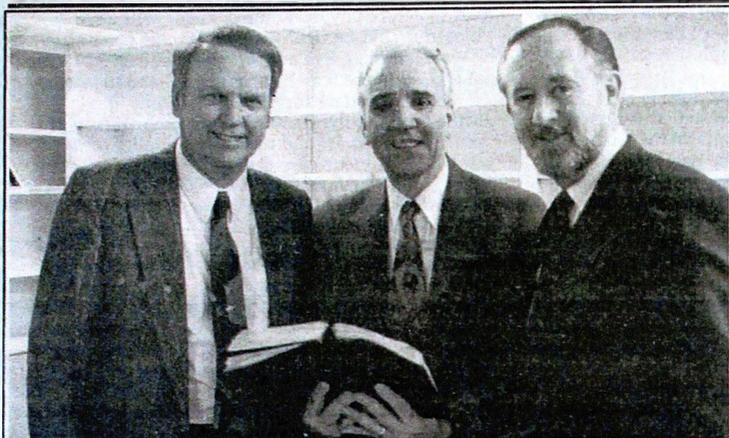


# Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 158/NO. 4/JANUARY 22, 1992

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION



**EVANGELISTS MEET** — Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists met Monday prior to the State Evangelism Conference at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. New officers, from left: Henry Linginfeller, Alcoa, president; Floyd Lammersfeld, Gleason, music director; and Rob Finley, Memphis, vice president.

## Chairman speaks

### Chapman executive committee nominee to succeed Bennett

DURHAM, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris H. Chapman is the nominee to succeed Harold C. Bennett as President-Treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, according to the search committee chairman, with an employment date sometime after the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis in June.

Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, was selected from 11 candidates recommended to the search committee. Julian Motley, pastor of Gorman Church, Durham, N.C., and search committee chairman, said the committee interviewed three top candidates, one of which included Paige Patterson, president of Criswell

College, Dallas. Motley would not identify the third candidate.

Assuming the Executive Committee approves the nominee at its Feb. 17-19 meeting in Nashville, Chapman is expected to begin after he finishes his second term as president of the SBC at the June 9-11 meeting. Chapman told the Wichita Falls congregation Jan. 19 but details of the exact date of employment with the Executive Committee will be worked out at the February meeting. Motley told Baptist Press.

As the chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, Chapman, 51, would lead the body which determines the distribution of more than \$140 million in Cooperative Program gifts and acts for the convention between its annual meetings. Bennett, 67, has announced his retirement, effective Oct. 1.

"In presenting Dr. Chapman . . . (the committee) will call attention in its report to the significant contribution which he has made to the conservative renewal in the convention," said Motley, "and to his mission vision and leadership skills demonstrated as president of the SBC in helping to mobilize its agencies and people in Bold Mission Thrust."

"The decision to recommend Chapman . . . was reached, (our) report will reveal, only after having thoroughly considered other candidates also for the position and after having become fully persuaded of God's will," Motley told Baptist Press.

The committee conducted three "thorough" interview sessions with Chapman, two including his wife, Jodi.

— See Chapman, page 5

## Missions magazine features Tennesseans

The January issue of *MissionsUSA*, Home Mission Board magazine, is devoted to Baptist associations. Directors of missions across the country were contacted about Baptist people who have made a difference in the life of the association.

Several Tennessee Baptists are featured in the magazine, included among 60 profiles that were winnowed down from 350 people "who have made a difference."

**Willard Chandler**, Huntingdon, Carroll-Benton Association: Chandler has held many positions in the association, including Brotherhood director and membership on the Missions Development council.

He works in the farm supply business and is a speaker in churches on many occasions. Director of Missions George Hill says Chandler is a good morale builder, and always figures "how he can instead of how he can't."

**Dewey Jones**, Brownsville, Haywood Association: He has been associational Sunday School director for the entire

life of the association — since 1967.

Jones has been deeply involved in Sunday School work for 30 years, promoting and developing. For 20 years he has been teaching Sunday School lessons every Sunday morning on the Brownsville station.

It is likely that he is known by most of the people in the county. He believes that they are eager to hear the Bible taught. Jones is a director and teacher in his home church, Holly Grove.

He has been moderator of the association and works at the Brownsville Bank.

**M. B. Howard**, Covington, Big Hat-chie Association: A member of Oak Grove Church, Howard has been involved in the association for 35 years.

Years ago he began the "fix-it squad" which does home repairs for elderly people. Now, other neighboring churches are doing it.

Once a week Howard visits Fort Pillow prison farm, where, according to Director of Missions Ira Perkins, "he finds his job is not to talk but to listen." He has led other churches to

begin similar ministries.

He began serving as association Brotherhood director in 1978 and has organized six new Brotherhoods. He is a volunteer construction coordinator for the Brotherhood Commissions and is a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board.

**Marjorie Bates**, Morristown, Nolachucky Association: Bates has done it all in Woman's Missionary Union — church, association, state, national.

She has directed the associational WMU and served on the Tennessee WMU executive committee for 18 years. At Fairview Church, Bates has been WMU director for 12 years.

She was an official representative to the WMU Centennial in Richmond, and has served as a volunteer in Venezuela. She has served in many positions in WMU work, and has been TBC vice president.

Bates also initiated a plan for the association to provide bi-monthly meals at the Baptist Student Union

— See Missions, page 5

## TBC churches, associations get high marks

NASHVILLE — Two Tennessee churches and three associations were among the top 25 in the Southern Baptist Convention earning study course awards for 1990-91, according to statistics compiled in the church study course records office at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Summertown Church, Summertown, was fifth in the SBC and first in the state earning awards with 994. Monte Vista Church, Maryville, was 13th in the SBC and second in the state with 19 awards. Central Church, Bearden,

in Knoxville was third in the state earning study awards with 542.

Tennessee associations ranking in the top 25 in the SBC included: Nashville, sixth with 4495 awards; Knox County, 10th with 4004 awards; and Shelby County, 17th with 3285 awards.

Texas led all states in the Southern Baptist Convention in church study course awards earned for 1990-91 with 75,149. Florida was second with 73,974 awards, and Georgia was third with 56,436. Tennessee was sixth in the SBC

with 42,987.

First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., led SBC churches in total study course awards received with 4214.

Training activity in churches has shown a decline for two years, according to William R. Cox, church study course coordinator at the board. While the number of persons enrolled in the study course system rose seven percent over last year to 1.5 million, the number of total awards earned is down by seven percent. The 1990-91 awards total was 688,390 compared to 737,708 in 1989-90.

"I attribute the decline of the past two years to the national economy and to nearing the end of the product cycle for many courses," Cox said. "The church study course system has experienced many ups and downs through the years, but it still remains strong."

### In Philippines

#### Partnership to end, volunteers needed

Tennessee Baptists three-year partnership with the Philippines will officially end March 31.

The final two projects scheduled for the Philippines are evangelism efforts for March 5-17 and March 19-31. Both projects are "in-church" and "church planting" crusades.

The "in-church" crusade will be held for three to four days in the sponsoring church. The sponsoring church will conduct the "church planting" crusade in the mission point where the church plans to plant a mission.

Types of ministries involved are preaching, teaching, singing, playing instruments, witnessing and sharing, and prayer.

There is a great need for volunteers, particularly preachers, for these evangelism projects. Call the TBC Partnership Missions Department at (615) 371-2027 for information.

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

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## Editorials

## Baptist men — marching on God's directives

If churches and families are undergirded and led by strong and committed Christian men, God's ministries will be advanced posthaste.

This is not to say that men are to be the only leaders — simply to say that when we fulfill God's directives, his plan works better.

January 26 is recognized on the Southern Baptist calendar as Baptist Men's Day. Rather than placing emphasis on men being given prominence on that one day, it is vastly more important that men stand tall every day.

No hastily planned program will suffice. Congregations will not be attracted to pretense. Allowing laymen only to pray or read Scripture on January 26 is giving short shrift to the real meaning of Baptist Men's Day.

Our churches and our families need men who will lead, who will stand with the pastor and most of all, with God.

Quite often we hear people say that Christian workers have the highest calling. Ministers, missionaries, fulltime service folks — well, they are doing the greatest thing that any man or woman could do. That is the real calling, they say.

Not true. Paul Smith, in *The Church on the Brink*, is calling for revival when he says, "The ministry is not the greatest of Christian callings. The missionary is not necessarily doing the most important work that can be done for God. Fulltime service may not be doing the most wonderful thing in the world."

What then, is the most wonderful service, the greatest call? What is he telling us?

"The most important thing that any child of God can do is to live in the center of the will of God." Says Smith, that could mean preaching or teaching the Word. It could mean being on the mission field as evangelist, doctor, translator. But: "It could also be behind the counter of a store as a clerk. It could be on the seat of a tractor on a farm. It could be in the home as a housewife, or in the school as a teacher, or in the hospital as a nurse or a doctor, or in a factory, or on the roof of a house as a carpenter."

Whatever our assignment is, we must be certain it is the will of God. Whatever our God-given place is, we will put ourselves in it and do the assignment.

Churches, individuals, our Tennessee Baptist Convention, our nation — all need revival. Renewal

and reawakening is past due. Baptist men must be awakened to help kindle the fire of revival in the churches and in the homes.

How do we do this?

• Men must understand missions and be committed to missions. The mission of the church is to use every available resource, all committed people, every waking moment — on mission for Christ Jesus.

This may mean going next door to sit with the neighbor and tell him about Jesus, or it may mean leading a child in the first steps on the road to him. It could mean visiting with the pastor when he is moving among the community. It might mean giving a testimony or hammering a frame into place in Chile. On mission!

• Baptist men must not be ashamed of the

Gospel. Marching orders are plain, unchanging, and just as specific now as 2000 years ago: "You shall be my witnesses."

• Baptist men must not hide behind the pathetic excuse that church is women's work. Tell that to John Bunyan. Remind Roger Williams, Adoniram Judson, Bill Wallace, Archie Dunaway.

• Men must live out the responsibility of "train up a child in the way he should go," and men must be spiritual leaders for the entire family. God birthed the family. He spelled out the meaning of father and mother, and the sacred quality of family.

These are four responsibilities of the Christian man. Not all men will have wives or children, but all bear responsibility to be a moving, working part in the church, the family of God. Baptist men, opportunity opens the door. — WFA

## It's a time for talking, not shouting

An astounding statement came to the desk just days ago. It is a simple but remarkable summation of that which causes much grief among Baptists and other Christians.

"Much of our disagreement with other Christians has been in regards to those peripheral problems that for sovereign reasons God does not choose to clarify for us completely," said the writer.

We may think that God has explained explicitly and completely how Christians are to get along with each other. It's in the Scriptures surely, but we can read it differently, and frequently we do.

Maturity in Christian living may not come all at once. It is a sometimes lengthy process. And unless we learn to have patience in our relationships, we may make mistakes. Unclearified misunderstandings lead us farther away from each other — until we are shouting instead of whispering or talking calmly.

Nathanial Howe said, "The way of this world is to praise dead saints and persecute living ones."

That is good advice, especially when rancor takes a leading role and reconciliation has only a bit part. Christian maturity does not mean that our faith has deteriorated — even when we have learned to express our opinions and strategies in a more gracious manner, especially then.

In the current strife in which our Foreign Mis-

sion Board is embroiled, such attitudes are needed desperately. Cool heads may not be enough, but mature Christian hearts will be.

The Southern Baptist Convention has undergone sweeping changes during the last decade, changes which have caused grief and suffering for some and satisfaction for others. Institutions, agencies, boards, have undergone sometimes radical renovation.

The rallying point for Southern Baptists through the years, yes, even a source of pride and a distinctive that has set us apart from other denominations, has been our worldwide missions effort. That effort, especially the Foreign Mission Board, is not untouchable, but it has been always a cooperative venture. It has been that one entity that was unbroken and therefore did not need "fixing." Constant construction is the norm.

We believe the urgent message coming from Southern Baptists now, to the trustees as caretakers, is that "fixing" the Foreign Mission Board might break it.

Care, caution, reconciliation, concern are needed all around. Present leadership of Keith Parks is needed. The very strongest missions effort is needed. Yes, it is true that no man is indispensable. But this tried, trusted, and proven leader we believe, is God's man for these times. Let him fulfill his commitment in Bold Mission Thrust. — WFA

## Time-tested principles net high baptism rates

ATLANTA (BP) — Churches with high baptism rates are those which practice time-tested evangelistic principles, a study of 1000 Southern Baptist congregations reveals.

The research shows churches with high baptism rates have the following characteristics: a pastor who is committed to frequent personal witnessing, witness training for laypeople of all ages, a variety of evangelistic methods, a vision for potential for growth, and a method to identify and visit evangelistic prospects.

"The findings aren't startling, but they confirm some things we've said are keys in increasing evangelistic effectiveness," said Steve Whitten, associate director of the Home Mission Board research department who wrote the report.

The survey of 1000 churches distinguished 84 "high baptism churches" — those which baptized five or more people per 100 resident members for two consecutive years.

Ninety-one churches were identified as "low baptism churches" — those which baptized one or less person per 100 resident members the same two years. The remaining churches were classified as middle baptism churches.

Three-fourths of pastors of high baptism churches said they witness daily

or several times a week. Only 44 percent of pastors in low baptism churches said they witness that frequently.

Churches with high baptism rates also stress personal evangelism by laity. Eighty-two percent of pastors of high baptism churches said their members would be comfortable telling a friend about Christ, compared to 66 percent of pastors in low baptism churches.

"A key factor (in high baptism churches) is aggressive personal witnessing by the pastor and laypeople," said Whitten, a former pastor. "The data clearly show a positive relationship between frequent, intentional witnessing and high baptism rates."

One characteristic of low baptism churches is relying on revivals for the primary evangelistic thrust. Pastors of low baptism churches tended to agree with statements such as "revivals are more important in our church than any other evangelistic effort."

Pastors of high baptism churches preferred a variety of evangelistic tools, such as Continuing Witness Training and DiscipleYouth.

Another comparison is prospect files. More than 82 percent of pastors from high baptism churches said their church had an updated prospect file, while 59 percent of pastors of low bap-

tism churches reported an updated prospect file.

The study revealed a relationship between the church's size and its baptism rate. High baptism churches tended to be larger, with 16 percent having more than 500 members. Low baptism churches tended to be smaller, with 60 percent reporting fewer than 149 members.

Location also affected baptism rates. Fifty-six percent of the high baptism churches were in states where Southern Baptist work is new. Only one-fourth of the low baptism churches were in new convention areas.

Yet church size and location "need not determine a church's evangelistic effectiveness," Whitten said.

## Baptist and Reflector

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# WMU leaders issue call to prayer, missions

By Susan Todd Doyle

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — A conviction that Southern Baptists are losing their passion for missions led leaders of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to take two related actions during their Jan. 11-16 meeting:

- They issued a call to prayer among the WMU membership for Southern Baptists to reclaim their passion for missions, and
- National WMU President Carolyn Miller appointed 16 of the leaders to explore action plans and strategies that "could enable the denomination to meet missions challenges and seize the opportunities of the day."

The gathering of WMU leaders at Talladega, Ala., included state WMU presidents, who comprise the WMU executive board, state WMU executive directors, national WMU leaders, and their staffs. The leaders met at Shocco Springs Assembly in Talladega.

The call to prayer is scheduled for noon Monday, Feb. 10, through noon Tuesday, Feb. 11. The call to prayer falls within "Focus on WMU Week" and coincides with the February meeting of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees.

WMU leaders are asking WMU members throughout the country to pray earnestly that Southern Baptists will reclaim their passion for missions.

"Prayer is the most powerful action we can take, no matter what the issue," said Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director. "These are trying times not only within our denomination but within our own country and the larger world scene as well. We

must claim the power of the Holy Spirit and the promises of God's Word to guide us every step of the way.

"We must not stop. We must keep marching forward for the cause of missions as long as there is one lost soul left in this world," she said. "We must not be consumed by the darkness of confusion, doubt, or fear. We must trust our Guide and his promises."

Miller charged the 16 leaders with considering all possibilities that could lead the denomination back to a priority on missions. She asked them to recommend immediate, short-term, and long-term strategies or action plans.

"I deliberately did not give the leaders a name, such as a 'committee' or 'task force' or anything else," Miller said. "I don't even want them to be limited by what we call them. I want them to be totally free to dream."

The group includes state WMU presidents Ellen Teague, District of Columbia; Wynk Hicks, Georgia; Millie Stengl, Kansas/Nebraska; Sandy Hale, New England; Lottie Crim, Wyoming; Gerry Dunkin, Texas; and Margaret Wayland, Virginia. Also named are National WMU Recording Secretary Martha Wennerberg of Florida and immediate past National WMU President Marjorie McCullough of Louisiana.

Representing state WMU executive directors are Beverly Sutton of Alabama, Alberta Gilpin of Missouri, and Katharine Bryan of Tennessee. Representing the national WMU staff are O'Brien and the three associate executive directors — Joyce Mitchell,

Bobbie Patterson, and June Whitlow.

The board meeting was punctuated with informal dialogue sessions and small-group discussions among members and guests concerning how current events within the denomination are affecting missions.

During an impromptu, informal dialogue time with Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, the WMU leaders encircled Parks and the home and foreign missionaries present to pray for them.

During the board meeting, WMU leaders also heard a report from the public relations firm of Lawler Ballard Van Durand. The WMU executive board hired the Birmingham firm almost two years ago to lead in an awareness-building effort.

Last year, WMU and Lawler Ballard Van Durand completed a year-long research project to assess opinions and perceptions about WMU. Tinsley Van Durand, president of the firm, reported the findings of the final stage of the five-phase research project — a national survey among Southern Baptist women. The survey is perhaps the most comprehensive ever conducted among Southern Baptist women, he said.

Results show "there are a number of very clear and positive findings about WMU and its members," according to Van Durand's report. "Ultimately, respondents tell us, there is a difference" between WMU members and non-WMU members. Among the differences WMU members:

- Worship at SBC churches more frequently than non-members,

• Are more involved in other church activities than non-members.

- Are more concerned about spreading the Gospel among the un-churched than non-members, and
- Are more likely to stick to their Christian faith than bend in the face of secular pressure.

In short, the survey results show, "WMU members are stalwart Christians and members of the SBC community. The presence of WMU in a church is a healthy thing for the church. Properly understood and managed, WMU groups and their members can be a tremendous asset to a pastor. WMU may be, as some have suggested, not only the 'missions conscience' of the SBC, but also its 'loving heart.'"

Based on research findings from all five phases, WMU will launch a campaign in April in 15 states to build awareness about WMU. A four-page, four-color insert will be inserted in regional editions of five magazines: Family Circle, Woman's Day, Parents Magazine, Better Homes and Gardens, and Good Housekeeping.

The insert will appear in most of these magazines in Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Arizona, and New Mexico.

The insert will invite readers to contact a local Southern Baptist church for more information about WMU or call a toll-free number for a free video about WMU. Pastors and WMU directors will receive more information about the campaign prior to its launch.

# Russians sign agreement with SBC television network

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's reputation for quality family programming, devoid of nudity, violence, and profanity, has led to an agreement to permit the showing of two to seven hours weekly of RTVC-produced programs — including The Baptist Hour — to 80 million Russian people beginning in February.

Officials of the RTVC's ACTS Network and of four Russian entities in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) and Ufa, Bashkerian, Russia, recently signed "letters of understanding" to provide up to seven hours of programming weekly for an estimated audience of 75 million people in and around St. Petersburg and another five million around Ufa in south central Russia.

The understanding also gives the RTVC exclusive rights to produce documentaries on the 50-plus museums in St. Petersburg and on cultural events in the two cities.

RTVC President Jack Johnson; retired former President Paul M. Stevens; Bob Cargill, president of Cargill Associates and former director of development for the RTVC; and Mike Wright, vice president for RTVC network operations, visited St. Petersburg and Ufa in early November.

The stations are two of only five commercial stations in the former Soviet Union which originate programming, Johnson said. The vast land of 300 million people has no cable TV.

Specific plans for program content are still being worked out, Wright said, out among weekly offerings to the Rus-

sian stations will be The Sunshine Factory, Listen, The Answer, music, and The Baptist Hour, which likely will be reduced to half-hour segments and carried as "The Word of Life."

"They asked for family programming," Johnson said, "but in any package, we have a 'must carry' agreement that includes The Baptist Hour. Our purpose is to present the Gospel."

A two-hour pilot program is being prepared for showing in February to be followed shortly by the weekly programming Johnson said.

# Overseas Christians escalate church aid in China

HONG KONG (BP) — Contact and cooperation between Christians in Hong Kong and China steadily are increasing, and the Chinese government has reiterated it won't interfere in Hong Kong's religious affairs after taking political control in 1997.

Ren Wuzhi, director of China's religious affairs bureau, assured a Hong Kong Christian Council delegation visiting Beijing his bureau and mainland religious organizations would not meddle in Hong Kong affairs after 1997. Freedoms that Hong Kong's religious community currently enjoys will continue, Ren also promised.

But Ren reminded the 19-member delegation that expatriate religious groups working with mainland churches must observe three governing principles: non-affiliation, non-intervention, and mutual respect.

The comments follow months of escalating contact between China's Christian community and groups from

The venture will mean added expenses of about \$500,000 to cover transportation costs, translation and production equipment, including equipment to change the programming to the European PAL system, Johnson said.

Johnson said the RTVC hoped to work with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to open more doors in Russia for Southern Baptist witness.

The opportunity for the Russian venture came last fall at the Western Cable Television Convention when

Johnson and Wright were approached by a Russian emigre, a U.S. citizen living in southern California.

"He came to us and said he had connections with television stations in Russia and was interested in RTVC/ACTS programming," Johnson said. "He said, 'We'll take anything you've got.'"

"He was interested in family programming," Johnson said. "He wasn't interested in us because of our religious orientation, but because we had family-oriented programming free of nudity, violence, and profanity."

Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, and the United States. Contributions to churches in China have escalated since the uncertainty following the government's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Now overseas Chinese Protestants are helping fund Christian development in China, especially among churches in Guangdong, the southern province near Hong Kong.

More than 1000 people attended the latest church opening in Guangzhou, Guangdong's capital, Nov. 24. About 70 Hong Kong Christians helped reopen the Guang Xiao Church, the eighth church opened in Guangzhou since the end of the Cultural Revolution. The church total in Guangdong now stands at 235.

Chinese authorities confiscated the Guang Xiao church in the early 1960s, turning it into a factory. Five years ago the government returned the three-story building to the local Christian council, which used it for offices.

Restoring the building as a church was costly but made possible with "some help from outside the country," Guangdong Christian Council Vice President Fan Xiu Yuan told the congregation. Senior pastor Huang Mei Jing said Christians "here and abroad showed their concern" by praying and giving to rebuild the church. "But this is only the beginning."

Fan related that Christian councils in China — not individual churches — are equipped to accept donations. For instance, the Guangdong Christian Council has set up separate funds for church workers' welfare, church development, theological education, and community service.

"We already have received five million yuan (about \$1 million) for the church workers' welfare fund" from the Hong Kong Christian Council, Fan added. A Hong Kong man recently pledged \$14,000 to Christian work in Guangdong, he said.

# Our Readers Write

## Who owns what?

Several things happened at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Memphis in November.

Of particular interest was the report of the study committee concerning the relationship between the convention and its institutions.

The constitution of the TBC lists 11 institutions or agencies of the convention:

The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, Union University, Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Baptist Health Care System, Inc., Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., The Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, Inc., Tennessee Baptist

Children's Homes, Inc., Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc.

The Committee report says, "... that under Tennessee state law (with the exception of the Memphis hospital) all of the boards of trustees of our institutions still could, if they choose, amend their charters to elect their own trustees, thus removing themselves from Tennessee Baptist Convention authority and control." (Book of Reports, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 1991, page 19).

In response to a question, the chairman of the study committee stated that in his opinion, the convention does not legally own and operate a single institution or agency which is related to the convention.

Until then, I had believed that the convention and the churches owned, controlled, and operated the institutions. I have told Baptist people this over and over. Now I must tell them they do not own anything.

The institutions "of the convention" will receive 52 percent of the 1991-92 TBC budget.

We could do a lot of other things with that much money!

J. W. Bargiol, director of missions  
Big Emory Association  
P.O. Box 444  
Harriman 37748

## Are things better?

I read the Jan. 15 Baptist and Reflector with heavy heart. My mind went back to our commitment to Bold Mission Thrust in the mid-70s. While not without problems, we were a people on mission. We later were to learn that a small

group was also at work to begin a process of purification. We are now well aware of the false accusation (but believed) about those of us who "do not believe the Bible."

This morning I have tried to see if we as a denomination are better off as servants of God now than in 1976-77.

From cooperation and trust we have come to be a divided people. Pay-offs for political leadership are now falling into place with growing distress by many about the trustworthiness of agencies and boards. Foreign Missions, the one remaining breath of full cooperation, is experiencing distress. Those who have played a word game, and inerrancy is just that (study the Chicago statement on inerrancy), may feel very good that they either have or are on their way to purifying the denomination. The cost has been great.

When courage to express disagreement was exercised, good people and their families were maligned and punished. Trustworthiness of printed materials is in question. Our mission enterprise seems to be unraveling.

Are things better? I think not!

Howard Olive, pastor  
Monte Vista Church  
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd.  
Maryville 37801

## About the future

Did the conservative fundamentalists gain control of a denomination already in the process of falling apart? Our recent Tennessee Baptist Convention resembled a mortally wounded lion roaring in an effort to convince itself and its foes that all is well. Our organization is stiff and basically immovable. The world is

rapidly changing, but the structure which should be leading the way to effective ministry hangs on to church life as it was. Attempts to change the organization, introduce new leadership, and adapt to a changing world are rebuffed.

Our denominational structures are not unlike the old, self-serving, industrial organizations that are going down for lack of innovation and adaptability. We try to get bigger when agility is needed. We are centralizing control when freedom of thought and creativity get the job done. We seek conformity when individualism seeks out opportunities and takes the day.

We have long defended our attachment to outdated and once-effective methods with attestations to our unchanging message. If church and secular history tell us anything, it is that our message has endured through the ages. It is our organizations and structures that have either adapted or died.

I foresee a new group of Baptists that will be neither fundamentalist nor moderate, but a new way to reach a new world. It will be unpretentious in appearance, but will be a power house of spiritual accomplishment. The old structures will not be able to evaluate it because its ministry cannot be measured by old standards. Its methods will be new and threatening to the old guard, but its message will ring loud and clear. I pray I will see it. I will pray now for the young men and women whom God will use to bring it about.

Jack L. Carver, pastor  
First Church, Madison  
719 Gallatin Road South  
Madison 37115

**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.

# Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to fund missionaries

DALLAS — An offer to fund Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who resign from the Foreign Mission Board has been made by the coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The offer came Jan. 11 when the council, meeting at a hotel near the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, approved a motion by Fort Worth, Texas, pastor Cecil Sherman, who earlier was called as the CBF's first full-time coordinator. He has not yet accepted the position.

The CBF represents churches and individuals aligned with the "moderate" movement of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sherman's motion states that the coordinating council "offer employment to missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the European sector who fit the criteria of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's statement of missions." The motion passed unanimously.

But the council's decision represents more of a commitment than a plan of action, since it came without specifics. It is unclear how much the fledgling Fellowship will be able to spend on the initiative and which projects and missionaries they would like to adopt.

Neither is it certain Southern Baptist missionaries will leave the FMB's fold to link up with the Fellowship, although several council members said they have heard from some who are ready.

The Fellowship is nowhere near ready to adopt the entire Southern Baptist mission force in Europe, which represents a multimillion-dollar annual investment for the FMB. The Fellowship had planned to spend only about

\$1 million on all its global mission enterprises in 1992.

"We know this isn't going to be an instant accomplishment," Jimmy Allen of Fort Worth, Texas, co-chairperson of the Fellowship's global-missions ministry group, told ABP. "In order to get started, we're talking about at least several million dollars. We will move as quickly as Southern Baptists fund this new vision.

"I can't project how long before we will begin funding missionaries, but it's not going to be a foot-dragging process," he said.

CBF moderator John Hewett, a North Carolina pastor, denied the council's actions constituted a new denomination. Instead, he said the decision to fund missionaries should be compared to parachurch organizations who support mission work.

"We are a fellowship of churches and individuals," Hewett said. "Our intention is to make sure the good work of our missionaries continues. We will do what we have to do."

Hewett and other members of the council said the action was necessary because of the decision by FMB trustees not to fund the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The decision to defund the Ruschlikon seminary prompted the early retirements of the FMB's vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, Isam Ballenger, and area director for Europe, Keith Parker.

"The Foreign Mission Board trustees have taken a grave step away from missions as we have known," Hewett said. "We are moving into that gap."

In other actions, the CBF's coordinating council:

- Voted unanimously to call Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, as the first full-time coordinator of the Atlanta-base moderate group. The 82-member council approved a salary and benefits package not to exceed \$100,000 for the coordinator's post.

A member of the search committee, Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallowood Church, Houston, said, "Cecil is giving it prayerful and favorable consideration."

The new coordinator will have an office in Atlanta, where the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was formed last year.

Sherman, 64, came to Broadway in 1984 after 20 years as pastor of First

## FMB to continue European work: Hardy

BURLINGTON, N.C. — The Foreign Mission Board will continue its work in Europe despite plans by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to hire away some of the FMB's missionaries, according to a top trustee leader.

Steve Hardy, chairman of the trustee committee that oversees FMB work in Europe, said the work will continue "regardless of what the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship does."

But he said he is skeptical the Fellowship can attract the money necessary to pick up the FMB's European mission work, which this year will receive about \$4.25 million in support from the FMB. The Fellowship's entire 1992 budget for missions is about \$900,000.

Additionally, Hardy said, the Fellowship likely could not provide "accountability to those who pay the bills" and a workable strategy designed for Europe.

"I would question whether you're

Church, Asheville, N.C.

- Adopted a mission statement and announced churches sent \$4,517,000 for missions causes through its Atlanta office in 1991.

The finance committee said 78 percent of the income was for Southern Baptist Convention line item causes, including \$1,374,000 for the Foreign Mission Board and \$495,000 for the Home Mission Board.

The total included designated gifts of \$96,000 for Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, from which the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board voted to withdraw funding last year, and \$27,000 for Associated Baptist Press. — Adapted from BP and ABP reports.

turning it over to amateurs," said Hardy, pastor of Holly Hill Church in Burlington, N.C.

However, Hardy said he is "not surprised" the Fellowship is considering offering employment to Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker, the FMB's two top administrators in Europe who are resigning in protest of recent trustee actions.

Asked if the Fellowship would be able to woo away other missionaries in Europe, Hardy said, "I admit I've had a few missionaries call me and discuss with me questions they have because Dr. Ballenger and Dr. Parker resigned."

Hardy said he gave the missionaries the same advice offered by Ballenger and Parker in their resignation statements — "to wait and make their decisions based on what happens rather than make an emotional reaction." — ABP

# Divorced, never married singles participate in church less

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist single adults who are divorced and those who have never been married tend to be less involved in their churches than Southern Baptist adults in general while widowed singles are more involved, according to a national study.

Thirty-six percent of Southern Baptist adults are single, almost identical to the 37 percent in the total U.S. adult population. However, among Southern Baptist singles, a higher percentage are widowed than in the U.S. at-large while a significantly lower percentage have never been married.

This information is part of the 1990 Southern Baptist Constituency Study, a national survey of adults, conducted by H.T.I. Research of Chicago for the Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department.

From the sample of 1779 Southern Baptist adults, Dean Anderson, research associate at the board, analyzed the responses of the 478 who identified themselves as never married, divorced, or widowed. He then compared these findings to the total

sample of 1779 Southern Baptist adults.

The largest category of Southern Baptist single adults is the widowed, 13 percent of all adults, followed by divorced, ten percent, and never married, nine percent. Those who identified themselves as separated or single and living with someone constituted two percent each of the sample. The last two groups were not analyzed due to their small numbers.

"The main pattern that stands out is that never married and divorced singles tend to be less active and the widowed so much more active," said Anderson.

For example, while 53 percent of Southern Baptist adults said they had attended religious services at least once a week in the previous six months, only 33 percent of never married singles and 43 percent of divorced singles indicated they had attended at least weekly. However, among widowed singles, 72 percent reported attending services at least once a week.

Never married and divorced Southern Baptist adults also are less likely to cite denominational affiliation

as a factor in their choice of a church while widowed adults consider it more important.

Twenty-four percent of all adults cited denominational affiliation as the most important factor in their choice of a church compared to 16 percent of divorced Southern Baptists and 14 percent of those who have never married. In contrast, 42 percent of widowed adults listed denomination as the most important factor in choosing a church.

Within the widowed category, 96 percent are female and only four percent male, a factor which Anderson attributed to the longer life expectancy of women.

Among divorced Southern Baptist adults, 79 percent are female and only

21 percent male.

Anderson said these percentages indicate Southern Baptist churches may be doing a poor job of reaching divorced men.

Never married Southern Baptist adults include 45 percent men, more than the 42 percent male makeup of the total Southern Baptist adult group.

While the perception exists that single adults are more likely to be attracted to large churches, Anderson said the distribution of singles by church size does not vary significantly from that of all Southern Baptist adults.

Twenty-two percent of all Southern Baptist adults belong to churches with one thousand or more members.

## Acts volume cited by book club

NASHVILLE (BP) — The latest volume of *The New American Commentary* published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press will soon be brought to the attention of 10,000 evangelical readers.

"Acts," written by John B. Polhill, professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has been chosen as the Evangelical Book Club's main selection for its March bulletin.

EBC is a nondenominational book club based in Milford, Mich., near Detroit. According to Steve Bond, marketing planning coordinator for Broadman, the "main selection" status of the Acts volume in the EBC bulletin means the book will be sent automatically to all 10,000 of the club's members unless they return a card saying they do not want to receive it.

While Broadman books have been listed in the EBC bulletin before, Bond said this is the first time one has been granted "main selection" status.

"This is a major step forward both for Broadman and The New American Commentary," NAC general editor David Dockery said.

## Easter offering falls short of 1991 goal

ATLANTA (BP) — Gifts to the 1991 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions fell below the 1990 offering total by less than one percent.

The unaudited report shows the 1991 Easter offering gifts totaled \$35.52 million, compared to \$35.67 million in 1990, for a 0.44 percent decrease. The 1991 offering reached 86.64 percent of the \$41 million goal.

Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,369,960.27 to the 1991 Annie Armstrong offering, falling short of the state's \$3.1 million goal by about \$730,000.

"We are deeply concerned about this but we must not let this be discouraging," said Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president.

"We need to see this slight decrease in long-range perspective and realize that last year we received an increase of 8.14 percent through the Annie Armstrong offering," Lewis noted.

The 1990 offering was \$2.69 million more than the previous year, the largest dollar-amount increase on record.

Percentage increases in gifts to the annual offering have varied sharply since 1985. For example, in 1987, gifts were 8.76 more than the previous year. In 1988, the increase was 2.02 percent, followed by a 6.93 percent increase in 1989.

This was the fourth year in the to the Executive Committee.

The report notes Chapman led the church to increase its Cooperative Program gifts from 12 percent to 14 and a half percent and has averaged over 160 baptisms per year, placing the church in the top one percent of Southern Baptist churches in CP gifts and baptisms.

Chapman is married to the former Jodi Francis of Memphis, who has served on the SBC Peace Committee and as a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The couple has two children.

Chapman is a native of Kosciusko, Miss. and a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton. He holds master and doctor degrees from Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. In addition to convention president, Chapman has served on various boards and committees, including the chair of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

Others serving on the search committee, in addition to Motley, include Joe B. Warwick, vice chairman, Tennessee; Ronnie W. Floyd, secretary, Arkansas; Doyle J. Collins, Oregon; David E. Hankins, Louisiana; Guy S. Sanders, Florida; Simon H. L. Tsoi, Arizona; Fred H. Wolfe, Alabama; and Stan D. Coffey and Gwyna Parker, both of Texas.

Home Mission Board's history that gifts to the offering did not exceed the previous year's total. The other years were 1950 when the total was down one percent; 1958, down 3.8 percent; and 1970, down 1.6 percent.

Gifts from the Annie Armstrong Easter offering provide 47 percent of the 1992 HMB budget, while gifts channeled through the Cooperative Program provide 37 percent.

## One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

There are a few more lines on Pat Hoaldrige's face, and the copper-colored hair is slightly more gray than when I first met him in 1975.

Hoaldrige and his wife Judy are Southern Baptist representatives in Jerusalem where he has served four years as leader of the Narkis Street Baptist House. We met earlier when they were located in the Netanya-Tel Aviv area.



ALLEN

The Narkis Street congregation meets on Saturday evenings with about 200 to 400 English-speaking Christians. Four years ago the group started a church for believers who speak Hebrew, about half Jews.

Hoaldrige, a native of Texas, says the entire Middle East area is in a period of rising religious fundamentalism — which has caused some problems at Narkis Street. He says the Baptists have a good relationship with city officials despite some local opposition.

More than two dozen messianic Jewish congregations are located in Israel, he estimates, involving about 2000 to 3000 people.

The evangelism style of the congregation in Jerusalem observes Israeli law and practice. Hoaldrige

works within the rules, feeling comfortable with a non-confrontational style. For example, Israeli law does not allow Christians to attempt to convert Jews under age 18.

Hoaldrige says that adults are treated somewhat differently. "If they feel our love for them, they may open their hearts. God gives opportunities by opening doors, preparing the way."

The Narkis Street church was organized in 1927. The church has lived through several wars and resistance from various groups. Perhaps the best known example of that resistance was reported in Baptist papers in 1982 when vandals destroyed the building by fire. Baptist representative Bob Lindsey had worked in the area for many years.

Construction continues today on a new building after many delays. The congregation met for five years in a building with a canvas roof. A building permit was finally issued in 1988 but did not allow the size building needed.

The congregation does provide a place of worship, even while construction is going on, to meet the needs of members and visitors. "They come from all over Jerusalem," Hoaldrige says.

Typical of work in most Baptist congregations, the ministry "tries to provide encouragement and love with people who don't get along together all the time."

## Chapman Executive Committee . . .

— Continued from page 1

The committee conducted extensive research into all aspects of Chapman's personal and public life, said Motley, and engaged the services of a noted corporate management firm in Nashville and a well known medical clinic in Dallas to conduct professional examinations covering physical, psychological, professional, corporate skills, and personal fitness for the position.

Chapman's role in SBC life was underscored in the committee's report

## Missions magazine . . .

— Continued from page 1

where she is a volunteer. E. H. Howard, Harriman, Big Emory Association: Howard was a preacher for 20 years before he became a director of missions. He served Big Emory in that post for 20 years, retiring in 1972.

Now 86, he still serves churches as pastor, interim pastor, evangelist, teacher, counselor, and "elder statesman." His speciality is Baptist doctrine, and he is strong on education.

Bill Bargioli, himself director of missions for 20 years at Big Emory, says Howard has sought out educational opportunities — and set an example for pastors all around.

## Jackson pastor, layman direct church building in Brazil

By Connie Davis

Just a few years ago Phil Jett had never done missions work in another country. A pastor for 27 years, he stayed busy at home supporting missions.

Then in 1986 he heard of the dire need for assistance in the Tennessee/Venezuela Partnership. He felt God calling him to go. Since then Jett's been on six mission trips and is spearheading a venture in Brazil to evangelize communities without evangelical witness and build indigenous church buildings there.

The change in Jett's life after the first two-week experience in Venezuela was dramatic.

"The result was a long-term commitment to missions," he explained.

"I preach to more lost people in a week in Brazil than I preach to in my ministry here in one year. . . . We have people standing in streets for two or three hours listening to the Gospel presented," said Jett, pastor of Englewood Church, Jackson.

"It does something to you. I've been raised in America where being a Christian is convenient and it's comfortable and if it's not we're not going to be a part of it. Then you go to a country where nothing is convenient, nothing is comfortable, and that changes you."

He also began to hear missions information differently. When he heard his friend and missionary to Brazil Wade Akins speak at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting, he asked Akins afterward how he could be involved.

Jett didn't have to venture out alone. One evening during church visitation he told fellow church member Gary Taylor about his interest in Brazil. He learned his own calling to missions involvement coincided with the calling of

Taylor and his wife, Lisa, owners of a Jackson construction firm. Last year the Taylors and their three children lived in Brazil three months and plan to live there six months this year overseeing the construction project.

"I thought I would find happiness by making money, educating my family, being a good husband, working hard, and planning for the future. But I've found the real purpose of my life is just to simply love, obey, and serve God with all my heart. This work has put that in focus and put in perspective my life," said Taylor.

Taylor, encouraged by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, designed a permanent church building to replace a pre-fab building American teams were constructing. A team of 10-12 assisted by Brazilians can complete it in eight days and the cost is

the same for the two buildings. Also, it meets the cultural needs of the people, noted Taylor.

Last year Taylor and Jett headed up a pilot project and constructed five of the churches in the state of Minas Gerais. About 500 people became Christians. This year their goal was 20, but 22 teams are now committed for 1992, explained Jett.

During his visits to Minas Gerais, Jett learned 500 communities of 10,000 population or more have no evangelical witness.

"If that doesn't burden your heart, what will?" he asked.

The teams assist laypeople who are church starters because of the lack of ministers and money to pay them, said Jett. During their two-week stay the team builds the building, contacts people in their homes, and leads rallies.



**FRIENDS FOR BRAZIL** — Visiting about their work in Brazil are, from left, Phil Jett, Terry Sharp of the TBC Missions Department, Gary Taylor, and Aloizio Bertho. — Photo by Connie Davis

They work with Southern Baptist missionaries and Aloizio Penido Bertho, Baptist convention director of Minas Gerais, who recently visited the states.

"There is a great big evangelical project in Minas Gerais," said Bertho. "The emphasis is training laypeople to evangelize. . . . We're seeing cities without a church come to have people there believe and then a church begin. Without the help of the Spirit and the Christians here it would nearly be impossible to do this work at this time."

The challenge is the growing faith in spiritism and the traditional Catholic faith, which is very different from American Catholicism and accepts some spiritist beliefs, explained Bertho.

Jett and Taylor encourage people to consider missions involvement.

"Regardless of what your skills are, if you feel like the Lord is calling you, I would highly encourage an individual to become a part. If they don't, God's going to get his work done, with or without you. A lot of times, we're missing blessings when we skip over the opportunities that he gives us," Taylor explained.

The following Tennessee churches are participating this year: from Jackson — Englewood Church, Poplar Heights Church, Liberty Grove Church, and East Union Church; also First Church, Bethel Springs; Sulphur Springs Church, Jonesborough; and Calvary Church, Kingsport.

People may assist 1992 teams — by becoming a volunteer and by contributing funds for the building, which costs \$5500, and other expenses. Others may be interested in accepting a project in upcoming years, said Jett. He may be contacted at (901) 668-1094.

## Chilean missionary reports 'hearts overflowed' at WMU meeting

By Caroline Jones

TEMUCO, Chile — Squeals of recognizing old friends, warm embraces, laughter and tears, music and heartfelt prayers, people from all across the country — marked the Na-

### Duncan graduates from New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — M. Alan Duncan from Cleveland received the master of divinity degree recently at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Duncan, a foreign missionary appointed to South Africa, is married to the former Andrea Ogle of Greenville.

Duncan's home church is First Church, Cleveland. He holds the bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

### Hardin serves Trenton

Rodney Hardin, a recent graduate of Union University, Jackson, has been called as pastor of Spring Hill Church, Trenton.

He is the former pastor of First Church, Perryville, and Heron Church, Lexington. Hardin was ordained in 1986 by Mount Gilead Church, Cedar Grove.

The native of Lexington is married to Sheila Smith.



**DUNCAN**

tional Woman's Missionary Union Convention here earlier in January.

Add to that inspirational speakers and fussy babies, hurried lunches squeezed in between business sessions and huddled conversations, sleepless nights and endless days. Through it all, hearts overflowed with joy and praise.

More than 1000 messengers, pastors, and missionaries attended the convention held at the Baptist Academy.

To begin the sessions, the participants sang the Chilean and American national anthems — with the "Star Spangled Banner" sung a little softer!

Katharine Bryan, executive director of Tennessee Baptist Convention's WMU, and Judy Trivette, prayer coordinator for the Tennessee/Chile Partnership Mission, heard Chilean children present folk songs and dances. It was one of many experiences

### Cochran accepts pastorate

First Church, Pinewood, in Nunnally, recently called Bon Aqua native Larry Cochran as pastor.

Cochran served as associate pastor of First Church, White Bluff, for several years before accepting the First Church pastorate. He also served as pastor of Missionary Ridge Church, Bon Aqua, and Maple Valley Church, Only.

He was ordained in 1978 at Wrigley Church, Lyles.

He and his wife, Patsy, have one daughter.

when the Chilean spirit of warm sensitivity was displayed. Chilean Baptist women were obviously delighted to have their Tennessee Baptist visitors present at the meeting.

In Spanish and English, Belia Perez, director of the Baptist Well Baby Clinic in Antofagasta, prayed, "Lord, our hearts are full of gratitude for these dear sisters who represent all our brothers and sisters in Christ in Tennessee — who love you, and because of that, love us. We are happy and grateful that they want to help us in your work here in Chile."

Raquel de Catalan, wife of the rector of the Baptist Seminary in Santiago and daughter of a former missionary who married a Chilean attorney, translated as Bryan spoke of the power of the Holy Spirit and God's desire to fill Chilean people to overflowing with

that power. She said that power would enable us to touch the lives of others in a significant way.

Ana Lara de Pozo, Chile's national WMU president, presented Bryan and Trivette with gifts on behalf of the Chilean organization. The Tennesseans reciprocated with gifts to the Chile leaders.

One participant said that the most important gift was God's gift to participants — the gift of insight, a small portion of understanding, that sees through cultural barriers.

After all, she said, each Chilean Baptist, each missionary, each Tennessean, has been called to serve in this partnership.

Caroline and Archie Jones are Southern Baptist missionaries who live in Puerto Varas, Chile, with their daughter Elizabeth.



**CHILE WMU MEETING** — The Chile WMU met in Temuco. From left, Katharine Bryan, WMU executive director, and Judy Trivette, prayer coordinator, represented the Tennessee WMU; Lucinda Lyons, executive secretary for Chile WMU, and Ana Lara de Pozo, Chile WMU president.

# TBC Sunday School leaders focus on 'reaching, teaching'

By Lonnie Wilkey

Reaching and teaching are the two major thrusts of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department, says director Greer Ruble.

"It is our belief that we cannot teach them until we first reach them. Bible teaching results in needs met, souls saved, spiritual growth, and increased enrollment and attendance," he affirms.

Ruble noted the department's goal is to assist TBC churches and missions in building strong Sunday School programs in administration, organization, growth, and Bible teaching.

Ruble's interest and involvement in Sunday School work began during his college days at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. The Newport native began teaching teenagers in Sunday School at a local church.

"I felt the call of God to become involved in some special work even before I entered college," he recalls.

After graduation from Tennessee Tech, Ruble spent some time in the U.S. Army. While stationed near Augusta, Ga., he continued to be involved in Sunday School, teaching a youth class at a local church and a class for patients at the nearby government hospital.

Upon leaving the Army, Ruble went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned his master of divinity in religious education degree.

Ruble then went on to spend 25 years as a minister of education at three churches, including the last 17 years at First Church, Kingsport, before he joined the TBC staff in 1984 as program associate for adult work.

Ruble's philosophy while at the local church was the same as it is now. "It is imperative that the Bible be taught in Sunday Schools in such a way to meet the needs of people and to present the plan of salvation through Jesus Christ," he says.

The TBC department head stresses that the two major keys to growing a larger church are a strong Bible-teaching program and strong Biblical preaching by the pastor. The two go hand in hand, he affirms.

In order to help churches build strong Sunday Schools, the department sponsors regional training conferences each year. All age group areas are targeted. Numerous other conferences and training events in programs including Vacation Bible School also are held during the year.

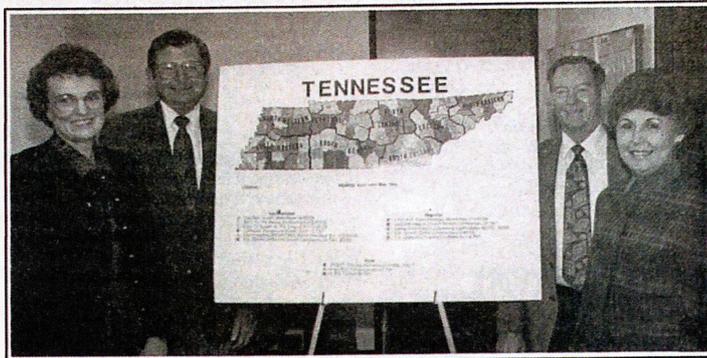
## Department to launch new emphasis in '92

The TBC Sunday School Department will launch a new emphasis, The Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH, on Oct. 1, 1992. The emphasis will continue for several years.

The Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH is a process where a trained consultant will work with a church for one year in church growth, evangelism, and better Bible teaching, said Greer Ruble, director of the TBC Sunday School Department.

Ruble noted the department's goal is to have 100 Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH churches during church year 1992-93.

Consultants will be trained in the latter part of April, 1992, he added.



**SERVING TENNESSEE** — Heading up Tennessee Baptists' efforts in helping churches grow through Sunday School are, from left, Liz Lee, program associate, children's work; Greer Ruble, director; Roy Miller, program associate, adult work; and Martha Couch, program associate, preschool work.

Ruble is assisted by program associates — Roy Miller, adults; Liz Lee, children; and Martha Couch, preschool. Currently, the department does not have a program associate for youth. Brenda Harris, minister of education at North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, is serving as coordinator for youth regional representatives across the state in the interim period.

In the area of adult work, Miller notes there are three areas of concern churches need to address as they plan adult Sunday School work.

One area of need, he says, is to discover ways to reach the "baby boomer" generation of adults. In 1992 the first baby boomers will turn 50 years old.

The second area, according to Miller, is the need for starting a number of new adult classes and departments to accommodate the growing adult population.

And, finally, the third area of need is to properly age grade and fully organize each class and department to do effective outreach, planning, and teaching.

Lee's responsibilities in children's work include helping church workers understand and teach children, recognize God's plan for their lives and

those they teach, prepare materials, discover, reach, and enroll unchurched children, and become involved in the total work of the church.

Couch is challenged to assist churches and teachers in evaluating their Bible teaching ministry for preschoolers from birth to first grade. Couch also provides consultation for church weekday education programs such as day care, kindergarten, nursery school, and mother's day out.

Assisting Ruble and the program

associates are Camille Dotson, administrative assistant, and secretaries Linda Cates and Darlene Johnson.

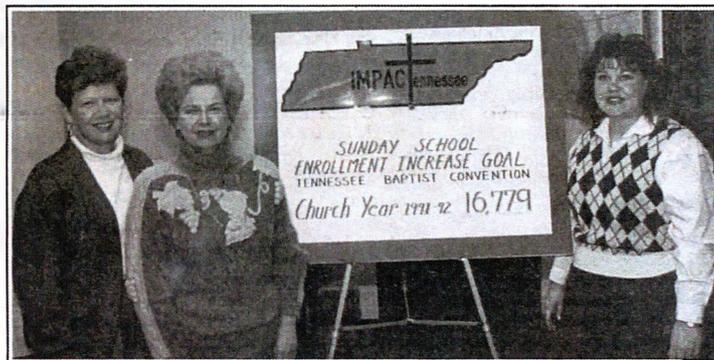
Efforts by the TBC department and churches across the state have paid off. Churches and missions in the TBC have had a significant net increase in Sunday School enrollment for the previous five years.

One interesting statistic is that of the net SBC enrollment gain of 65,516 people from 1986-90, 22,812 or 35 percent of those, were in Tennessee Baptist churches.

Information received in early 1991 indicated Tennessee Baptist churches ranked second in Sunday School attendance based on enrollment during 1989-90 among state conventions with 20,000 Sunday School members or more. Out of 559,297 Tennessee Sunday School members that year, the average weekly attendance was 291,296, or 52 percent of those enrolled.

Ruble recognizes churches are different and that they will have to use different methods, but he believes the basic approach will be the same.

"You have to enlist, elect, and train outreach workers in Sunday School and let them use their creative abilities in the business of reaching people for Bible study," he says. — This article continues a series of stories on TBC departments and institutions.



**MAKING AN IMPACT** — Supporting the Sunday School Department's efforts in ImpacTennessee are, from left, Linda Cates, Camille Dotson, and Darlene Johnson.



## Oct. 1, 1990-Sept. 30, 1995

### Sunday School Department

### Tennessee Baptist Convention

**Comparative Figures — Sunday School Enrollment**  
**Southern Baptist Convention and Tennessee Baptist Convention**  
**Oct. 1, 1986-Sept. 30, 1990**

Church Year	SBC Enrollment	Gain/Loss	TBC Enrollment	Gain
1986-87	7,942,106	-1,876	540,584	4,099
1987-88	7,911,373	-30,733	543,220	2,636
1988-89	7,936,015	24,642	551,146	7,926
1989-90	8,009,498	73,483	559,297	8,151
<b>Total</b>		<b>65,516</b>		<b>22,812</b>

**Total SBC Net Sunday School Enrollment Increase (4 years): 65,516**  
**Total TBC Net Sunday School Enrollment Increase (4 years): 22,812**  
**Percentage TBC Net Enrollment Increase of SBC Net Enrollment Increase: 35%**

**REVEALING STAT** — The above chart shows that of the 65,516 net enrollment increase in the SBC, Tennessee churches accounted for 35 percent of that increase.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

evangelism...education...missions...benevolence...



January 15, 1992

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

At the Tennessee Baptist Convention this year, the Cooperative Program budget of \$28,290,960.00 was adopted unanimously by those messengers present. This new budget will equalize our Cooperative Program support of our three educational institutions and maintain our 62.50 percent Cooperative Program support to missions in Tennessee and 37.50 percent Cooperative Program support to missions through the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is our prayer that you and your church will step forward in faith in your support of missions through the Cooperative Program this year. Will you lead your church to grow in giving through the Cooperative Program because of your love for the Savior and your commitment to obedience to His Great Commission?

Here is where Tennessee Baptists are currently in support of missions through the Cooperative Program. The 1990-91 year was one of many challenges. Tennessee Baptists gave \$939,274.45 less through the Cooperative Program in 1990-91 than was given the year prior. The Cooperative Program Budget goal was missed by \$2,481,111.70. Those churches that chose to use negative designations, gave \$504,223.22 to Tennessee Baptist Convention causes. The resulting income of the Tennessee Baptist Convention was .58 percent fewer dollars for 1990-91 as compared to the previous year. Therefore, the budget goal was missed by 6.33 percent or \$1,976,888.48.

The current Tennessee Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget is \$28,290,960.00. From November 1990 - October 1991, a total of \$24,820,971.52 was given through the Cooperative Program and those gifts given by churches using negative designations. The difference between our past year's receipts and the current Cooperative Program Budget goal is \$3,469,989.48 or 13.98 percent.

Since Jesus is the head of the church and missions is the heart of the church; then the Cooperative Program is like the circulatory system that carries resources to all parts of the body. In days of such great opportunity for ministry, there must not be blockages in the arteries or shortages in the supply of the lifeblood.

As an ambassador for Christ, challenge your church to make the largest possible increase in Cooperative Program gifts this new budget year. All things are possible through Christ.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of D. L. Lowrie.

D. L. Lowrie  
Executive Director/Treasurer

Handwritten signature of Ron Phillips.

Ron Phillips, President  
Tennessee Baptist Convention

Handwritten signature of Don Givens.

Don Givens, President  
Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist  
Convention

Handwritten signature of J. Cordell Maddox.

J. Cordell Maddox, President  
Carson-Newman College

Handwritten signature of William E. Troutt.

William E. Troutt, President  
Belmont University

Handwritten signature of Hyran E. Barefoot.

Hyran E. Barefoot, President  
Union University

Handwritten signature of Carol Pharris.

Carol Pharris, President  
Woman's Missionary Union

# TenneScene

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

## Revival ...

Music evangelist Pat Roper led a one-day revival Jan. 19 at Temple Church, Old Hickory. Roper shared his testimony and sang during morning and evening worship service.

## Associations ...

The annual Christmas Toy Store, sponsored by Nashville Association, served 1200 families and provided toys and gifts to 3400 children. There were 70 professions of faith as a result of counseling efforts.

## Ordinations ...

Randall Butler, Kevin Dawson, Kenneth Griffin, and Darrell King were ordained to the deacon ministry of First Church, Jackson, Jan. 12.

Richard Reece was ordained to the deacon ministry Jan. 12 at First Church, Elizabethton.

## Missions ...

Todd and Karen Helm, Louisville, Ky., have been assigned to a two-year term as English language workers in Guinea through the Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps. Both are graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Helm is a native of Nashville.

## Leadership ...

Billy Joe Brown has been called to serve as pastor of White Hall Church, Trenton.

Jack May is now serving as interim pastor of Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis.

Members of Walnut Grove Church, Kenton, recently welcomed new pastor Noel Edwards.

Ian H. C. Walker has resigned as pastor of First Church, Morristown, after serving more than ten years, to accept the pastorate of the Bent Creek Church, Asheville, N.C.

Charles Evans recently accepted the pastorate of Manning's Chapel, Newport.

Troy Moore recently joined the staff of Temple Church, Paris, as music and youth minister.

Calvary Church, Smithville, called David Koons as pastor.

Dan Johnson has joined the staff of First Church, Clarksville, as part-time, interim music minister.

Fruitland Church, Humboldt, recently called Billy House as pastor.

Haskel Ingram is now serving as pastor of First Church, Roan Mountain.

## Ernest Moench Sr. dies

Ernest J. Moench Sr., retired businessman and lifelong deacon at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, died Jan. 9. He was 92.

Moench was longtime president of Tennessee Tufting Co. and had been president of the Tufted Textile Assn. He was active in Nashville civic affairs.

He had been chairman of the executive committee of the Sunday School Board, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foundation, and trustee chairman of Belmont College (now University).

nomination," said John Adams, Union's vice president of religious affairs.

Regular college entrance requirements are waived for the study, which is open to individuals above 16 years of age. Course work will lead to the diploma in either pastoral ministries or Christian leadership, Adams said.

Up to eight semester hours in the Seminary Extension Program may be transferred to Union for college credit. Curriculum recommended by the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention serves as curriculum for the program.

The classes are not to be confused with the university's Seminary Studies Program, which is a joint effort between Southern Seminary and Union. Through that program, students take courses which apply directly toward their seminary degree, rather than a diploma.

Individuals desiring additional information on the Seminary Extension Program's other spring offerings in West Tennessee may contact Adams at (901) 668-1818, ext. 243.



PRESNELL



REID

## Two Tennesseans graduate from GGBTS

Two Tennessee Baptists were among 38 students who graduated in December from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Wayne Warren Presnell of Johnson City and Stephen Barry Reid of Milan earned master of divinity degrees.

Presnell is a graduate of Milligan College, near Johnson City. He served as youth minister of Cherokee Church, Jonesborough, from 1985-88. He considers Cherokee as his home church.

Reid, whose home church is First Church, Milan, graduated from University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Golden Gate graduates were challenged by Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Texas, to mark their ministries with integrity and authenticity.

## Calvary Church calls Joe Sorah

Calvary Church, Elizabethton, recently called Joe Sorah as pastor.

A native of Tennessee, Sorah is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Ron Sorah of Calhoun.

Prior to joining Calvary's staff, Sorah was pastor of Mountain Terrace Church, Memphis. He is a graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sorah and his wife, Teresa, have one son, Joshua.



**NEW MEMBERS** — Trustees of Belmont University welcomed eight new members, who were elected during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November, to their December meeting. New trustees are, from left, front row, Louie Phillips Buntin, Immanuel Church, Nashville; J. Howard Young Jr., First Church, Murfreesboro; back row, Ernest J. Moench Jr., Belmont Heights Church, Nashville; Antha Evangeline Keyt, First Church, Donelson; James Alan Patton, pastor, First Church, Fairview; Bill Gray Looper, Pleasant Heights Church, Fairview; Bill Gray Looper, Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia; and Horace Eugene Watson, Woodmont Church, Nashville. Not present for the photo was Charles E. Gibbs Jr., pastor, Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville.

## Union offers seminary extension classes

Union University will offer seminary extension classes in nine West Tennessee locations this spring.

Classes will meet for 13 weeks. Costs vary in each association, and individuals interested in taking the courses should contact their local associational office for cost details.

Registration will be held the first night of class at the course location. All classes will meet one night a week from 7 to 9 p.m.

Sites, courses, meeting dates, and instructors include:

Covington — "Old Testament Survey, Part I," Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m., Big Hatchie Association Center, led by Paul Moore, pastor of Charleston Church, Stanton.

Tiptonville — "Revelation," Feb. 4, 7-9 p.m., First Church, Tiptonville, led by Judd Lambert, pastor of First Church.

Dyersburg — "Public Worship" and "Evangelism," Feb. 10, 5-7 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Baptist Student Union, Dyersburg State Community College, led by Charles Halliburton, pastor of Finley Church, Finley.

Bolivar — "Mark" and "Systematic Theology," Feb. 4, 7-9 p.m., Hardeman

Association Center, led by Mark Mangrum, pastor of Whiteville Church, Whiteville, and Tim West, pastor of Hornsby Church, Hornsby.

Adamsville — "New Testament Survey: The Early Church," Feb. 13, 7-9 p.m., Shiloh Association Center, led by John Pippin, director of missions, Shiloh Association.

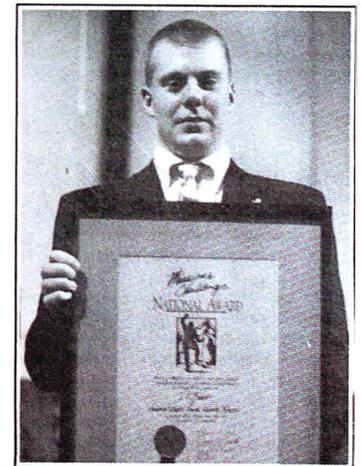
Dresden — "Pastoral Leadership in a Small Church," Jan. 28, 7-9 p.m., Weakley Association Center, led by Richard Skidmore, director of missions, Weakley Association.

Paris — "Formation for Ministry," Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m., Western District Association Center, led by Thomas Duffey, pastor of Holladay Unity Church, Holladay.

Memphis — "Ephesians and Philippians," Feb. 6, 7-9 p.m., Ardmore Church, Memphis, led by Chaplain Wrex Hauth of the Veterans Hospital, Memphis.

A study in the Old Testament, taught by Hoyt Wilson, pastor of First Church, Livingston, began Jan. 14 at Beech River Association Center.

"The course is open to laypersons as well as ministers regardless of de-



**AWARD WINNER** — J. P. Bobbitt, a member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, recently became Tennessee's 11th National Missions Challenge award winner, and the 45th award winner in the Southern Baptist Convention since the award was established by the Brotherhood Commission in 1987. Bobbitt has served on the Tennessee Royal Ambassador camp staff and has been an RA Congress state officer. Steve Steinmann of Woodmont served as his Missions Challenge leader and unit advisor. The award is normally presented during Tennessee's annual RA Congress, but Bobbitt received the award early. He began service in the U.S. Army in November.

Tennessee enrollments increase

# Southern Baptist colleges log decade of continuous growth

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the 19th consecutive year, according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Enrollment figures for the 1991 fall semester show 113,262 students attended Southern Baptist colleges and universities, a 2.4 percent increase over the 1990 total of 110,605.

The enrollment figures include both full- and part-time students in college credit courses, but not students in non-credit courses. Enrollment statistics were released to the commission by each school.

All three Tennessee Baptist schools logged increases — Belmont University, 2821, up 0.3 percent; Carson-Newman College, 2118, up one percent; and Union University, 2272, up 7.8 percent.

A compilation of the figures shows 33 of the 53 colleges and universities had increases in enrollment ranging from 22.7 percent to 0.3 percent.

Bluefield (Va.) College had the largest percentage increase for the second consecutive year with 22.7 percent followed by Campbellsville (Ky.) College, 21.7 percent; Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., 15.6 percent; Brewton-Parker College, Mount Vernon, Ga., 14.5 percent; Wayland

Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, 14.4 percent; and Virginia Interment College, Bristol, Va., 14 percent.

Campbell University showed the largest numerical increase from fall 1990 to fall 1991 with 780 additional students followed by Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas, 302; Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, 300; Mercer University, Macon, Atlanta and Forsyth, Ga., 279; Brewton-Parker, 272; Charleston (S.C.) Southern University, 255; and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., 250.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981, when enrollment was 91,602, a drop of less than one percent over the previous year.

The increased enrollment for the past decade means that 21,660 more students attended the 53 Southern Baptist colleges and universities during the fall 1991 term than in fall 1981, a net increase of 23.6 percent.

"The fact that a majority of the colleges and universities still experience growth in enrollment demonstrates the confidence Southern Baptists have in their institutions of higher education even in an environment of change," said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission.

"With the national emphasis on education, we Christians must recognize that higher education offers a continuing opportunity for relating faith to all areas of knowledge and human endeavor," Walker said. "If the Christian faith is to impact experience, it must be related to the leaders, professionals, researchers, and scholars of society. The basic mission purpose of Baptist institutions is to equally emphasize personal faith and professional competency."

Baylor University in Waco, Texas, remains the largest Southern Baptist university with 11,810 students, followed by Mercer University with 6166 students. Campbell University, for the first time, edged Wake Forest to become the third largest Southern Baptist-related university in the nation with 5777 students. Wake Forest University had 5755 students.

Some universities have reached or surpassed their established enrollment and are limiting the number of incom-

ing students through admissions ceilings and/or higher standards.

An "Early Estimates" report from the U.S. Department of Education shows total college enrollment in the United States was 14,157,000 in fall 1991, with an average increase of 3.2 percent over the previous fall. The growth figures were spurred by an eight percent increase in the 5.3 million students attending two-year colleges. The 2.4 percent increase at Southern Baptist colleges compares favorably with enrollment increases at both public and private four-year colleges, which grew by only one percent.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, college administrators said while freshmen enrollment was down at many four-year institutions because of large tuition increases and a declining number of high school graduates, overall enrollment increased because of "an influx of adult students who were waiting out the recession in college classrooms."

## Russian Baptists grateful for food

WASHINGTON (BP) — Tears of joy and expressions of thankfulness greeted a World Airways DC-10 plane with 132,000 pounds of food when it arrived in Moscow Jan. 4.

This mission of mercy was the result of the joint efforts of the Leesburg (Va.) Church and the Baptist World Alliance through its division of Baptist World Aid.

Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, made a 48-hour roundtrip from Washington to Moscow to witness the arrival of the plane and unloading of food. He also videotaped the unloading and interviewed Russian Baptists who were helping.

"I was crying when I saw the food," said one man named Alex from the Moscow Church who worked from the time the plane landed to midnight to unload the 60-pound bags of food. Montacute told him there were also tears of joy when the plane left Washington.

"We thank the Lord for you and for what you have done to help Russian

Baptists in our extreme difficulties," Alex said. "God gave you the chance to help Russian people and you turned your hands to help us. God will give you more for this."

## Davidson accepts call at Calvary

Larry D. Davidson, a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has accepted the pastorate at Calvary Church, Heiskell.

Davidson received a diploma in theology from Southern Seminary's Boyce Bible School in December.

While in seminary Davidson was pastor of Rolling Fork Church in Boston, Ky.

Davidson considers Clinton his hometown and Second Church, Clinton, his home church.

He and his wife, Teresa, have two children.

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Jan. 5, 1992 was a great day for Tennessee Baptists. At least two new churches were organized on that day.

I was able to participate in the organization of the Dallas Bay Church in Hamilton Association. This new church has had a remarkable beginning. They are strategically located in a beautiful new building. Ken Duggan is giving them strong pastoral leadership.

This church has been nurtured by Hamilton Association and First Church, Chattanooga. David Myers and Gary Carver helped in the organization. Larry Kirk from the Missions Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention has been there to help line up resources. God uses people when he wants to start a new church. Other churches in the area have made a helpful contribution.

Salem Springs Church was organized



LOWRIE

in Concord Association on the same day. This new congregation has been sponsored by Mt. Pleasant Church and the association. Tom Madden, my predecessor, had a part in the beginning of this mission. Leslie Baumgartner represented Tennessee Baptists in the organizational meeting. James Powers, director of missions for Concord Association, has led this association to be aggressive in starting new churches.

New churches can begin without the association or state convention, but we like to be a part. This is the way that other churches can share in this wonderful experience.

Our goal is to see 175 new congregations birthed in this five-year period. Do you know a place in Tennessee that needs a new church? Call your local director of missions, or our Missions Department. We want to be God's instrument in seeing it happen.

My dream is for every Lord's day to be like Jan. 5, 1992.

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in Nashville

# Judgment for sins of injustice

By Jerry Winfield, pastor; First Church, Bolivar

The preaching of Amos outlined three reasons for the coming judgment of God on the Israelites. First was their failure to live up to their responsibilities as the elect people of God (ch. 3:1-15). The second reason (ch. 4:1-13) was Israel's failure to help the disadvantaged and their practice of empty religious ritual. It is this lesson we see the third reason — a meaningless relationship with God.

In the two chapters under consideration, chapter 5 shows us the characteristics of a dead nation and chapter 6 describes the sin of selfish luxury.

### Obituary for Israel (ch. 5:1-3)

These verses are poetic in form and constitute a funeral dirge. It seems that at this time Amos saw no hope for the nation. In this lament, Israel is compared to a young woman who has been rejected and finds no one to help her. She is like a city who loses her population. There is no help and no

hope.

A call to seek the Lord (ch. 5:4-9)  
The nation had already crossed over the line of judgment, but God still offered hope to the individual who genuinely sought God. No longer could the people put their faith in places of worship. The same God who created the stars was calling people to seek God immediately or suffer destruction.

### The sin of oppressing the poor (ch. 5:10-13)

One of the evidences of Israel's sinfulness was their treatment of the poor. They despised the poor and those who would legally help them. Even the judges who could help the poor could be bribed. The wealthy would never enjoy their fine houses or beautiful vineyards. God's judgment was coming.

### A call to righteous living (ch. 5:14-15)

Even in the midst of Israel's selfish luxury, Amos admonished his listeners to right living. In spite of certain judg-

ment, God held out hope for the remnant of Joseph. This call is still being issued to God's people today.

### The coming of God (ch. 5:16-24)

As is so often true, few were listening to God's message. Amos warned them again of the coming destruction. Verses 16-17 give a gloomy picture of what life would be like after judgment. Beginning in verse 18, Amos focused on the religious attitude of Israel. Apparently, the Israelites thought they were religious, yet God totally rejected their worship. Their worship was vain and empty of meaning. It was right in form, but wrong in motive. A dark day was coming for Israel. Verse 24 describes what the Israelites had to do to have a proper relationship with God. He expected His people to be examples of His love and mercy so others might come to know Him.

### The promise of exile for Israel's sins (ch. 5:25-27)

Unfortunately, it seemed as if Israel

had forgotten what God had done for them during the exodus. They were so far from God they had fallen into the worship of pagan gods. God was going to judge them with another period of captivity.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
**January 26 Lesson**  
Basic Passage: Amos 5:1-6:14

### God's judgment on the wealthy (ch. 6:1-14)

Wealth is a blessing from the Lord, but becomes sin when those so blessed take God and others for granted and when their wealth brings arrogance and pride. Despite multiple warnings, the wealthy of Israel were at ease about their situation. But their situation was about to change. Amos even provided examples of how God had judged other cities. These proud, selfish, and wealthy Israelites were the first to go into captivity.

Perhaps there is a message here for wealthy and selfish America. We had better listen to what Amos has to say!

# Song of the vineyard

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

We need to understand from our lesson today that privilege always brings responsibility. Christians are a privileged people and are accountable for their actions.

A little over three years ago, Sarah and I moved into our own home. On the property we bought was a grape arbor with three grape vines. They were in bad need of pruning. Since I had never raised grapes before, I needed to study about how to care for them. I cut back the stems and hard dark branches, leaving the main runners and several branches. My neighbors and friends told me that I had killed them. I was almost convinced they were right. Spring arrived and the new branches started shooting out. Then came the leaves and later the fruit. From this experience I learned a valuable lesson. In order for the grape vines to produce good fruit, the dead limbs and branches had to be cut away.

Isaiah knew a sermon on the

vineyard would not be heard and remembered. Therefore, he put the story in a parable form and then sang it. This, in all probability, took place during the autumn festival. It was during this time that the Israelites celebrated the grape harvest. Because large numbers of people attended the festival, Isaiah had a good audience.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
**January 26 Lesson**  
Basic Passage: Isaiah 5:1-7

Verses 1 and 2, the parable in song, tells of a "well-beloved" friend who owned a vineyard. He owned a very fertile hillside. He cleared it, removing all of the rocks. The owner selected and planted the "choicest plants." He cultivated the vineyard and encircled it with a protective fence. A watchtower was built in the center of the vineyard for protection.

Since the owner spared not labor nor expense, he expected a good bumper

crop of grapes. To his surprise, all of his labor brought forth a crop of fruit that was uneatable.

In verses 3 and 4, Isaiah asked a question of his audience to keep them involved. The question was, "What could have been done to my vineyard that I did not do? You decide between me and my vineyard." There isn't an answer. The fault was in the vines, not in the soil or the planter.

In verses 5 and 6, the prophet revealed to his audience the judgment on the vineyard. Since the vines were worthless, he would tear down the protective walls and stop pruning and cultivating the vines.

We see the reason for judgment in verse 7. The vineyard represents the house of Israel. Jehovah God had expected His people to bring forth good fruit, representing justice and righteousness. He held them responsible.

Real worship is more than beautiful music, great prayers, and soothing ser-

mons. It is more than attendance and giving tithes and love offerings. These are elements of worship, but the biggest one is the worshiper. The one who is worshipping controls his/her involvement in the service. This is why we sometimes have a feeling of discomfort. Real worship helps us to see God in all of His holiness and ourselves in our sinfulness. We hear and sing things that make us feel comfortable and shut out things that make us feel uncomfortable.

Just as I had to remove the dead and unhealthy branches from my grapes, God had to "prune" Israel in order that she might survive. God used foreign nations, Assyria and Babylon, to bring judgment upon His people. God expected justice and righteousness from Israel, but instead received social greed, indulgent lifestyles, moral blindness, and unfaithfulness.

Are you being responsible for the privileges God has given you?

# Glorifying God

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

The Life and Work curriculum lessons for January through March are based on the Gospel of Matthew and the concept of kingdom living. This Sunday our focus shifts from presenting the King to citizenship in the kingdom. One of the first standards of kingdom citizenship is glorifying God by our actions and our attitudes.

In my red letter edition of the RSV, I literally see red as I open to Matthew 5 which is the Scriptural basis for this Sunday's lesson. Jesus' words and instructions, known as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), are not so much evangelistic tools as they are a believer's manual of Christian conduct. Theologian Herschel Hobbs calls the Sermon on the Mount the "Constitution of the Kingdom of God."

The Bible truth of Matthew 5:1-16 centralizes on our glorifying God by developing and demonstrating qualities

God blesses as stated in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew records the sermon early in Jesus' ministry, while Mark and Luke place it around mid-point of Jesus' ministry.

Matthew 5 emphasizes kingdom citizenship, while Matthew 6 focuses on values of the kingdom. Relationships within the kingdom are presented in Matthew 7. Thus, the Sermon on the Mount could be "for Christians only," according to Hobbs.

All sermons need logical points of organization and natural progression, and Jesus' famous sermon is an example indeed. Within chapter 5, verses 3-6 emphasize the Christian's relation to God. The kingdom citizen's relation to others is reviewed in verses 7-12. The Christian's relationship to the world is the focus of verses 13-16.

Jesus was speaking of the Christian's maturity in the beatitudes, not about

eight different persons. The Beatitudes of verses 3-6 refer to grace, while verses 7-8 emphasize mercy, and verse 9 emphasizes peace.

**LIFE AND WORK**  
**January 26 Lesson**  
Basic Passage: Matthew 5:1-16

In putting the Scripture into our words for understanding, William Hersey Davis used the substitution "to be congratulated" for each of the "blessed" statements. Some use the concept of "happy is the man who" to substitute for "blessed." Happy is dependent on the outward happenings; thus we can also be unhappy according to the circumstances. However, "blessed" denotes a Godly inner resource which is present no matter what the circumstance.

The poor in spirit refers to those who know for certain they are dependent on God. No matter what the interpretation of those who mourn, the comfort they receive is of God through the Com-

forter, the Holy Spirit. The meek choose God's control for their lives rather than their own control.

For me personally, it seems my daily, abiding relationship to God which manifests itself in prayer, Bible study, love, and obedience to Him causes me to want to be the best kingdom citizen I can be, although often I fail to be an ambassador to the world around me. An individual's walk with the Lord is the basis of producing blessed qualities of mercy, purity, peacemaking, and endurance of persecution.

Citizens of the kingdom are concerned about relating as witnesses to our lost world through their influence. Jesus used an analogy in verses 13-16 portraying the child of God as salt and light in our world.

The lost world, as well as fellow citizens of God's kingdom, should readily recognize Christians by their reverence for their relationship to God, their attitude of mercy and peacemaking among other Christians, and their sincerity in being salt and light.

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Question: "Anything else?"

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