depression worldwide, Frederic Manning wrote, "War is waged by men; not by beasts, or by gods. It is a peculiarly human activity. To call it a crime against mankind is to miss at least half of its significance; it is also the punishment of a crime. That raises a moral question, the kind of problem with which this age is disinclined to deal. Perhaps some future attempt to provide a solution for it may prove to be even more astonishing than the last."

Working in an even slightly more peaceful world, Christians now must expend their greatest and most courageous effort to save mankind from this world, for the next.

This is a challenge which most may not want to accept — and many will not even acknowledge. When will there be a better time for world evangelization than in 1992?

Tennessee Baptists have the goals of IMPACTennessee facing us squarely. Will we flinch?

The best news of 1991 can be coupled with our best efforts in 1992 to accomplish great things for God through Christ. Brash talk and meaningless rhetoric lead to failure. We can overcome financial recession, threat of state lotteries, dwindling resources, unbelief in the future — not with ignorance and fear, but with the courage born of faith in a miracle-making Lord and commitment to Him. WFA

Europeans have mixed reaction on defunding of Ruschlikon

RICHMOND (BP) — The Baptist Union of Romania's general council has taken a stand supporting the defunding of the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Other European Baptist union leaders — many of whom opposed the defunding action — will meet in January to discuss how to respond to the trustees' Dec. 11 reaffirmation of the defunding originally voted in October.

The Romanian Baptist leaders met Nov. 26 and "agreed to this decision" of the FMB trustees, according to a letter dated Dec. 10 and signed by Vasile Talos and Nic Gheorghita. Talos is president and Gheorghita is general secretary of the union, the largest Baptist group in Europe with 160,000 members, according to Baptist World Alliance statistics for 1988.

The letter was addressed to Paul Thibodeaux, the Foreign Mission Board's associate director for mission work in eastern Europe.

In October, the smaller Hungarian Baptist Union of Romania issued a statement urging the Foreign Mission Board to reconsider its decision to defund Ruschlikon and join with Europeans to resolve the seminary's financial problems.

The Dec. 10 letter from Talos and Gheorghita said: "The Baptist Union of Romania had a grieving experience with (the Ruschlikon) seminary: one of our pastors, the only graduate from Ruschlikon, after his coming back to the country, had a negative influence in the Baptist Union of Bucharest and in some churches as well," the letter stated. "Eventually the church he ministered (to) asked him to resign for immorality ..."

The letter also said professors from Ruschlikon who taught in a Romanian Baptist seminary and churches "some years ago ... squeezed doubts in their lectures that the Bible is entirely the Word of God. These experiences robbed the good reputation of the Ruschlikon seminary in Romania."

The Romanians subsequently decided to concentrate on developing their own two theological schools in Bucharest and Oradea and "not to send students to Ruschlikon in the future," the letter said.

The letter concluded that the Romanian union council "welcomes and appreciates" the decision by the Foreign Mission Board to "support the Biblical institutes from the east European countries." The decision is "very important and more efficient for God's work in these countries."

The letter was received by Baptist Press but had not reached Thibodeaux, to whom it was addressed, or the Europe office of the Foreign Mission Board by Dec. 18. Repeated attempts by Baptist Press to reach Romanian Baptist leaders for further interpretation of the statement were unsuccessful.

Contacted for comment, Thibodeaux responded: "I don't think you can blame Ruschlikon for individual sins or immorality (of former students). ... The case that they cite I'm aware of, and I know of the problems, but in no way could one say that it was Ruschlikon's doing."

As to professors from Ruschlikon teaching unbiblically in Romania, "We've never heard that until this

day," Thibodeaux said. "It has never been expressed to us — the representatives who have traveled there consistently over the years and who have had fraternal relationships with the Romanian union on behalf of the Foreign Mission Board and Southern Baptists — until this issue surfaced with the defunding of Ruschlikon. ... If these had been valid arguments in years past they would have surfaced. It's strange to me that it only surfaces now."

Thibodeaux added, however, the decision could be "closely linked" to the Romanians' hopes for more financial support for their own schools. He said he had been told by Romanian Baptist leader Josif Ton that Ton hopes to raise \$2 million each for the two Romanian Baptist schools from Southern Baptists.

Ton, head of the Baptist Bible Institute in Oradea and pastor of Second Church there, indicated his own support for the defunding action in a Nov. 1 letter to FMB trustee chairman Bill Hancock. Hancock sent the letter to Baptist Press Dec. 12.

Ton congratulated the trustees for

their decision to discontinue support for Ruschlikon, and recounted several instances of European students who he said had their faith shaken or destroyed at Ruschlikon by "liberal theologians."

"I know (Ruschlikon president) John David Hopper has tried to steer the school in a new direction," Ton said. "But as far as we can see the school is dominated by 'liberal' teachers ..."

British Baptists earlier had said the defunding — if upheld — would damage Southern Baptists' relations with their British counterparts. British Baptist leader David Coffey told FMB officials after the Dec. 11 vote that Southern Baptist missionaries Gary and Delores Bishop (now on furlough) would be welcomed back but that no new missionaries would be requested. German Baptists also had warned of negative consequences if the defunding action stood.

Calls and letters continued to come in to Foreign Mission Board offices about the defunding action. By Dec. 18 the board had received 593 letters on the issue; 521 opposed the defunding, and 72 favored it.

We aim to please!

With you the reader in mind, the Baptist and Reflector staff is engaged in an inhouse study.

We are developing ways to make the paper easier to read, more attractive to the reader, to increase churchwide subscriptions, and to involve Tennessee Baptists in the ministries of their state convention.

Early in the new year we hope to have discovered solutions to all these efforts — and to have most of them in place.

We are committed to produce the very best state Baptist paper possible. — Editor

Baptist and Reflector

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S.C. committee to pursue court action against Furman

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — Former South Carolina convention president Gregory Horton has appointed a seven-member committee to pursue a declaratory judgment on the legality of Furman University's action in 1990 to make its board of trustees self-perpetuating. But he also held out hope for an out-of-court settlement.

Horton, a layman, said each committee member has agreed to "do everything possible" to avert a court battle.

Accompanied by new convention president Eddie Greene of Anderson, Horton, a layman from Simpsonville, announced the committee names at a press conference Dec. 17 at the Baptist Building.

"Each one (of the committee) has told me he is not anti-Furman and has no axe to grind with anyone in this matter," Horton said.

The committee was authorized by messengers to the Nov. 11-12 state convention in Greenville. It includes four laymen, two pastors, and a retired pastor.

The committee's makeup did not please Furman University President

John E. Johns, who in a prepared statement declared his disappointment "that the past president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention would appoint a committee that is composed primarily of fundamentalists who are openly hostile to Furman."

"I was certainly surprised," he continued, "to see that he had appointed the individual who made the substitute motion to sue Furman at the convention, as well as the Furman trustee who seconded the motion."

Johns was referring to committee members George Campsen III from Mt. Pleasant, who offered the motion seeking the declaratory judgment, and Guy Sanders Jr. from Bamberg, also a layman, who serves on the Furman board through 1993.

Also on the committee are Arthur Bruce, layman from Anderson; Redmond Coyle, layman from Pickens; Troy Gregg, pastor of First Church in Chesnee; Timothy Head, pastor of Cooper River Church in Charleston; and Bruce Russell, a retired minister from Charleston.

No deadline has been set for any ac-

Dallas said the reaccreditation reflects the "positive leadership of the administration of the seminary. I don't expect anything but better days ahead."

Armed with reaccreditation and a four-year strategic plan, Dilday said Southwestern is "poised for the future like never before."

Countering warnings Southern Baptist seminaries have become immobilized and are headed toward the dark ages, Dilday said positive reports from the two accrediting agencies, improved relations with trustees, and recent additions to the school's faculty are evidence the seminary is on solid ground.

Those factors, combined with the strategic plan called Vision For Excellence, give Dilday confidence the "best days of Southwestern Seminary are just ahead."

tion by the committee, which also would choose its own chairman, Horton said.

The former convention president also emphasized so far "no money" had been spent by the convention for litigation.

The prospects of using offering plate money for a court action has, however, triggered protests from many South Carolina Baptists. At least four churches — First churches in Greenville, Laurens, and Belton, along with Augusta Road Church in Greenville — have voted to withhold Cooperative Program money to prevent its being used for the law suit.

Furman's 1991 allocation of Cooperative Program money, \$1.6 million, is being held in an interest-bearing account. The 1992 allocation to Furman of \$1.8 million also will be escrowed in that account.

Campsen's substitute motion, which passed by a vote of 211 to 197, stipulated court costs be paid with money designated for Furman.

Messengers to the state convention never voted on a covenant reached between Furman's executive board and a special convention committee allowing the convention to choose Furman trustees from a list approved by Furman.

SBC leaders discuss missions

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — At the invitation of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, four Southern Baptist leaders joined her Dec. 16-17 to discuss missions support.

O'Brien invited the leaders in September to come to the WMU national headquarters to discuss ways Southern Baptists can be more supportive of missions. The December dates were the first time they could all get together.

Involved in the private discussions were Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign

Horton insisted his hope for an out-of-court settlement was not a "step back" from the convention's action in November to pursue the declaratory judgment.

Greene also issued a call for reconciliation. "We need to talk," he said. The new convention president, a "conservative" who characterizes himself as a reconciler, said, "The rank and file South Carolina Baptists do not want a lawsuit and we've heard them loud and clear."

"I'm extending a hand to Furman," Greene said, "And I'm waiting for a hand in return."

Johns restated his hope "this matter could be settled out of court."

"But," he continued, "it seems apparent that this committee is composed of people who favor legal action. Although we're disappointed in the makeup of this committee, we continue to be willing to talk with responsible groups representing the convention until a law suit is filed."

Asked whether the seven-member committee had legal authority to instigate a court action, Horton said that would have to be determined.

Greene said, "This is a new path. South Carolina Baptists have never been down this road before."

Mission Board; Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; and John Hewett, moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C.

Also invited to join the discussion were James Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, and Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Both had planned to attend all or portions of the meeting, but could not at the last minute.

O'Brien said she invited this particular group to the discussion because they are leaders who direct agencies and entities that are associated with missions giving.

The meeting represented the first time these Southern Baptist leaders have gathered to discuss missions.

The leaders did not release a statement. However, they agreed they are all concerned about lagging missions offerings and a general decline in missions interest on the part of Southern Baptists. But the group made no recommendations, is taking no action, and has no plans to meet again.

Sermon preached on Cuban radio

MEMPHIS (BP) — A Cuban Baptist pastor's Christmas day sermon was the first evangelical message heard on Cuban radio in 28 years, according to the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

Raul Suarez, pastor of Ebenezer Church in Marianao, Cuba, preached the sermon on Cuban radio, a rarity since the Castro revolution in 1959.

Suarez has been involved in long-term dialogue with the government of Fidel Castro, according to a news release from BPFNA in Memphis. He is a past president of the Cuban Council of Churches.

"There's no question that the Cuban government's view of the Christian community is changing," said Ken Sehested, executive director of BPFNA.

SACS reaccredits Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH (BP) — Two accrediting agencies have completed their work and awarded reaccreditation for the next ten years to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, according to officials at the Fort Worth, Texas, school.

Southwestern, which received reaccreditation from the Association of Theological Schools last spring, was notified Dec. 16 by officials from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools the seminary has received its approval.

Southwestern President Russell Dilday said he is pleased with the outcome of the reaccreditation process.

"This affirms what we already knew — that Southwestern Seminary is in good shape, strong, and ready for the best years in the history of the school," Dilday said.

Trustee Chairman Jim Bolton of

Sunday School lesson commentators begin writing

Three new Sunday School lesson commentators have been chosen for January, February, and March.

Writers are David Tydings, Grainger Association director of missions; First Church, Bolivar, Pastor Jerry Winfield; and layperson Sharon Herrington.

Tydings will comment on lessons in the Convention Uniform Series.

He has been director of missions for Grainger Association since 1988 when he left the pastorate of Chinquapin Grove Church, Bluff City, after serving ten years. Before working in Bluff City, he was pastor of Bowmantown Church, Jonesborough, for nine years. In addition, Tydings has served churches in Kentucky and Missouri. He was ordained to the ministry in 1960 at Baileyton Church, Baileyton.

The Kentucky native earned an associate's degree from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.; and a bachelor's degree from Carson-



HERRINGTON



TYDINGS



WINFIELD

Newman College, Jefferson City. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., for two years.

Tydings served in the United States Navy for two years. He is now a member of Calvary Church, Mooresburg. He and his wife, Sarah Ann, have one daughter.

Herrington will write about Life and Work lessons.

She is currently an editorial assistant with the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. Her past experience includes public and private school teaching, freelance writing, and curriculum writing for the Sunday School Board.

She is a member of Hermitage Hills

Church, Hermitage, and serves as a Sunday School teacher there.

The Bastrop, La., native earned a bachelor's degree in home economics education from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, and a master's degree from Murray State University, Murray, Ky.

Herrington has three daughters. Her late husband, Richard, was pastor of Hermitage Hills until his death in 1990.

Winfield will comment on lessons in the Bible Book Series.

During his ministry, Winfield has been pastor of churches in Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, and Mississippi. He served also as associate pastor at Mullins Station Church and Wells Station Church, both in Memphis, in the beginning of his ministry.

He was ordained in 1972 at Berclair Church, Memphis.

Winfield graduated from Blue Mountain (Miss.) College with a bachelor's degree in social studies. He went on to earn a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a doctor of ministry degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. He and his wife, Jane, have two children.

William Carey pastors reflect on 50-plus years of ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey

FAYETTEVILLE — When James Harney began preaching in September of 1941, Joe Dimaggio's 56-game hitting streak had been over for only a few weeks, Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor was only months away, and fellow ministers Edward Lee and Dewey Cantrell already had been preaching for several years.

Fifty years later, those events in 1941 seem "ancient" history, yet Harney, Lee, and Cantrell are still preaching.

The William Carey Association ministers led different types of ministries, yet the three are tied together by two common bonds. They are deeply rooted in the Word of God and all are proud of their Southern Baptist heritage.

Lee, a native of Alabama, began

preaching in 1936. He served several TBC churches including Elkton in Union Hill, Ardmore in Macedonia, First Church, Decherd, and First Church, Whitwell. In addition he was the first missionary (now director of missions) for Giles County Association.

Lee's later ministry, which spanned 18 years, was spent in the pioneer missions area near Chicago. While there he helped establish 11 mission stations in Illinois and northern Indiana.

Cantrell, on the other hand, never strayed far from his roots. Born in Alabama, he was reared on a farm in the Fayetteville area near the state line of Alabama and Tennessee.

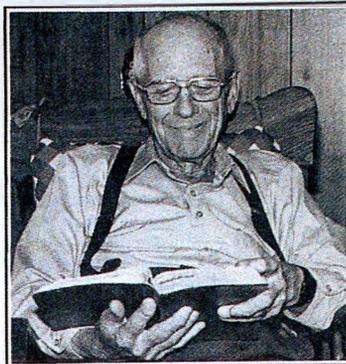
He began preaching in 1932 at the age of 20. All of his ministry, which includes churches in both states, has been within 30 miles of his homeplace.

Tennessee pastorates included Oak Grove, Pleasant Grove, Stewart's Chapel, Kirkland, Donaldson Grove, and Lexie Crossroads churches, all in William Carey Association.

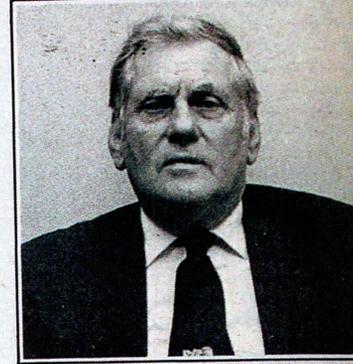
Harney, the "youngster" of the three, is a native of Murfreesboro. He was ordained at his home church, New Hope, in 1941.

Pastorates have included First Church, Wartrace; First Church, Huntland; First Church, Waverly; Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg; and Union Hill Church, Nashville, where he retired from the pastorate in 1987.

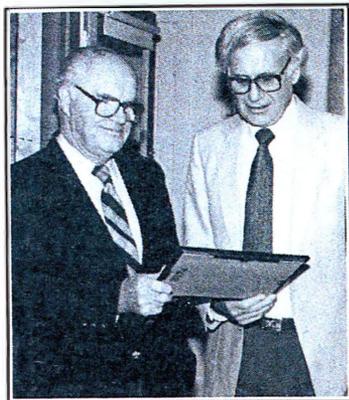
Harney and his wife, Deaurette, moved back to Huntland. An interesting note about Harney's early ministry in Huntland was that he also taught at the high school. Among his students were the children of the Majors family. One of those boys, Johnny, is now the head football coach at the



BIBLE STUDY — Dewey Cantrell studies the Bible in his rocking chair at home. Cantrell began preaching in 1932.



50TH YEAR — 1991 marked the 50th year of ministry for James Harney, who currently is pastor of Hickory Grove Church, Huntland.



REFLECTING — Fayetteville pastor Edward Lee, left, looks over some old photos with Joe Mayberry, director of missions for William Carey Association.

ple do not understand their Baptist heritage, the pastors said.

"When I was called to preach at the age of 19 I already was steeped in what Baptists believe because of preachers who taught me," Harney said.

Lee agreed. "We don't have enough doctrinal preaching today in our Baptist constituency," he said. He emphasized, "I'm a denominational man, a Southern Baptist and proud of it."

Not all of the changes have been negative, Harney said, noting churches are doing more for their ministers today in the areas of expenses and retirement.

The veteran ministers offered some advice for future ministers.

"Study the Word of God and spend time in prayer," Lee suggested.

"Be determined that you are called and stay with it. If you are called, nothing will stop you," Cantrell observed.

University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Despite being well beyond retirement age all three men are still preaching.

Harney, in fact, has a full-time pastorate at Hickory Grove Church in Huntland.

Lee lives near Fayetteville with his wife, Idella, and serves in interim roles and led nine revivals during the past year. "I plan to keep preaching as long as I'm physically able," he declared.

Illness has slowed the ministry of Cantrell, but he preached as recently as November. He lives south of Fayetteville with his wife, Ruby.

The three ministers have seen numerous changes in their 50-plus years of service.

One change the three men agree on is that the church is no longer the center of the community as it once was.

Another major change is many peo-

Our Readers Write

Convention reflections

I offer some reflections following the 1991 Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Memphis.

First, by and large it was an enjoyable convention. Broadmoor Church was an excellent host. The program committee had done a good job. I am glad the convention can be done in two days.

Second, the budget process leaves a lot to be desired. It was dumb to increase the proposed budget by two percent when last year's budget had not been met. Not only had the receipts not reached the budget, total receipts were less than the previous year.

Third, few were opposed to equalizing the gifts to the three colleges. However, very few were in favor of equalizing anything at the expense of the world mission share of the Cooperative Program.

Fourth, the budget that was passed was not realistic, but, it is not impossible. God's people in Tennessee Baptist churches could give 28 million dollars this next year if we all really wanted to.

Since I made the motion to amend the budget in the interest of missions and togetherness, I want to encourage all Tennessee Baptists to give all that we believe God wants us to give in support of the total Cooperative Program budget this next year. Let's see what God might do through our giving.

And let's pray for a more sensible budget process for the following year.

J. W. Bargiol
P.O. Box 444
Harriman 37748

Studying, learning

A warm testimony meeting, many participants in which have been Christians since early childhood encouraged me to write this testimony:

Paul was right! When I was a child I, too, thought like a child and as I grew more mature I began to put aside childhood misunderstandings of the Scriptures. With growing experience and study I continue to learn better interpretations even of familiar passages. At age 83 I realize that at best we see spiritual realities like dim, distorted reflections in a metal mirror, but that each year there are new riches to discover in the Scriptures. How thankful we must be that salvation depends on God's grace, not our flawless Biblical interpretation!

Carl T. Bahner
P.O. Box 549
Jefferson City 37760

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.

Union offers seminary courses

Union University will offer four new graduate level courses this spring in conjunction with the university's seminary studies program.

The seminary studies program is sponsored by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. and hosted by Union University. Students enrolled in the program take courses which can be transferred toward a master's degree at any of the other five Southern Baptist seminaries.

"This program allows West Tennessee pastors to receive quality master's level training at a convenient area site," said John Adams, vice president for religious affairs at Union.

Classes will meet Mondays and Tuesdays for 13 weeks beginning Feb. 17, 1992 and continuing through May 18. Course offerings include "The Gospel of John" taught by Tony Hopkins, "The Ministry of Leadership"

Queen serves Knoxville

Harold Queen is serving as pastor of Seven Islands Church, Knoxville.

He is the former assistant pastor of Mount Carmel Church, Maryville, and pastor of Keeble's Chapel Church, Walland.

A bivocational pastor who works at the Farmers' Cooperative in Maryville, Queen was ordained in 1981 by Old Pine Church, Maryville.

He is a native of Tapoca, N.C., and he and his wife, Joan Bryar Queen, have four children.

taught by Wayne Day, "Introduction to Church History" taught by Ronald Tonks, and "Greek Syntax and Exegesis" taught by David Irby.

Costs for the program include a \$10 application fee payable when the student mails in an admission application and a \$500 matriculation fee payable at time of registration. Students taking six hours or less will pay \$75 per hour.

For more information or an application for admission, contact Adams at Union University, (901) 668-1818 or contact Larry McSwain, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1-800-626-5525.

Board honors Bradley

Ruth Bradley, Executive Board coordinator, was honored for 20 years of service with the Tennessee Baptist Convention at the board's winter meeting Dec. 12 in Brentwood.

Bradley coordinates work of the board and all its committees with convention offices at the Baptist Center.

She has worked with four TBC executives during her tenure, Fred Kendall, the late Ralph Norton, Tom Madden, and D. L. Lowrie.

When a photo was made of 21 other anniversary honorees during the board meeting, Bradley was taking minutes, one of her regular duties.

Pregnancy Crisis Center provides abortion alternative

By Connie Davis

MORRISTOWN — She was barely an adult. She had to find another place to live — her parents had asked her to leave her home. Her boyfriend suggested she get an abortion. She visited the Pregnancy Crisis Center.

Joyce Vinson, director, found the girl a place to live at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' Alternative Home in Greeneville for pregnant women. But she missed her next appointment and didn't call.

"I am her friend, but I also encouraged her that Jesus was the best friend she had and He was always there for her to turn to — but I will be there too if she wants to call," said Vinson.

Last year about 450 women visited the Pregnancy Crisis Center in Morristown, a county seat town of 20,000.

After three years of working out of its downtown office, the center, which is sponsored by Nalachucky Association, is impacting this quiet town.

Women from all walks of life visit the center for the free pregnancy test, to pick up some baby clothes, or because they have nowhere else to turn.

Whether they are pregnant or not is often just a symptom of a life marred by homelessness, lack of financial support, limited job training, and single motherhood, reported Vinson.

"These women are God's gift to us for that day and we have to love them right where they are because Jesus loves them right where they are."

When a woman enters the small office building, which also houses a physician's office, she is greeted by a woman volunteer in a room filled with comfortable seating and handmade items.

"We don't want them to feel intimidated in any way. We are their friends," said Vinson, noting clients don't even have to say they want a pregnancy test. That question is a part of the questionnaire they are asked to complete. Also they learn all information given to the center or its workers is confidential.

German Baptists oppose Nazi attacks

HAMBURG, Germany (BP) — German Baptists will mount a campaign in 1992 to counter a rising tide of Nazi-inspired nationalism and attacks against immigrants that have swept Germany and other parts of Europe in recent months.

"This is something we find very important — that we as Christians show we are peacemakers and that we struggle against this fighting against the foreigners who come to our country," said Hans Guderian, German Baptists' home missions secretary.

The special emphasis will be part of the German Baptist Union's yearlong home missions promotion. Missions conferences will feature participants from many ethnic and racial

Beulah Association holds fall meeting

During the fall meeting of Beulah Association, messengers elected the following officers: Jud Lambert, pastor, First Church, Tiptonville — moderator; Jerry Leggett, pastor, Lake Road Church, Union City — vice-moderator; and Linda George, member, Lake Road Church — clerk/recording treasurer.



JUST FOR BABIES — Center workers, from left, Lelia Gray, a member of First Church, Morristown; Joyce Vinson, director; and Carolyn Barclay of First Church, show clothing and toys they distribute to expectant mothers and their families.

After completing the information form, and while waiting for the results of the pregnancy test, first-time visitors enter another comfortable, private room to view a videotape on dealing with a crisis pregnancy by James Dobson, director of a Christian family concerns agency.

Then Vinson meets with the woman to discuss the results of the test and to offer help.

"We have to be realistic. If this is her second time in and she's used a false name, she's a probable candidate for an abortion. I have to do my very best to make sure she understands. I don't want these girls going through life feeling guilty for something they can prevent."

None resent the discussion, said Vinson. "I do not apply pressure. I just tell them the Gospel truth."

"I have lots of freedom to share my faith with the clients because we're sponsored by the Nalachucky Baptist Association and we receive no funds from outside those churches."

Vinson turns to local shelters in addition to the TBCH Alternative Home for help. If provided a choice of housing, a woman often can then choose to have

backgrounds. German Baptists have an extensive ministry to refugees.

"We will strengthen work with refugees from whatever country and background," Guderian said.

Almost five million foreigners live in Germany, a country with 79.5 million people. Several hundred thousand immigrants have moved into Germany in recent years; as many as two million more are expected. More than 30,000 asylum seekers entered Germany in October alone, most of them fleeing the war in Yugoslavia. But many of the newcomers are ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union, returning to their homeland now that they are free to move.

Guderian estimates 40,000 of these ethnic Germans come from Baptist or Mennonite backgrounds. The newcomers have organized several hundred churches in Germany. "They form their own organizations because they have their own culture and background," he said. "Often they don't speak German so very well because they have been in the Russian-language culture. ... Our long-range goal (is) to help them integrate into normal church life in Germany."

the baby, said Vinson.

The center also can provide clothing, diapers, and other baby items from its crisis closet. Nalachucky Association church members and area community organizations supply the items.

Without revealing any confidential information, Vinson also refers a local Baptist pastor to her if requested.

Most of the women clients are not black or on welfare, said Vinson. Many are married, but wish to save the expense of \$27 for the health department pregnancy test. Others need a friend.

Some come after being referred to the center by guidance counselors or pastors. Some come from doctors' offices, considering abortion, she added.

"I tell them God understands, but whatever you do, that's a life and you don't have the right to take that life. That's why you have an alternative," stated Vinson.

Families also come, she added. Vinson has counseled men affected by a pregnancy.

"I don't suggest to anyone something that I wouldn't do myself and I wouldn't tell my children."

She tries to contact every client near the birth date and if the woman agrees, will visit her in the hospital and deliver a gift provided by the center.

Vinson is the first paid director of the center, which is the only pregnancy crisis center funded by a Baptist association in Tennessee. At least two TBC churches also sponsor pregnancy crisis centers in the state.

The association is assisted by Leroy Barclay, M.D., member of First Church, Morristown, who provides the office space free of charge and some of the supplies. The center is open 2-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

"The number of people we're seeing has exceeded our expectations," said James C. Williams Jr., director of missions, Nalachucky Association. The availability of the center five days a week and a full-time counselor have contributed to its effectiveness. Williams and Vinson said.

Vinson's direct, professional style stems from her faith and calling.

"I'm not here by accident by any means. It was the answer to many prayers."

She discovered her gift of counseling during her husband's pastoral career. Vinson noted. She is a member of Bethel Church, Morristown, where her husband, Ray, is pastor.

"I don't have a degree in counseling at all. You see what I say, it's a gift of God."

"I love my God and I like to witness for him," said Vinson.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I have been stymied on many occasions by "reasons." I have wondered why some things are part of the Bible — and why others are left out.

I think we often try to read between the lines, make something appear to be the way we want it to be — rather than the way God intends it.

And I have thought that Joseph must have been a vital part of God's plan for the early years of Jesus Christ. The verses of Matthew 2 bear testimony that Joseph cared for Mary and Jesus in Bethlehem, all the way to Egypt when they fled the death threats of Herod — and on to Nazareth where the family settled.

After that, no more Joseph. Russell Dilday, speaking in Southwestern Seminary chapel early in December, said Joseph must have been a good man for handling crises. Though disappointed when he found his fiancée to be pregnant — he "considered" and "thought on" the situation that troubled him.

God's love and Joseph's honor and commitment of love to young Mary helped Joseph through the crisis. He began putting other people first. In

other words, he laid out the problem before God; he obeyed God's angel.

Isn't Joseph's action an example for Christians — especially as we face the beginning of a new year? What will God have us to do? Does He already have plans, for good, for our lives? Will we want to accept his plan as being the best one for us? Can we lay out the blank page before Him?

Long ago, John Burroughs wrote, "I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see. The longer I live the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world."

Taking that thought a step further, wouldn't it benefit us if we lived that way? I think so. January 1 is always a very good day to turn over a new page, rearrange a cluttered life, bring new friends into our circle, share Jesus' saving grace with all who listen for it.

We make such a big holiday out of New Year's Day — why not attach to it the spiritual significance of turning toward God, and letting Him speak his "message" to us.

It can be a breakthrough for each one of his children. Seize the day and each day for Him — and the rest of the new year will follow in like manner.



ALLEN

Former Tennessean prepares sermons and legal briefs

By Ferrell Foster

DUNDEE, Ill. (BP) — Lawyer John Larry Phillips prepared his arguments for a legal case as he sat at a large wooden table cluttered with papers and surrounded by shelves of books. The legal brief had three points.

For Sundays, he prepares sermons — three points and a poem.

Phillips, 48, is both a lawyer and a pastor.

He spends about 40 hours every week at the law office of Donald R. Brewer in Dundee, Ill., northwest of Chicago. Much of the rest of his time is spent being pastor of Calvary Church in Woodstock, further to the northwest.

"It's kind of like two full-time jobs," Phillips said. "Probably most bivoca-

tional pastors will tell you that."

The Georgia native who grew up in Murfreesboro, doesn't fit the traditional mold of a pastor or a lawyer. "But I love doing both of them," he said.

"I love the law, and I love the Lord," Phillips said. "I still feel like a layman who God has called to preach."

Phillips was 37 years old and practicing law in Columbia when God called him to preach. He closed his law office, sold his house, and moved his wife and three kids to seminary in 1979.

In 1983, he was called as pastor of First Church, Olympia Fields, Ill., near Chicago, and stayed there until

1986. That year, he thought God was calling him to a church back in Tennessee, near the Phillips' extended family.

"I knew the first Sunday morning I stood up in the church that I was in the wrong place," he says now. "I was homesick for Chicagoland."

"I just love this area for some reason," Phillips said. "I don't know what it is. You grab for straws."

In 1988, Phillips was called as full-time pastor at Calvary Church in Woodstock, a growing community in a growing county.

The church treated him well financially, but for various reasons the

church felt monetary strains. Also, Phillips was feeling some personal pressures. He felt he had been "kind of overkilling" as a pastor.

So, to help the church financially and himself emotionally, Phillips took the Illinois Bar Exam and became a practicing lawyer again in November 1990.

Since then his weekly schedule has been packed. Monday through Friday he works at the law office, but each day he carries with him four manilla folders of study materials — one each for his two Sunday sermons, Wednesday message, and Sunday School lesson. He studies before he goes to the office and whenever he can during the day. "I saturate myself."

On Saturday, he pulls together his thoughts into organized sermons and lessons for presentation. He also works on Sunday afternoon.

Phillips said he probably is a workaholic. He prides himself on being prepared — for sermons, lessons, and legal cases. "I may go overboard. It's almost an obsession with me ... to be as prepared as I can be."

The family joke, he laughs, is that "my day off is Sunday night from eight o'clock to midnight." Then the cycle starts over.

"I've probably not been fair to my family," Phillips admits. "But the Lord seemed to be blessing so much."



PREPARING BRIEF — John Larry Phillips works on a legal brief in his office in Dundee, Ill. Phillips is pastor of Calvary Church, Woodstock.

Support the Cooperative Program



TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Somebody likes us. The Barna Research group found that 29 percent of Americans have a "very favorable" impression of Baptist churches and 36 percent have a "somewhat favorable" impression. However ten percent have a "somewhat unfavorable" impression and five percent a "very unfavorable" impression of us.



LOWRIE

It was of special interest to me as to who likes us most. It seems that the blacks, the lower income people, the elderly, and those without formal education give us high marks. This is good news for us. Many of the unsaved of the state are in these groups, and they will welcome our witness.

We should not spend too much time wondering about what "they" think about us. We should concern ourselves with doing God's work in God's way. It is my experience that if we will do God's work in God's way, we will have the favor of the common people.

The evaluation that really matters is that of our Lord. Can we get a "very

favorable" rating from Him? He uses different standards of measurement from the world. He measures our works more than our words. He is concerned about our attitudes and motives. He wants to know what we have done for others.

There is something that concerns me, however. It is sobering when you think that every opinion surveyed was probably based on some personal experience. Many of the "very unfavorable" ratings reflect a bad experience with a particular Baptist. People form opinions of a whole company of people based on their experience with only one member of the group. It is so important that we relate to the outside world in a way that will make the witness of our church easier.

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Judgment against Israel and its neighbors

By Jerry Winfield, pastor; First Church, Bolivar

Message of Amos (ch. 1:1-2) Sometime between 760 and 750 B.C., a shepherd by the name of Amos left his home village of Tekoa in the southern kingdom of Judah to deliver God's message to the northern kingdom of Israel. It was a time of great prosperity because of a relative time of peace with her neighbors. Socially and spiritually, however, Israel had abandoned the teachings and commandments of God. Worship had become little more than dead ritual and the poor and needy were the target of great social injustices.



WINFIELD

Into this scene walked the prophet of God. The message of Amos walked and to the point. Because of the sin-

fulness of the people and their refusal to repent, God was going to judge the nation of Israel. The nation would soon cease to be.

Judgment against Israel's neighbors (ch. 1:3-2:3)

Amos began his prophecy by pronouncing judgment upon the surrounding nations. Beginning with the phrase, "Thus saith the Lord" and the formula, "for three transgressions ... for four," Amos declared the authority for his message and the completeness of the sins of the nations.

Damascus would be judged for her cruelty against Israel in war (ch. 1:3-5). The Philistines would suffer judgment because of their practice of slavery (vv. 6-8). Breaking the treaty with Solomon brought judgment against Tyre (vv. 9-10). The Edomites were guilty of anger and vengeance (vv. 11-12). Ammon's sin was cruel imperialism (vv. 13-15). Moab suffered God's wrath because of their violent

hatred (ch. 2:1-3). God judged Israel's neighbors for their sins.

Judgment against Judah (ch. 2:4-5)

Amos next brought his message closer to home. Not only would God judge Israel's pagan neighbors, he would also judge their brothers in Judah.

The sin of Judah related to breaking of the mosaic law. Amos identified their sin as two-fold. First, Judah had rejected God's law (v. 4). Second, the people were guilty of believing "lies" their fathers believed about false gods. Judah had forgotten God's covenant and as a result faced his judgment.

Judgment against Israel (ch. 2:6-16)

As God had judged others for their sins, he would also judge the sins of Israel. This was the focal point of Amos' message.

Amos cited the specific sins of which Israel was guilty. These sins included

injustice against the innocent and poor (vv. 6-7); immorality (v. 7b); desecration of worship (v. 8); tempting others to sin (vv. 11-12); rejection of God's prophets (v. 12b); and general unfaithfulness.

BIBLE BOOK

January 5 Lesson

Basic Passage: Amos 1:1-2:16

Even though Israel had experienced the blessings of God, now, because of her sin and refusal to repent, she would experience the judgment of a holy and righteous God. God was gracious in sending Amos to warn the Israelites of the coming judgment, but they were foolish in ignoring the messenger of God.

The lesson is abundantly clear: sin by any nation or people is serious to God. He warns. He forgives, but He also judges. Could God be giving the same message to us today?

A song for temple visitors

By David Tydings, director of missions; Grainger Association, Rutledge

As you attend your respective churches each week, what are your first impressions of the church building and grounds? Are they clean, in need of repair, inviting? When you enter the sanctuary, what do you find - a place conducive to worship? Is it a place for meditation and prayer? Do you feel a sense of warmth and the presence of God? Why do you go to church? Do you go just to meet people, to socialize with friends and fellow class members, to hear great music? Or do you go to join with fellow Christians in the worship and praise of our Lord God?



TYDINGS

The psalmist, evidently, was unable to attend the temple services. We are not told the reason for his absence, but he had a strong desire to be at the

temple to worship. He recalled with great delight the preparation for, and the excitement of being able to go to the temple. The temple was God's house - God's abiding place. The reading of Scripture from the scrolls was a precious moment. The decor of the temple and the multitude of temple workers and priests sent electrifying impulses coursing through his whole being. His greatest desire was to attend the services of the temple and worship the supreme God.

Many things may prevent our attendance at the services of our church. It may be an illness, a physical handicap, or even a lack of desire for worship. As I write, I'm reminded of Mrs. Novella Townsend, a homebound member of the Chiquapin Grove Church, Bluff City. Mrs. Novella, as she is lovingly called by the people there, suffers from arthritis that confines her to her home. When my wife, Sarah, and I visited her, she always related to us her desire to be in the

Lord's house. During my almost ten-year pastorate on the Chiquapin field, Mrs. Novella was able to attend the worship service a few times. She was so happy just to be in the Lord's house with his people. She would shed tears of joy throughout the service. The songs, the prayers, the message, the people present, and the building itself thrilled her soul as she worshiped the Lord. Even though she was unable to be in regular attendance, she never failed to pray for the services and for me and my family as we served in that community.

CONVENTION UNIFORM

January 5 Lesson

Basic Passage: Psalm 84

In Psalm 84:1, the writer says, "How worthy to be loved is your dwelling place." He also tells us he hungers for this place of worship. How do you feel about your worship experiences today? Are you able to identify with the psalmist in our lesson? I pray that you are.

Verses 5-9 tell us there is happiness when we anticipate the worship of our

Lord. The journey to Jerusalem was long, hazardous, and time-consuming. Camels, donkeys, or walking was their mode of travel. Going to this great city was an arduous task, and much preparation was necessary before the trip began. However, when one experienced his first glance at the temple, setting on the highest point overlooking Jerusalem, the time spent in getting ready for this wonderful occasion was forgotten. The view was worth it all.

As we go to our individual churches each week, all of the difficulties we encounter in preparation for our time of worship should be laid aside. Just the sight of the church building should excite and heighten our anticipation for the greater things that will be ours as we share in the worship of our Lord. Think of the time spent in the sanctuary with fellow Christians worshipping, praying, praising our Lord with song, and communicating with God.

The worship of God and renewing commitment to Him is a privilege. Public worship enriches our worship experience. We should avail ourselves of every opportunity to hear God speak to us through his Word.

Recognizing the King

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

As with any special event in life, great preparation must be part of the anticipation of the occasion. God prepared Jesus to enter the world at precisely the right moment in history through his use of John the Baptist as the forerunner of Christ in preparing individuals to recognize the lordship of Jesus (Luke 1:17).

John the Baptist, Jesus, and "we, the people" are the central characters in the Scripture lesson from Matthew 3.

While presenting Jesus as the Messiah-King, Matthew portrayed John the Baptist as an adult - rough, dressed in rugged clothing, a wilderness kind of man who had the divine assignment of introducing Jesus and his ministry to the people and



HERRINGTON

ultimately the world.

John's message and character fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:10-13). "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," was his dramatic statement to the people. The term repent means to change your mind or to make an about face in your thinking, values, and actions.

This change of heart prepares one for the Kingdom - "where the King is" according to scholar-theologian Herschel Hobbs. Thus, John the Baptist was preparing the way for the Kingdom, or God's rule in the human heart, by urging individuals to repent and prepare for Jesus, the very essence of God's Kingdom. After all, we must clean out the old to make room for the new.

When Jesus, the infant King who grew into boyhood and adulthood, was 33 years old, He came to John for baptism. This marked the beginning of

Jesus' public ministry.

According to Hobbs, this ordination service, or a time of setting apart for God's service, "fulfilled all righteousness" in four ways: (1) Jesus gave validity to John the Baptist's ministry; (2) He identified himself with the people; (3) the death, burial and resurrection pictured in baptism spoke of salvation for the lost and positive implications for believers; and (4) Jesus initiated his ministry of redemption.

LIFE AND WORK

January 5 Lesson

Basic Passage: Matthew 3

John's message of repentance and preparation, followed by Jesus' declaration of his ministry, leaves "we, the people" to respond.

This Scripture lesson reminds us that God planned a simple, yet inspiring, inauguration for his Son's ministry. The picture of Jesus standing in Jordan's waters being baptized by a family member speaks volumes of the humble King who reigns in our hearts.

The picture includes nuances of a King who is firm in his purpose of redeeming mankind; who is not relying on ostentatious ceremonies; and who cares about the really important issues of life, such as God's will, serving others, the importance of family, finding purpose and meaning, and experiencing forgiveness.

After consideration of God's confirmation of his Son's ministry through the dove connoting innocence and sacrifice, and through God's verbal affirmation, "This is my beloved Son ..." we must bow our hearts in recognition of the difference Jesus, the King, has made in our lives through his comfort, his love, his mercy, his assurance, his forgiveness, and his leadership. His attributes go on and on. In gratitude, we can only declare our thanks to our dear Savior for loving us enough to give us spiritual vision to realize He is Lord of all.

The real test of our recognition of Him as King will come in the days ahead in 1992 in our actions, attitudes, and reactions to life.

TenneScene

... from Henryville to Whitleyville,
stopping at Parrottsville ...

Leadership ...

Ebenezer Church, Toone, called J. H. Patterson as pastor.

Jerry Cornett recently accepted the pastorate of Bethel Church, Johnson City. He was ordained in August, 1991, at First Church, Watauga.

Members of Woodland Park Church, Oak Ridge, recently welcomed their new pastor, Daniel Mayes.

John Adams has been called as interim pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson.

Central Church, Hixson, recently called Gaylon B. Wiley as associate pastor/minister of church growth. Wiley was formerly pastor of First Church, Angleton, Texas, for ten years. He graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Home Mission Board.

Rodney Walls is serving as pastor of Warrensburg Church, Mohawk.

Brooks Peters was recently called as pastor of Happy Valley Church, Elizabethton. He was associate pastor of First Church, Hunter.

The congregation of Davis Memorial Church, Dresden, recently welcomed new pastor Gathrin Gallimore.

Bobby Zumbro is serving as interim pastor at Upper Helton Church, Alexandria.

Manilla Chapel, Englewood, called Doug Coleman as pastor.

Jerry Robbins recently became pastor of Zion Church, Waynesboro.

Mack Pinkelton has resigned as pastor of Wales Church, Pulaski, effective Jan. 1 due to health reasons.

Ordinations ...

Jim Brown and Jim Rowell were ordained as deacons Dec. 1 at Berclair Church, Memphis.

First Church, Charleston, recently ordained John Heifner to the deacon ministry.

Churches ...

Members of Calvary Church, Crossville, recently dedicated their new sanctuary and the renovation of their old sanctuary for use as educational space. Fred Tate, former pastor of the church, delivered the dedication message, and the Barns Family and

The Born Again Believers brought special music. John Emory, Clyde Taylor, and Kenneth Peterson were members of the building committee. Dave McCamon is pastor.

A conference focusing on spiritual warfare was held Dec. 15-16 at Rivergate First Church, Hendersonville. Claude King of the Sunday School Board led the conference.

Dallas Bay Mission, Hixson, will constitute Jan. 5 at 3 p.m. The mission was begun three years ago by Hamilton County Association. Ken Duggan serves as pastor.

Members of Lea Springs Church, Blaine, burned the note Dec. 1 on their \$10,000 heating and air system, which was paid off in seven months.

Missions ...

A volunteer mission team from Immanuel Church, Lebanon, including Pastor Don Owens, recently traveled to Xenia, Ohio, to assist Charles Anderson, pastor of Arrowbrook Church in Xenia, with revival.

Sweetwater Association Director of Missions Bennie Creel, Ralph Patton, and Bobby Morgan, recently spent 12 days working with three Baptist mis-

sions in Brazil. The three participated in revival services each evening and Patton and Morgan did construction work during the day. Creel assisted in planning a new method of chapel construction, and helped institute a three-year partnership with Campinas Association. Sixty-five people made professions of faith during revival.

Gail West, a member of Narrow Valley Church, Rutledge, will be in Chile Jan. 10-18 working with missionaries' children in Vacation Bible School.

Tennessee natives Dale and Gaye Coleman, missionaries to Zaire, are on assignment in Togo and may be addressed at B P 1353, Lome, Togo. He was born in Jackson and considers McKenzie his hometown. She is the former Gaye Hickman of McKenzie.

Wesley and Valeria Crenshaw, missionary associates to Germany, are on the field and may be written to at Storchweg 16, 8501 Puschendorf, Germany. They consider Troy their hometown. She is the former Valeria Vaughn.

Missionaries to Chile Bill and Mary Jo Geiger may be written to at Casilla 18-D, Vina del Mar, Chile. They are natives of Memphis. She is the former Mary Jo Shelton.

Memphis natives Scott and Joyce Pittman, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived on their field of service to begin language study. They may be written to at Rua Camargo Penteado 117, 13.073 Campinas, S. Paulo, Brazil. She is the former Joyce Herrington.

FMB names missionaries with Tennessee ties

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's 31 new missionaries include several with Tennessee ties.

John C. Robinson, associate pastor at Green River Church, Waynesboro, was appointed to serve in eastern Europe where he will promote music in a local Baptist association.

A native of Ohio, he was reared in Waynesboro and Clifton. He considers Green River his home church, but also cites First Church, Clifton, as being influential in his Christian growth.

Robinson is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and has a certificate in voice from the Conservatory of Music in Cluj, Romania. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

James C. "Butch" and Carole Tanner were appointed to serve in Zambia where he will teach in a seminary and together they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

A native of Ripley, Tanner considers Burlison his hometown and Smyrna Church there his home church.

He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Tanner has been pastor of First Church, Pearsall, Texas, since 1986.

Mrs. Tanner is the former Carole Cobb of Arab, Ala. The couple has one daughter.

Victor Houston dies

Chilhowee Association pastor Victor Houston, Jr. died Dec. 3 after a brief illness.

Houston, 50, had been pastor of Providence Church, Seymour, for about four years. He also had been pastor of churches in Monroe and Blount counties and in Illinois.

The Blount County native is survived by his wife, Eva, and a daughter.



HUTCHINSONS

Timothy and Dorcas Patterson will serve in Honduras where he will promote and coordinate social ministries of local churches and the national convention. Together, the couple will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

A native of Biloxi, Miss., Patterson also lived in Camden, Clarksville, and Murfreesboro. He considers Camden his hometown and Natchez Trace Church there his home church.

Patterson is a graduate of University of Tennessee, Martin, and Southwestern Seminary.

He has been pastor of New Hope Church, McKenzie, since 1990.

Mrs. Patterson is the former Dorcas Villarreal of Fort Worth.

Michael and Lynn Hutchinson were reappointed by the FMB. Formerly missionaries in Togo, they will now serve in Guinea Bissau where they will work with the Mandinka and Fulani people groups and will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Mrs. Hutchinson is the former Lynn Wood of Memphis. She is a graduate of William Carey College and University of Southern Mississippi, both in Hattiesburg.

The Hutchinsons have three children.

Three other couples also have Tennessee ties. Nell Ginn, a native of Memphis, was appointed to serve along with her husband, Jeffrey, in Colombia. She considers Byhalia,



PATTERSONS



ROBINSON

Miss., her hometown. Ginn is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

Russell and Angela Shuler were appointed to serve in eastern Europe. He is a graduate of Union University.

Morley and Rebecca Mason were appointed to serve in Indonesia. He attended Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga.



TANNERS



LEADING INDIAN CREEK ASSOCIATION — Director of Missions David Miller, left, stands with 1991-92 officers of association, from left, back row, Margaret Morrison, Waynesboro, clerk; Norman O. Baker, West Point, vice moderator; and, sitting, Cecil Gilliland, Waynesboro, moderator.