

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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Speakers challenge Tennesseans to be strong in evangelism

NASHVILLE — A host of speakers at the 1992 State Evangelism Conference challenged Tennessee Baptists to be more evangelistic in their endeavors.

Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Director Jerry King estimated 1200 people attended the two-day meeting Jan. 20-21 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, up from about 900 who attended the 1991 evangelism conference.

Nine different speakers touched on the conference theme. "Embrace God's Word . . . Share the Gospel" from a variety of directions.

New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary professor Don Wilton set the tone for the sessions by giving four theme interpretations.

Wilton reminded Tennessee Baptists that they must do what God is telling them to do. "We must not only be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word," he said.

Wilton underscored the need for evangelism and discipleship.

"Evangelism is incomplete until the evangelized become the evangelists," he said.

Tennesseans speak

Tennessee native Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University Shawnee, delivered the first message at the conference by asking, "What is it going to take to make us more effective in reaching people with the Gospel?"

He observed, "We aren't doing a very good job of reaching the unsaved . . . We're not making a dent."

He added that many of the people baptized in Baptist churches today are either children of church members or are connected with the church in another way.

Agee attributes the problem to Christians not dealing with their sin. Drawing his text from Psalm 51, Agee observed that David, when writing the Psalm, was seeking cleansing for his sins so he could teach others about God.

David had earthly possessions, but had lost his influence on the people, Agee said, noting David "felt dirty . . . separated from God."

David, however, acknowledged his sin and learned the real force for reaching sinners is God, Agee said.

Applying David's lesson to today's Christian, Agee observed the world is so filled with sin, "our senses are dull. There is no holy cutting edge in our life."

Agee reminded Tennessee Baptists God "won't use a dirty vessel;" therefore, God's vessels, Christians, must seek cleansing before they can be used.

Agee, who also spoke during the

Monday evening session, urged conference attendees to make walking closer to Jesus their greatest need.

Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director D. L. Lowrie delivered the final message at the opening session.

Speaking of the symbolism in Luke 12:49, Lowrie said fire represents the Holy Spirit, baptism represents Jesus' death, and the sword represents division. Jesus came to bring the fire, the sword, and to face his baptism.

"When the fire does what the fire came to do, the result will be a sword," Lowrie said. "When the Holy Spirit fills the church, that's going to offend the world . . . Sometimes we'll encounter the sword and it will hurt," he concluded.

Dallas pastor

Dallas pastor E. K. Bailey of Concord Missionary Church, presented four sermons during the meeting, with the first one on Monday night.

He emphasized Christians must be willing to go out and evangelize.

Bailey reminded conference participants that "when your love for God is right, it ought to cost you something."

He challenged those in attendance to seriously ask themselves if they are giving their best to God, noting people always give their best to what they love.

"When you make your investment in the Lord, you won't go wrong," he promised. "It pays to serve Jesus."

Givens speaker at Chile Baptist meeting

TEMUCO, Chile — The 84th Annual Assembly of the Baptist Convention of Chile met here Jan. 10. Don Givens, pastor of St. Elmo Avenue Church in Chattanooga and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board, represented Tennessee Baptists.

Tennessee and Chile began a Partnership Mission Jan. 1. (See partnership prayer requests in this issue.)

Flags of the partners were carried down the aisle accompanied by a rendition of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and the singing of both national anthems. Victor Olivares, executive secretary of the Chile convention, told messengers, "Though we have two different cultures and two distinctly different histories, though we speak two different languages, we are one people, the people of God."

Moises Pinto, president of the Baptist Convention of Chile, and Givens, stood on the platform and prayed in



INTERPRETING — Cheryl Bruffey of First Church, Donelson, uses sign language to interpret music by the Tennessee Baptist Chorale for deaf participants of the State Evangelism Conference. — Photo by Connie Davis

Bailey also observed that when a person stands up for the Lord, the Lord will stand up for that person.

He cautioned against being intimidated by things one does not have. "All God requires is for you to do what you can," he said.

In his Tuesday afternoon message Bailey talked about the crippled man described in Acts 3. He noted that, like the crippled man, people are dependent on society. He called for compassion rather than bigotry, educational and economic exclusiveness, and political intransigence.

He observed the sight of the crippled man lying by the beautiful gate was a

contrast of splendor and sickness, worship and woe, dignity and destiny, pomp and poverty, loveliness and languidness.

"The great test is not how we deal with all of the problems of the world, although we should have a global mentality and a global view, but how we deal with the problems at our feet," Bailey said.

In the final message of the conference, Bailey dramatized Hosea, the Old Testament prophet who was asked to model God's love for Israel, although the country was "whoring after

— See Speakers, page 6

the two languages.

Givens addressed convention participants, with Guillermo Catalan as translator. He urged the people to reflect on who they are and why, to reflect on what Christ does for each person, and what attitudes Christians should have in order to be effective in witness and ministry.

He urged his listeners to take risks, to go where God wants to them to go even when they don't have all the answers. He asked the people to take

something that will be remembered, not for personal glory, but for growth of God's kingdom.

"The whole purpose of this partnership is that we bring people to know Jesus. We want to work together to that end. We live in a world where money is sometimes scarce, but God will give us the victory."

Olivares asked the group to allow God to transform their lives, to work together in ministry. — Caroline Jones, missionary to Chile



AT TEMUCO, CHILE — Richard Poe, left, Oak Ridge, SBC missionary to Chile, introduces Don Givens, Chattanooga, to Baptists Convention messengers.

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Editorials

Baptists around the world working together: BWA

For those churches whose friendship hands extend across cultures, languages, natural and man-made boundaries, and politics — Baptist World Alliance Day usually is celebrated on February's first Sunday.

February 2 then is proper for recognizing and praying for Baptist brothers and sisters around the world. This includes more than 146,000 congregations and almost 35 million individual believers.

Prayers will go out for free churches and restricted churches, groups of ten and twenty — groups of 30,000 and 100,000. And those Baptists who have had the benefit and blessing of world travel will remember a pastor who led his flock and visitors in a thatched roof hut in Rwanda or a pavilion in Peru. They will remember a palatial worship center suitable for 20,000 worshippers — and a house church concealed from oppressive and inverted government.

What binds Baptists together in all these situations? Nothing binds 35 million Baptists more tightly than the overwhelming sense that a faith which is real is meant to be shared.

In a nutshell, Sir John Seeley years ago said, "When the power of reclaiming the lost dies out of the church, it ceases to be the church. It may remain a useful institution, although it is most likely

to become an immoral and mischievous one."

Diversity among bodies in the Baptist World Alliance is great, and ways of sharing the Gospel may be determined by temperament, circumstance, and the society in which we live. However, there is no obstacle that can dam the overflow of the Spirit-filled life.

Jesus said it plainly when he shouted to the crowds, "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink. For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water flow from the inmost being of anyone who believes in me." (John 7:37-38).

He said: the river is not a well, the river has a source, the river flows from within. He said the sharing of the Gospel is always personal, but never private.

We are talking about evangelical Baptists here — Baptists who are part of the Baptist World Alliance by choice, for the sake of the Gospel, putting aside worldly manmade differences.

A former BWA president said that at the close of a visit to Baptists in a part of the world where evangelism is restricted by state government, he noticed that the church was amazingly alive nonetheless. He asked how, in the face of such restrictions, could the people proclaim the Good News.

The answer came from a veteran lay pastor, "One by one — one by one."

The theme for the BWA this year is "Baptists Pray Together." That witness in the restricted place — and we who have religious freedom — and all Baptists in between, can accomplish little — without the power of prayer.

In Ephesians 6:18, Christians are admonished: "Pray all the time ... and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere." Pray and go.

Is that a worthy aim for Baptist World Alliance Day? Headquartered in McLean, Virginia, the BWA office staff will help any Baptist church with materials. Call them at (703) 790-8980, and plan to celebrate BWA Sunday on a Sunday in February.

In August of 1990, Baptists from around the world meeting in Seoul, Korea, for the 16th Baptist World Congress, covenanted to work together to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with every person by 2000.

Southern Baptists are a vital cog in the BWA. Our Foreign Mission Board is competently helping develop and carry out strategies.

Bold Mission Thrust has been "our baby" since 1976; now logic says that goal can be better achieved with some help. — Praying and working together. — WFA

News reported fairly is preferred over reading rumors

Circulation figures for Southern Baptist state papers are decreasing after reaching peak figures ten or twelve years ago.

It would be foolish for editors and staff members to overlook this reality. It would be foolish to weep and wail, and helplessly wring our hands. It would be foolish to be overly optimistic and trust that the trend will reverse itself.

However, it is wise to search for clues, reasons for the shift in overall popularity. We can ascribe several possible causes:

- National recession causes people to give less to the churches — and churches have to cut budgets. One of the first items some churches reduce or eliminate is the state Baptist paper.

- Few people read anything. Sad but true, even Christians are devotees to television, a news and entertainment source that doesn't require thinking. It is easy to turn it on, put your mind into neutral, and dream to oblivion.

- There is general unconcern for church or con-

vention matters by many Baptists. Surveys continue to remind us that younger generations are not denomination loyalists. There is apathy about the rest of the world as we play church and pursue the "good life."

- Many families have little time for anything because both parents are working — if there are two parents. And the single parent is ultimately concerned first about just staying ahead of the bills.

- The Southern Baptist controversy that has gripped us for a dozen years is a wearying factor. Many Baptists, who know how many, are exceedingly weary of the struggle for control of leadership positions. Even though "conservatives" have gained most of those posts, we still have factions.

- A number of Baptists prefer to read papers shaped for one side or the other. These papers are products of the open division. Some Baptists apparently are content to live without news of the "other side" unless that news is bad.

Baptists at times have a habit of ignoring that which is bothersome, but it is difficult to overlook real problems.

While it is difficult to assess the main reason for the slide in subscription numbers, readers tell us the Baptist conflict is probably it. Some churches are hurt more than others by the recession, and though the other four causes listed affect some churches, the controversy is the likely candidate.

For many Baptists the solution is to eliminate the messenger. There is a tendency to forget that though the message may be throttled, the controversy is still alive. It does hurt the papers. It does hurt the work of Christ through Southern Baptists.

Some say the papers should not report the differences — but then, folks, we would have to deal with rumors! We propose to continue reporting all the news that Baptists need to know. This is certainly our task, and it should be understood as our task. — WFA

Parks to face questions from trustees Feb. 10

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustee leaders have asked Keith Parks to explain details surrounding a controversial Jan. 7 press conference during which two board executives announced early retirement in protest of trustee actions and policies.

Amid growing tension and speculation about his future, the FMB president will face trustees at a special session of the full board Feb. 10, according to a Jan. 14 letter from trustee chairman Bill Hancock to the 88 trustees.

The special session, called by Hancock in consultation with other trustee officers, will convene at 2 p.m. on the first day of the trustees' regular Feb. 10-12 meeting. Normally trustees hold two days of committee sessions before convening the full board for business on the third day.

Immediately before the special session, Parks will meet for two hours

Correction noted

Belmont University trustee Bill Gray Loper was inadvertently listed twice in a photo on page nine of last week's Baptist and Reflector. Loper is a member of Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia.

with trustee leaders in the FMB chairman's council. The 19-member council is made up of trustee officers and chairmen of committees.

Hancock's letter said the announcement of retirement by board administrators Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker "has heightened the anxiety and concern of trustees." He also noted he has "received a great deal of counsel" regarding a trustee response in the wake of press reports and reactions from individuals across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ballenger, 56, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and Parker, 55, area director for Europe, said at the press conference they could no longer represent the agency because of what they termed the trustees' "global agenda" to exert control and enforce theological orthodoxy overseas. Their decision to step down early followed weeks of controversy surrounding trustee votes in October and December to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Parks, who appeared at the news conference, praised Ballenger and Parker, both veterans of foreign missions, for their integrity and commit-

ment to missions.

Reports have persisted that some will begin efforts — perhaps as soon as the February meeting — to speed up establishment of a search committee to replace Parks, a 37-year veteran of missions who turns 65 in October. He has been FMB president since 1980.

Last year Parks said he wanted to

remain as president until 1995 to implement an ambitious ten-point strategy he outlined for global evangelization. A report in the News Leader, Richmond's afternoon newspaper, said a "coalition of fundamentalist trustees" will report that Parks' leadership will not be necessary to implement his plan.

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Agencies share decrease in proposed SBC budget

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Following a Southern Baptist Convention policy of setting a budget on a previous year's receipts, all SBC agencies and institutions will share equally a slight decrease in the proposed 1992-93 Cooperative Program allocation budget.

The program and budget subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee needed only about two hours of deliberation Jan. 23 in Nashville to propose a \$140,200,395 1992-93 CP budget. The proposed budget, which must be approved by the Executive Committee in its Feb. 17-19 meeting and then submitted to the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis in June, follows a policy of budgeting based on receipts of the last fiscal year of record (1990-91).

Faced with a \$509,887 shortage from the present year (1991-92) budget total of \$140,710,282, the 27-member subcommittee decided the reduction in the 1992-93 budget — 0.362 percent — would be shared equally by all SBC agencies and institutions.

In years past, increasing receipts had allowed SBC budgets to increase each year which often caused lengthy discussions and debates about how to allocate the increase. But this year, with the decrease, the subcommittee made its decision in what one observer said was record time and with near total consensus.

"If (Southern Baptists) increase their giving then the agencies will get more."

"We went as far with the budget as we could," Joe Warwick of Knoxville, and subcommittee chairman, told Baptist Press. "We are tied by SBC policy to not go over the previous year's receipts. We feel like we have been fair. If (Southern Baptists) increase their giving then the agencies will get more."

According to the budget plan, 50 percent of Cooperative Program receipts above the basic budget will be allocated to the agencies for program advance and 50 percent for approved

capital needs.

Although agency and institutional executives presented their appeals to the subcommittee at the two-day meeting, their appeals totaled \$10.4 million more than the 1990-91 year's receipts.

Most of the executives asked from four to 12 percent increases although the Stewardship Commission asked for a 79.77 percent increase, the Christian Life Commission, 31.66 percent, and Golden Gate Seminary, 25.50 percent.

David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., and chairman of the Executive Committee, called it a "fair" budget.

"It's a budget that maintains the current percentage balances (among the agencies). If Southern Baptists do more, the agencies will get more," Hankins said.

Only minor changes were obvious from the current year's budget. By convention action last year, \$32,500 originally allocated to the now-defunct Public Affairs Committee was forwarded from the SBC operating budget

to the Christian Life Commission with which it merged. In the proposed 1992-93 budget, that line item amount was placed in the budget of the Christian Life Commission.

The only proposed new item in the budget, compared to this year, was an administration-recommended \$15,000 for the North American Baptist Fellowship, as part of the SBC operating budget. It was deleted in the final proposal.

Receiving some attention by subcommittee members was information showing how much each agency and institution received from non-Cooperative Program sources. The report indicated state conventions and alternate funding sources channeled about \$3.5 million, primarily to the two mission boards, the six seminaries, and the Radio and Television Commission.

However, the "direct allocations" to the agencies did not appear to influence the subcommittee's final decision.

Seminary extension executive released in 'rightsizing'

NASHVILLE (BP) — An executive with Seminary Extension will be released when his position is eliminated in what has been termed a "rightsizing" of the off-campus ministry education office in Nashville.

Lee Holloway, 49, is director of marketing and development but that position will be eliminated effective March 15, according to Doran C. McCarty, executive director.

Holloway is a 23-year employee of the denomination and has been with Seminary Extension since 1977. He told Baptist Press he is actively looking for "something outside the denomination" and preferably in the Nashville area. "It was not my choice to leave," Holloway said in response to a question whether he was fired. However, Holloway has been asked by the six SBC seminary presidents to provide them a resume for a possible oppor-

tunity at one of the seminaries. The six seminary presidents serve as the governing board of Seminary Extension.

McCarty said he considered the move a "rightsizing" of the office. A part-time, contract consultant with a marketing specialty will be hired. McCarty also said an assistant would be employed to aid the consultant in his tasks.

William O. Crews, chairman of the seminary presidents' group, told Baptist Press the seminary presidents approved of the change and affirmed McCarty's leadership at Seminary Extension. Crews is president of Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Both Holloway and McCarty indicated there was a desire to employ someone with more marketing skills. Although Holloway's position changed

from director of communications to director of marketing in 1990, McCarty said he felt Holloway's strength was in writing.

"We don't need a complex organization," McCarty said. "We do need to know how to do the marketing of the group."

Baptist Press also learned another

Seminary Extension executive, Jack R. Cunningham, associate executive director and director of undergraduate studies, is actively seeking employment elsewhere.

Cunningham, 53, said he was in negotiations with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., for a faculty position.

Belmont offers seminary extension classes

NASHVILLE — Belmont University's School of Religion offers two seminary extension classes beginning in February.

Attendees may register for the extension courses at the first class meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Both classes meet on Tuesdays for a 13-week term.

A study of the Book of Revelation will be taught by Marvin P. Nail,

pastor of Whitsitt Chapel Church in Nashville. The class will meet each week from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Room 407 of Fidelity Hall.

Contemporary Christian Preaching will be taught by Thomas E. Dumser II, pastor of Edgefield Church in Nashville. Meeting from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. each week, the class will gather in Room 301 of Fidelity Hall.

The School of Religion also offers two seminary study classes through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The classes will meet on Mondays, beginning Feb. 10. Introduction to Old Testament II will be taught from 1 to 4 p.m. by Marvin Tate, a Southern Seminary professor. Introduction to Pastoral Care will be taught from 6 to 9 p.m. by Bruce Vaughn, an experienced hospital chaplain.

Since seminary study classes are offered for credit at Southern Seminary, attendees need to register three weeks in advance to allow time to complete the seminary's admissions process.

For more information about the extension classes or to register for future seminary study classes, call the School of Religion at Belmont University at (615) 385-6405.

Dale Moody dies

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Dale Moody, noted Southern Baptist theologian and professor, died Jan. 22 from a heart attack.

Moody, who would have turned 77 on Jan. 27, was a faculty member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, from 1948-84. He suffered the fatal attack in a Louisville hospital less than an hour before he was scheduled to undergo a heart bypass operation.

Moody's contributions as a writing theologian included eight books and numerous journal articles. His 1981 book "The Word of Truth" was the first systematic theology written by a Southern Baptist seminary professor in more than 40 years.



BEGINNING IN ASSOCIATIONS — Two Tennessee Baptist associations will have interim directors of mission. Ralph Waggoner, center, pastor of New Hope Church, will serve Midland. Anna Waggoner, his wife, is at left. Jerry Reynolds, right, Dickson, will be interim for Judson.

Cecil Sherman accepts fellowship job

FORT WORTH, Texas — Cecil Sherman has accepted the invitation to become the first "coordinator" of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Sherman, 64, announced his decision Jan. 26 in a sermon at Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where he has served as pastor for the past seven years. Sherman will resign and move to Atlanta, headquarters for the fellowship.

As coordinator, Sherman will provide executive leadership to all fellowship operations, said John Hewett of Asheville, N.C., the group's moderator. Sherman was offered the newly created, full-time position Jan. 9 by the Coordinating Council of the fellowship, a coalition of moderate-conservative Baptists.

Sherman told his 2300-member Fort Worth congregation he struggled with the decision. Although he regrets leav-

ing, he said, he feels compelled to accept the fellowship position. "I feel this is what I'm supposed to be about," he added in an interview with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. — ABP

Belmont sets record spring enrollment

Full-time enrollment for undergraduates at Belmont University is up five percent over last spring. A student is considered to be full-time with a class load of 12 or more hours. A record overall enrollment of 2629 reflects a 1.8 percent increase in the headcount of all students — full-time, part-time, graduate, and undergraduate.

Undergraduate schools of religion, business, humanities, education, music, nursing, and sciences enrolled 2390 of the total number of Belmont students for spring semester.

Our Readers Write

Viewing labels

I feel compelled to respond to the recent letter "Let Labels Rest."

Labels serve an important function. They enable us to form quick opinions without hours of probing. For example, if a conservative Southern Baptist sees an ad in the paper for a weekend retreat catering to homosexuals, he will probably decide to spend his weekend elsewhere. Someone who believes the Bible to be the inerrant Word of God will probably not want to join a church where the pastor claims to be a Southern Baptist liberal.

If I say I am a conservative Southern Baptist, you know many things about my theology: 1. The Bible is the inerrant Word of God, 2. Jesus was born of a virgin, 3. We are conceived in sin and destined to spend eternity in hell unless we accept the free gift of God through faith in Jesus, 4. We are saved to live a holy life by refusing to partake in sin, and 5. We are to express our love to a lost world by doing everything we can to lead them to Jesus as their only way of salvation.

Labels can be abused. People can claim to be one thing but actually be another. A person can claim to be a liberal without accepting "liberal" beliefs or claim to be a conservative and live as though the Bible is not true. The early believers were called Christians — what a great label.

Thomas L. Kellam
5321 Shady Dell Trail
Knoxville 37914

What is expected

I express appreciation for the courage

of the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board and for their stewardship of our foreign mission funds (hard earned money given by average church members such as myself).

I think the average church member deserves some answers to some questions. Is it expecting too much for the average Bible-believing Southern Baptist to expect his money to go to seminary teachers who also have the same respect and belief in the Scriptures (all of the Scriptures)? Is it expecting too much that before seminary teachers get our money that they also agree on the "basics"? Is it expecting too much for the average Southern Baptist who believes in the historical accuracy of Genesis 1-11, to also expect the same from our seminary teachers?

Prentiss McReynolds
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Knoxville 37922

Depressing news

Will the world come out of the depression we are in?

Look at the condition of the world today!

We hear of wars and rumors of wars. We hear of famine in different places. We have had several major earthquakes in the last few years. We have commotions in most every country of the world. Crime is on the rampage. This is in accordance to the Bible. We see in 2 Tim. 3:13, "evil men shall wax worse and worse." The jails and penitentiaries are full. According to the news we are in a deep depression, and we will never come out of it.

Factories are closing and many people

are being laid off. According to the news, General Motors is planning to close several of their plants in the next few years. The news tells us that 2000 jobs are lost daily.

After viewing these conditions I cannot see how the world can ever come out of this depression. Most of the things I have mentioned are according to prophecy. Read Matthew 24:6-8; Mark 13:7-8; Luke 21:9-11. Jesus said, "All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:8).

What is your opinion?

Arthur H. Cate
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Rockwood 37854

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.

Seminary funds

After carefully reading the edition of 1/15/92, I must line up with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees and their vote to defund the Baptist

Seminary in Ruschlikon. I agree with the majority of board members that this particular seminary is too liberal, too expensive, and too ineffective to warrant further Southern Baptist support. Our dollar base is shrinking, and we must be wise stewards of what we have to give.

Revival is sweeping a changing Europe. Thousands are seeking truth and a reason to live. Christ must be lifted up in majesty and deity as the only hope for the nations as well as the soul. We cannot waste time or money funding those who doubt His virgin birth or bodily resurrection. The Word of God must be fed to a starving world. We have no time, warrant, or basis for sending money to those who inject doubt as to the veracity of the Word of God from a paid Baptist seminary lecturer.

We must channel our precious missionary dollars into vehicles, including seminaries, that offer the real Jesus and the whole Bible to the whole world. This certainly transcends petty Baptist politics. We must honor God and not men.

Emmett S. Manley
1810 Bishop Ave.
Jefferson City 37760

Possible solution

Regarding the Baptist Seminary at Ruschlikon, from the Bible: Psalm 15:1, 4b:

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? — He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

Roland C. Hudlow
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Court to hear abortion case; landmark decision could be reversed

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court's announcement it will hear arguments concerning a state abortion-restriction law elicited one area of agreement among pro-life and pro-choice advocates — the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision declaring a constitutionally protected right to abortion is near its demise.

"Roe's days are numbered," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "It is only a matter of time until the court puts an end to the national disgrace of abortion on demand. We hope Roe has no 20th anniversary."

"We are on the edge of a legal precipice, facing a future without the right to choose," said Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League. "Losing this right is no longer distant and inconceivable — because of President Bush, it is immediate and inevitable."

On Jan. 21, the eve of the 19th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court announced it had agreed to review Planned Parenthood v. Casey. In the case, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals upheld most of the provisions of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act, including informed consent with a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion, parental consent for minors, a ban on abortions after the 24th week of pregnancy except for severe health problems in the mother, and a prohibition on sex-selection abortions. The appeals court struck down a section requiring women to notify their husbands before the abortion.

In its orders granting a hearing to

the case, the Supreme Court seemed to indicate it may limit its ruling to the restrictions involved in the law and not rule on the constitutionality of Roe. Lawyers for pro-life organizations differed somewhat on what the court would do.

"Basically, they've left us guessing as to what they've done," said Leanne McCoy, a lawyer for Americans United for Life, recognized as the legal arm of the pro-life movement. "It sounds narrow by the way they've worded it, but they're not exactly limiting themselves" from considering the broader issues.

"I think there's a good likelihood" the court will deal with Roe in some manner, McCoy said.

Even if the court does not reverse Roe in the Pennsylvania case, both sides of the debate have indicated they believe it will be overturned soon, probably in the following term, in cases involving statutes in Louisiana, Utah, and the territory of Guam.

A failure to reverse Roe in the Pennsylvania case would not be all bad, said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

"I, like most Southern Baptists, continue to pray for Roe's reversal and a reassertion of the sanctity of life ethic which has prevailed in our nation throughout most of its history," Land said. "Even if the court decides to not revisit Roe but to look at the narrow issues of this particular case, it is a tremendous plus for pro-life advocates."

"What are the issues in this case? Spousal notification, parental consent, and informed consent of the patient who is determining whether to have an abortion. A CNN poll released Jan. 21

shows that 73 percent of the American people support spousal notification and 70 percent support parental consent for minors, and a majority feels that patients even pregnant women, should have the information to give informed consent," Land said.

"It cannot be anything but beneficial to have a discussion of these issues in an election year and to have Planned Parenthood unmasked as being vigorously opposed to all three."

The court is expected to hear arguments in the case in April. A decision is expected to be released by July.

Pro-choicers expect a loss, regardless of whether the justices reconsider Roe.

"When I argue this case before the Supreme Court, I will urge the justices to once again forcefully reaffirm a woman's right to choose abortion," said Kathryn Kolbert, the American Civil Liberties Union lawyer handling the case for Planned Parenthood.

"But President Bush has done all he could to ensure that my arguments are likely to fall on deaf ears. Over the last several years, he has packed the court with justices who are hostile to a woman's right to make private decisions about childbearing," she said.

Pray for Chile/Tennessee partnership



Prayer requests have come for specific needs Feb. 3-12, and for several undated requests in the Tennessee/Chile Partnership Mission.

Feb. 3 — Pray for missionaries Archie and Caroline Jones who serve in Puerto Varas. They will be in North Carolina in February on furlough. Archie's mother will have surgery Feb. 4 in Statesville, N.C. Their daughter Elizabeth will have ear surgery Feb. 5 in Raleigh. And — Caroline's birthday is Feb. 12.

Feb. 4 — Martha Bowman's birthday. She and husband Vic serve in Antofagasta. Pray for the newly organized El Senibrador Church which has just purchased property, and for early construction, and a pastor. Carlos Alcaayaca is lay leader.

It is summer now in resort community of Pucone. Pray for First Church and Star of Bethlehem Church as they seek to minister to tourists.

During February pray for the Chilean Baptist young people as they serve on mission groups traveling throughout the country ministering in VBS teams.

Pray for Pedro Quezada, Chilean home missions in Molina. VBS will be conducted in their one-room church in February.

Pray for Tennessean (missionary) Carol Henson as she leads all VBS work in Chile in February.

Romania missionaries resign in protest of trustee action

By Mike Creswell

BUCHAREST, Romania (BP) — Charles and Kathie Thomas, Southern Baptist missionaries for 17 years, have resigned from service in Romania to express their opposition to what they term "a hostile takeover" of the Foreign Mission Board.

"The first fruit of this takeover was the defunding of Ruschlikon," the Thomases wrote in their resignation letter dated Jan. 11. They referred to the vote by Foreign Mission Board trustees last October to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Thomas, 42, better known by his nickname, "T," is from Atlanta. Mrs. Thomas, 43, was born in Cynthiana, Ky., and grew up in South Carolina. They said they would be off the mission field by May 1.

"First, we are saddened and grieved by the power struggle within the Southern Baptist Convention which has resulted in a 'hostile takeover' of the Foreign Mission Board," the couple wrote.

"Our resignation is foremost a protest against what we consider to be a distinctively un-Christian strategy through which the conservative element of the Southern Baptist Convention is rapidly transforming much of what we have known as the Southern Baptist expression of the evangelical faith into something which is self-centered, self-serving, and un-Christlike."

In their resignation letter, the Thomases noted the Romanian Baptist Union "has chosen to support the conservative movement" within the SBC and the mission board.

Seminary trustee chairman sends letter

HAMBURG, Germany (BP) — The emerging philosophy of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board "endangers future missionary efforts by Southern Baptists in Europe," warns a European Baptist leader in an open letter to Baptists in Europe and the United States.

"The new mission strategy of the FMB, as it appears to us, has developed as follows: 'We select and decide what is worthy of support and acceptance among Baptists in other parts of the world, as in Europe,'" stated Wiard Popkes, a German Baptist seminary professor and trustee chairman of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

"Even more: the FMB singles out and determines which voices in Europe are 'true' and which are not," Popkes said in the Jan. 14 letter responding to an earlier open letter to Southern Baptists by FMB Trustee Chairman Bill Hancock.

The sudden defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary by FMB trustees "cannot be interpreted . . . other than as an expression by the FMB that it does not really want to continue trustful partnership cooperation with the (federation) and its institutions," he concluded. "Such a strategy may turn out to be a tragedy, because it endangers future missionary efforts by Southern Baptists in Europe."

Popkes participated in a Dec. 5-6 dialogue in Richmond, Va., that failed to resolve the funding dispute. The dialogue involved FMB staff, FMB trustees, Ruschlikon seminary leaders, and European Baptist leaders.

"This decision was motivated by promises of massive funding in return for their support," the missionaries charged. "This is both disgusting and immoral, and we cannot condone — even in a passive way — this action."

The couple also objected to what they termed the "forced resignations" of FMB executives Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe.

Ballenger, 56, and Parker, 55, announced their early retirement in a controversial press conference Jan. 7. They decried the defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary and charged Foreign Mission Board trustees are following a political agenda instead of long-held missions principles.

The Thomases cited the "worsening situation for the (FMB) staff in Richmond," explaining the departure of Ballenger and Parker means "that the people under whom we have worked and ministered for nearly 18 years will be replaced with persons with whom we are diametrically opposed, both in practical theology and life goals. Or, to state it more clearly, we prefer to work with men and women of God who are 'professional missionaries' and who have only the advancement of God's Kingdom at heart, and not a specific political agenda."

Foreign Mission Board trustee Steve Hardy of North Carolina said he regrets the resignations of the Thomases, whom he called "productive and faithful missionaries." Hardy is chairman of the trustee committee which oversees work in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

But he said, "I don't agree with their

perspective and would remind them the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board are elected by Southern Baptists at their annual meeting."

Hardy said he "would be willing to review any documentation that (the Thomases) can present about promises of massive amounts of mission money to the Romanian union if (the Romanians) would support the defunding of Ruschlikon."

In December a letter was sent from Vasile Talos, Romanian union president, and Nic Gheorghita, general secretary, to the Foreign Mission

Board. The letter stated "in the matter of defunding the seminary of Ruschlikon, the General Council of the Baptist Union of Romania, gathered in the meeting of Nov. 26, 1991, agreed to this decision of the FMB." It went on to outline concerns the Romanians have about the seminary's perceived theological liberalism.

Questioned about his statement on funding, Thomas said that after the Romanian letter was sent, Gheorghita told him, "Well, this puts us first in line to get all the money for Ruschlikon."

Romanian denies 'deal' with trustees

ATLANTA (BP) — Romanian Baptist leader Nic Gheorghita has denied involvement in any "deal" to support the controversial Southern Baptist defunding of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Switzerland in return for major funding for Romanian schools.

But he acknowledged a possible misuse of English, which is not his primary language, may have caused a misunderstanding.

In a Jan. 22 interview with Associated Baptist Press, Gheorghita denied telling Southern Baptist missionary Charles "T" Thomas that Romanian Baptists were "first in line" for the money cut by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees from the 1992 budget of the seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

"Definitely no, and I am sorry to hear this," said Gheorghita, general secretary of the Romanian Baptist Union, who was contacted in Atlanta while traveling in the United States. "If (Thomas) said this, I have a big

question mark . . . He has to answer for that."

Gheorghita said he probably discussed the Ruschlikon money with Thomas. Since the discussion would have been in English, the Romanian executive suggested: "I could have said something that seemed to express that the money will come to Romania."

Gheorghita also denied he and Vasile Talos, Romanian union president, were involved in a "deal" to exchange endorsement of the Foreign Mission Board trustees' defunding of Ruschlikon for money for Romanian schools. "They did not try to buy us," he told ABP.

Thomas and his wife, Kathie, Southern Baptist missionaries for 17 years, have resigned from service in Romania to express their opposition to what they term "a hostile takeover" of the Foreign Mission Board by conservatives.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I have always wanted to assist the professionals on an archeological "dig."

I have done much digging — in the garden, putting down fence posts, planting trees. I have even scraped off a thin layer of earth to expose arrow points whose tips jutted from its hiding place in the field.



ALLEN

Archeology is not boring. It is not a dry subject to those who know and love history, and can even be exciting to others.

Last Friday I sat down to lunch with a real live archeologist. Dan Bahat's name is not easily recognizable to most Americans — but then "old" to us is fifty or a hundred years. In Israel — where he lives and works — even the school children recognize his name.

He is best known for his excavations around the Western Wall of the ancient Temple Mount in Jerusalem. He came to Nashville last week, after speaking in Memphis, to tell of his work to a group of Southern Baptists. And only his need to catch an airline flight to Los Angeles in mid-afternoon prevented our listening a couple more hours.

"Archeologists in Israel are not trying to prove the authenticity of the Bible," he told us. "We already know that it is true. What we are trying to

do is to find out how people lived, and all about them, in those days."

For more than an hour, Dan Bahat talked to us about the construction of the Temple Mount, millenia past, and its temples — the destruction, the rebuilding, and every stage of what transpired. His grand knowledge and eloquent style in layman's language, revealed his complete love for his work — and a compelling desire to share it.

Our host, Eliezer Hod, Israeli Government Tourist director of the South-eastern United States, told me, "Dan Bahat is Jerusalem."

As Dan Bahat explained to us, in the last thirty-four years, the Israeli government has been revealing, through excavations, the entire length of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, the only remnant of Herod the Great's Second Temple. It has been hidden for centuries.

In November, some of us walked its length through the tunnel excavated by Bahat and his colleagues. That wall is 488 meters long. All that has been revealed helps us understand better the times in which people lived — back to the time of Christ and earlier.

Dull and dry? Boring and insignificant? What Bahat has done is to shed the light of reality upon some things that heretofore have been speculation or good guesses. Bible students and Bible scholars should be ecstatic. All of us are blessed by their work.

Show me to a dig!

Speakers challenge Tennesseans to be . . .

— Continued from page 1
other gods," Bailey said.

Presidents speak

Speakers on Tuesday included Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Jimmy Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Using Isaiah 25 as his text, Phillips cited several reasons why the cross "is the mountain that matters."

It's only on the cross that a soul can be satisfied, Phillips contended.

The cross, he continued, is also the place "where the dark veil that hangs over the whole world has been vanquished." Phillips reminded Tennesseans that God "has ripped down everything that stands between you and him."

Phillips said the cross also is "where death has been swallowed up and tears have been wiped away" and "our enemies have been eliminated."

"We walk in freedom today" because the cross is the mountain that matters, Phillips concluded.

Draper talked about burnout among ministers. He cited statistics which show 1000 SBC pastors quit every year. Draper admitted that he has struggled against burnout.

Referring to Exodus 3:2, Draper said a psychoanalyst defined burnout as fatigue or frustration when devotion to a cause, way of life, or relationship fails to reach an individual's standards. In Biblical terms, Draper said, burnout is caused by doing the work of God in the energy of the flesh.

"We preachers especially are expected to be perfect," he said.

As an answer to the problem, Draper pointed conference participants to the book of Psalms.

"All the other books of the Bible are 'Thus saith the Lord,' but in Psalms it's man crying out to God and God responding."

Draper said God always acts in our best interests. "When life drives you to your knees, clear off a spot and worship God."

Draper submitted that Southern Baptists need a new work. "Whatever position in our convention or your position in the controversy, could we agree to pray for a new work in our lives?"

"I must begin with me and I pray sincerely for God to do a work in my life and I pray for that to happen in the lives of Southern Baptists," he said.

Laymen's night

The Tuesday night session was designated as "laymen's night." Barry Barrett, an American Airlines pilot and member of Scenic Drive Church, Murfreesboro, gave his testimony. (See separate story.)

Dallas pastor Jack Graham of Prestonwood Church also spoke during the laymen's night program.

Graham, who is president of the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention's Pastors' Conference, directed the pastors to be more like the Apostle Paul as described in Romans 1:14-16. Paul said he realized he was a debtor to God, but he was ready to give his life for God and was not ashamed of God, Graham said.

Modern Christians also should respond to the world as the Samaritan of Jesus' parable, Graham said, adding that the Samaritan did "what the law

Wise words from State Evangelism Conference

Quotes from speakers at the State Evangelism Conference at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, Jan. 20-21:

• There's no such thing as a secret service agent in the service of God. — **Don Wilton**

• In reaching people, it has nothing to do with the messenger, it has all to do with the message he carries. — **Don Wilton**

• We have accumulated an awful lot of stuff we need to lay at God's feet. — **Bob Agee**

• Many of our folks have come to faith, but they've never grown up and fallen in love with the Lord. — **Ron Barker**

• The more like Jesus you become the more likely you are to end up like he did — on the cross. — **D. L. Lowrie**

• Walking close to Jesus should be our deepest need. — **Bob Agee**

• We don't live on expectations, we live on faith, on hope. — **Jimmy Draper**

• Some people know the cost of

everything and the value of nothing.

— **E. K. Bailey**

• If you won't win people to Christ in your community, God will raise up someone who will. — **Ron Phillips**

• Silence will never suffice in the kingdom of God. — **Don Wilton**

• If you have a Ph.D. but don't have G-O-D, you're just a smart devil. — **E. K. Bailey**

• Reaching people with the Gospel is just plain old hard work. I don't know any other way to do it. — **Bob Agee**

• Tennessee Baptists are known as people who can get things done and not every state convention can do that. — **Jim Pollard**

• Much of the preaching in our pulpits today is nothing more than atrocious snoring. — **Don Wilton**

• Some of the greatest sowers of discord in the church today are you and me. The Billy Graham team has found more opposition there than from all other sources. — **Don Wilton**

• Many of our churches and some conventions are today experiencing spiritual eclipses. — **Don Womack**

• It is an absolute truth that salvation is instantaneous. — **Don Wilton**

• There is no cost to accepting Christ today. We have made it easy. We don't even require a testimony of salvation for the new believers. — **Don Wilton**

• Fourteen million people live in Chile. There are 22,000 Baptists and 220 churches. The task seems overwhelming. — **Jim Pollard**

• Perhaps one of the tragedies of our current age is that we have risen to such great heights in verbosity and eloquence — and our ability to speak and communicate, people have lost sight of our inner appearance. — **Don Wilton**

• The world's greatest need is a spiritual need. We have got to get outside our families and friends, communities, states, countries, and homes, and somehow reach all the people in the world . . . — **Jim Pollard**

of love called him to do."

Graham observed that the longer we pay on the debt we owe God "the bigger the dividend we receive from our Lord Jesus.

"It's good to pray for missionaries, give to missions, pay preachers, pay the (church) staff that witnesses, but there's still a debt I owe and it's a debt I must pay."

Other speakers

Ron Barker of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta told Tennesseans what constitutes an evangelistic church.

Barker said the kind of people in an evangelistic church are those who have faith, which brings their good work; love, which creates a desire to sacrificially labor for the Lord; and hope, which develops patience.

Memphis evangelist Don Womack, president of the Tennessee Fellowship of Vocational Evangelists, also spoke during the conference.

He observed that "many of our churches and some conventions are today experiencing spiritual eclipses."

Southern Baptist missionary Jim Pollard spoke to Tennessee Baptists

Murfreesboro layman speaks during conference

Barry Barrett, an American Airlines pilot from Murfreesboro, described a rise from poverty and fall to despair during Laymen's Night of the State Evangelism Conference.

He rejected his family's poverty along with their faith in God during his teenage years, Barrett said. Several years after a stint in the U.S. Navy



BAILEY

about their new partnership in Chile. "There are 14 million people who live in Chile. There are 22,000 Baptists and 220 churches. Our task seems impossible," Pollard said.

But, he added, "Tennessee Baptists are known as people who can get things done and not every state convention can do that."

Music during the conference was provided by Lois Jane Huddleston, music evangelist from Gallatin; the



WILTON

Director of Missions' Choir; Julian Suggs and the Tennessee Baptist Chorale; and Jim Bursleson, Kaye Grable, and Lura Foster of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Jerry King was pleased with the conference. "It is one of the most positive evangelism conferences we've had in several years," King said.

— Contributing to this story were Wm. Fletcher Allen, Connie Davis, Connie Umstead, and Lonnie Wilkey

and college, he had accumulated many of the trappings of success. He admitted his "best friends" were Jim Beam and Jack Daniels — alcohol — but he could walk into any bank and borrow a six-figure loan.

"I had tried about everything," he said, citing the rodeo circuit, fast cars, fast airplanes, and the party scene of

New York City. "For four years I partied. Sin had crippled me, folks."

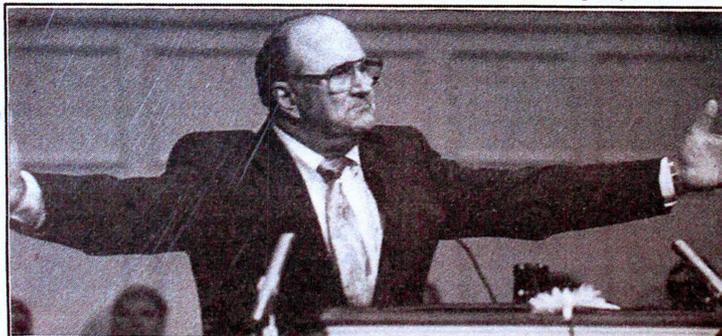
When he realized he was beating his son without conscious knowledge, he acknowledged his desperate situation.

After a divorce separated him from his family, he finally turned to God and prayed. Just three months later he remarried his wife and was reunited with his family.

He and his wife began studying the Bible, but his problems weren't over. One year after his reunion, he faced bankruptcy. This time in a prayer he placed his welfare in God's hands.

"All of a sudden my whole life came together; all the broken pieces seemed to fit. I realized since I was 12 years old he (God) never ever even for a minute had me," said Barrett, referring to his original faith decision.

Barrett also described how a shoe-shine man in an airport terminal modeled the joy derived from faith and witnessing. He actively witnesses now, he reported. — **Connie Davis**



REACHING OUT — Barry Barrett demonstrates a point during his testimony.

Tennessean Bob Agee comes 'home' to evangelism conference

By Lonnie Wilkey

The 1992 State Evangelism Conference brought back fond memories for program speaker Bob R. Agee. Agee attended his first Tennessee evangelism conference in 1960 while he was a senior at Union University in Jackson.

The Brownsville native, who was reared in Memphis, recalled the 1960 conference featured Southern Baptist stalwarts like R. G. Lee and Ramsay Pollard.

"In the last service of that conference I experienced a moment of high emotion," Agee recalled.

"I interpreted it as God daring me to preach," he said, adding that he felt a strong conviction that God laid a requirement on his life that whenever he preached, there must be substance in his sermon.

That evangelism conference "was a benchmark moment in my spiritual pilgrimage," Agee affirmed.

Little did he know in 1960 that 32 years later he would be on the program of the state evangelism conference.

"I never dreamed that one day I would be on the program. That's where the great leaders of our convention were called on to speak," said Agee, who has served as president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee since 1982.

Agee's pilgrimage since 1960 has brought him to such stature.

After graduating from Union, Agee attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he earned a master's and doctor's degree. He was pastor of churches in the Louisville area for nine years.

In 1970 Agee returned to Memphis to serve as pastor of Ardmore Church. In 1975 he accepted an offer from Union to become dean of religious affairs.

While at Union he also taught



HOMECOMING — Oklahoma Baptist University President Bob R. Agee, center, visits with old friends during the evangelism conference at Belmont Heights Church. From left, Ken Story, pastor, Germantown Church, Germantown; Ben Wilkes, pastor, Trinity Church, Manchester; Agee; Bob Lane, pastor, Faith Church, Atoka; and Ron Davidson, pastor, First Church, Grand Junction.

religion courses and began work on a doctorate in higher education administration at Peabody College (now a part of Vanderbilt University) in Nashville.

Agee later became vice president for religious affairs and special assistant to the president for institutional planning at Union.

In 1982 Agee accepted the presidency of OBU, the only Baptist college in Oklahoma. During his decade at OBU Agee has led the school to increase its enrollment by 52 percent, constructed nine new buildings and renovated 11, and led endowment growth from \$10 million to \$30 million.

Just as important to Agee, however, has been the school's reputation as a leader and pacesetter among Baptist colleges in Southern Baptist world missions endeavors.

"Last year more than 1000 people accepted Christ as a result of faculty,

staff, and student involvement in various ministries," Agee said.

The ten years at OBU have not been without some trying times for the Tennessean. In September of 1990, Agee was diagnosed with leukemia.

He recalled that he went through several months of "difficult struggles" with the disease and chemotherapy treatments and it became apparent "things were not going as they should."

He learned of an experimental drug at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, and was admitted to the program to use the drug.

By February of 1991 reports indicated the leukemia was heading toward remission. Last November, Agee reported, he learned the disease was in remission and that there were no cancer cells in his bone marrow.

"The restoration of my health has been remarkable," Agee said,

crediting a combination of the experimental drug, good medical care, and "the prayers of God's people."

Agee's improved health is imperative for the busy schedule he maintains.

Despite his involvement in higher education at OBU and the Southern Baptist Education Commission where he is a commission member and former chairman, Agee has not forgotten his spiritual "roots."

The OBU president preaches most Sundays and averages speaking in about 50 churches each year, he estimated.

"I still consider myself to be a God-called Baptist preacher," he stated. He believes strongly, however, that God had a definite purpose in leading him to higher education.

"My calling into that arena was for leading colleges to be definitely Christian and to be involved in Southern Baptist world missions enterprises," he affirmed.

While at the evangelism conference, Agee renewed many old friendships with former students and colleagues. Though he has been out of Tennessee for ten years, he still has strong roots in his home state.

Both daughters live in Tennessee. Denise Warren and her family, which includes Agee's only grandchild, live in Jackson while his other daughter, Robyn Hari, and her husband live in Franklin.

And, Agee has a strong affiliation with Tennessee Baptists that will always be a part of his life.

He recalled he accepted Christ as a youngster at a Tennessee Baptist mission in Memphis. That mission later became Beverly Hills Church.

"I'm a child of Tennessee Baptists' efforts in missions, evangelism, and Christian education," he said proudly.

Union student credits TBCH for 'making dreams come true'

By Tracey King

JACKSON — One phone call changed Liz Hoover's life. In March 1989, the high school sophomore decided she could no longer live in the broken, abusive home she had grown up in for 15 years. Following the advice of concerned relatives, Hoover called the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Memphis. That telephone conversation marked a new beginning.

Now Hoover is the freshman class president at Union University in Jackson.

She readily admits she probably would not be at Union had the Children's Home not accepted her into the Genesis ministry program, a unique program for troubled teenage girls.

"Genesis is designed to help girls who need specialized guidance. Most of the 16 teenagers who are in the program come from broken family relationships or have other problems such as using drugs and alcohol," said Anita Caradine, director of the program.

The main goal of Genesis is to place the girls back with their families as soon as possible. Both the girl and the parents receive intensive individual,



HOOVER

family, and group counseling. The length of the program can be from six to 18 months.

Since older girls, like Hoover, often have broken all bonds with their parents, Genesis focuses older teens on independent living, and the Children's Home becomes their support unit.

"We try to guide these girls toward college or vocational school," stated Caradine. "This is the first step in helping them gain independence."

"My house parents, George and Debbie Hannah, counseled with me from day one," remarked Hoover. "With their help, I confronted many emotions about my childhood. We talked about the hurt and anger I felt."

Other social workers from the home counseled with Hoover. They helped her deal with emotional obstacles, and slowly she began to tear down the walls she had built to protect herself.

During her years in the Genesis ministry program, the Children's Home provided Hoover a place to live, the opportunity to continue her high school studies, and a church to attend. At Whitten Memorial Church in Memphis, she became very active in the youth group and developed a special relationship with youth minister Jerry Stone and his wife, Sharon. In the spring of 1990, the Stones accepted Hoover as their foster child. She moved in with them and their two

daughters, Heather and Amber.

"My foster family is the best thing that ever happened to me," smiled Hoover. "They are a real family — something I never knew before."

Moving in with the Stones didn't immediately solve all her problems. Hoover had grown up without a positive authority figure in her life. Learning to live in a loving, but disciplined family environment required adjustments on everybody's part.

"I learned that even a happy, Christian family can have problems, but when you love each other, you work together and are considerate of each other."

At Union Hoover is working on a bachelor's degree and hoping for a career in physical therapy. Her college studies are financed in part through grants from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home and through special Union scholarships set up for Children's Home students. After she graduates and becomes employed, Hoover will be expected to reimburse 50 percent of the home's out-of-pocket expense.

"We ask each student to pay back half of our cost to finance their education," said Caradine. "It's important for these students to be responsible for their lives, but they also know we're here to help them."

"Attending Union would not have been possible without the help I received from the children's home," said Hoover. "My life was turned around because Baptists in Tennessee care about hurting kids. Now I have the chance to go to college and pursue a career. I want to help people, that's why I'd like to be a physical therapist."

Hoover already is making a difference. She routinely visits the children's home to encourage other girls in the Genesis program.

"I want other kids like me to realize their potential."

Hoover, who grew up just a few miles from the Memphis home, never dreamed she would end up there. Now the Children's Home and Union University is helping make her dreams come true. — King is director of public relations at Union University.

McSwain serves Mansfield

Mansfield Church has called Mark McSwain, former interim pastor, as bivocational pastor. He is an insurance salesman.

McSwain was minister of youth, Bethlehem Church, Henry, before working in Mansfield. He was ordained in September 1991 by the Bethlehem Church. He is from Henry.

McSwain and his wife, Dottie Allen, have one son.

Blessed little ones

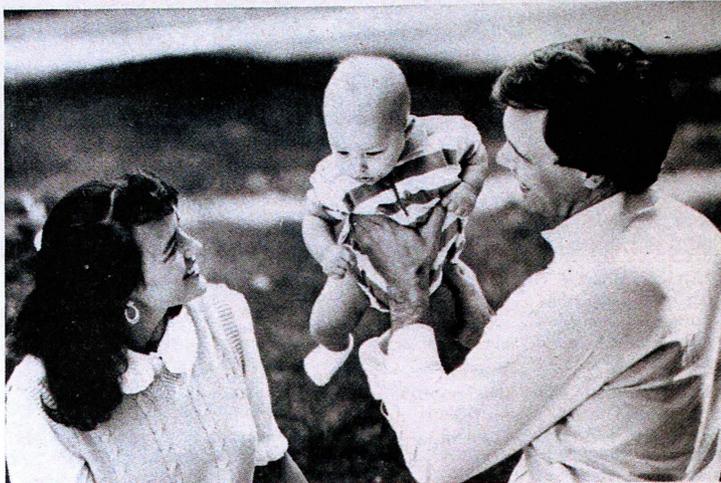
Days and nights of prayer, tender care mark ministry for TBCH foster parents

In the past two years, Larry and Susannah Ritter have had eight babies: three boys and five girls. And while Jessica, Ben, Robin, Bethany, Brian, Carrie, Matthew and Rachel aren't exactly their own children, each infant has had a very special place in the Ritter household.

"These babies get prayed over from the moment they come to us," explains Susannah. "I never know how long they'll be staying, or what the future holds for each one. But I know the Lord is with each baby every step of the way, and that's a great comfort."

Susannah and her husband are foster parents for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. They provide care for infants born to unwed mothers through the TBCH Alternative Home in Franklin. After a birth mother has signed papers to surrender her baby, the newborn is placed in foster care for 15 days. If the mother changes her mind during that waiting period, she has the opportunity to revoke her surrender.

Sherrie Johnson, a social worker with the Franklin TBCH campus, explains the importance of foster care during that 15-day waiting period: "We recently had a birth mother who changed her mind while the baby was in foster care. Had the baby already been placed with an adoptive family, the emotional attachment would have been great, even during



The arrival of an infant brings a joyous change to the life of a young family. TBCH foster parents provide a special ministry of love and care for newborns until placement has been made with adoptive parents.

that short period of time."

Foster care provides the birth mother the time and opportunity to make her decision without pressure, while giving the baby care and comfort.

"This has been a very special ministry for us," explains Susannah. Even her son, seven-year-old Adam, is involved. He has the privilege of giving each baby a temporary name. The name isn't official and it isn't even shared with the adoptive parents. But for the Ritters, naming the baby is an important part of welcoming each child into their home.

It's understandably easy for the foster parents to form an attachment to the babies. In

fact, Sherrie Johnson says she would worry if a family *didn't* form an attachment to a child. A baby girl - named "Robin" by Adam - is probably the closest to Susannah's heart. Newborn Robin came into the Ritter home just two days after Susannah had suffered a miscarriage.

"Caring for her filled a void in my life," remembers Susannah. "I thought 'Well, maybe this is what the Lord wants me to do - to loves these babies as best I know how, until its time for them to move on.'"

During each infant's stay, Susannah writes on a baby calendar to record high-

lights of each day. She and Larry also take lots of pictures so the early days of the baby's life can be passed on to the adoptive parents. In fact, it is the thought of the new parents that often helps Susannah make it through a long night of soothing a colicky infant. She puts it this way: "I know that there are couples who have waited so long to have a baby. Then I think of the happiness this child will bring to their home. That makes it well worth a lot of sleepless nights."

Susannah is also comforted in knowing that each baby she holds in her arms is living proof that there is a realistic way for an unmarried pregnant woman to avoid an abortion. Through the TBCH Alternative Homes ministry, unwed mothers receive shelter, food, prenatal care, and guidance during their pregnancies. Each mother can choose whether to keep her baby or to place the infant for adoption with a Baptist couple.

"I'm against abortion, and being a foster mother is one way I can do something positive," she says. "If just one mother decides to give her child life because of a program like this, then it's worth all the sacrifice."

Currently, the crib is empty in the Ritter home. But it is ready, with clean sheets and brightly colored bumper pads, for the next baby to arrive - to be loved and prayed over.



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

We are a ministry owned and operated by the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. We offer care, counseling and spiritual guidance to the abused, neglected and abandoned children of Tennessee. We have campuses in Memphis, Franklin and Chattanooga; satellite cottage homes in Johnson City, Kingsport and Burville; Homes for Unwed Mothers in Greeneville and Franklin; and a Boys Ranch in Memphis.

Dr. Gerald L. Stow, Executive Director/Treasurer
Central Office, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood TN 37027
615-371-2000; Toll-free in Tennessee 1-800-624-8591

Did you know...?

- that a woman with an unplanned pregnancy doesn't have to be a Baptist to enter the TBCH program for unwed mothers.
- that there are two TBCH Alternative Homes: one in Greeneville and one in Franklin.
- that each expectant mother receives shelter, food and guidance during her stay. Medical care assistance is also provided.
- that almost half of the mothers choose to keep their babies; the others place their infants for adoption with Baptist families through TBCH, a fully licensed adoption agency.
- that churches can help by providing clothing for the expectant mothers and the babies, or by sharing information about the ministry with young women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Please call 1-800-624-8591 for more information.

TenneScene

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

Missions ...

Millington natives Gene and Melanie Vincent, missionaries to Argentina, are in Memphis on furlough until December. They may be written to at 3364 Faxon, Memphis, Tenn., 38122.

Calvin Metcalf, pastor of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, and his wife, Bobbie, left for Belize, Central America, Jan. 24 to work with missionary Cliff Scarbrough. The Metcalfs will lead a workshop on writing and presenting Biblical monologues, focusing on costume design, makeup, and Biblical content.

Churches ...

Randy Ray, pastor of Metropolitan Church, Madison, delivered the in-

spirational message at the Baptist Men's Brotherhood breakfast at First Church, Goodlettsville, Jan. 26. During 1992, members of First Church's Brotherhood will build wood crafts for the Nashville Association Christmas Toy Store, and assist elderly and widowed people with plumbing, electrical, and maintenance problems.

Ordinations ...

Thomas Conatser and Clyde Pennington were recently ordained to the deacon ministry of Rosedale Church, Nashville.

Ward's Grove Church, Milton, ordained Roy Davis as deacon Jan. 5.

Phil Farmer and Tim Jennings were ordained as deacons at Cottonport

Church, Decatur.

Mt. Tirzah Church, Newbern, ordained Bill Boucher, Bill Montgomery, Alan Burchfiel, Malcom Burchfiel, and Mike Ladd as deacons Jan. 5.

Randy Chapman, Joey Kimbrell, and Billy Bivens were recently ordained to the deacon ministry of McCullough's Chapel, Dyersburg.

Associations ...

Wilson County Association will sponsor an evangelism conference Feb. 3, 7 p.m. at Hillcrest Church, Lebanon. Speakers will be Dwight Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, N.C., and Jackie Kay, pastor of Bartlett Church, Memphis. Special music will be provided by the First

Church, Watertown, choir, and the Hillcrest Church Quartet.

Leadership ...

Stephen Harmon of Maryville has joined the staff of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, as full-time coordinator for the college's "... Of Minds and Miracles," a \$50 million fund-raising campaign. Harmon has extensive fund-raising experience with a number of non-profit organizations. He will direct the campaign and assist with planned giving for the college.



HARMON

Joe E. Franklin retired as pastor of Emmanuel Church, Humboldt, in December. During his 42 years in the ministry he was pastor of churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia. He is available as a supply or interim pastor and also for revivals.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Discipleship Training department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, is serving as interim pastor at First Church, Concord, in Knoxville.

Ernest Parrott, 94, dies

Ernest Parrott, 94, retired pastor of Sevierville, died Jan. 15 at Sevier Medical Center. Parrott was a pastor for 68 years and led 16 different churches in Sevier and adjoining counties. At age 90 he preached from a walker because arthritis had left him too weak to stand unaided at pulpits, reported an article which appeared in *The Mountain Press* of Sevierville. "The more I preach, the more I enjoy what I do," he said at that time. He was a member of Alder Branch Church, Sevierville. Survivors include his son, B. E. Parrott of Knoxville; daughter, Betty Sue Henry of Jackson; and one granddaughter.

Tennesseans participate in Moscow church dedication

For the third time in 18 months, Tennessee Baptist student ministries representatives participated in a mission project to Russia.

Baptist students and student ministers from eight states planned future student projects in Moscow Dec. 31-Jan. 8 and assisted in dedicating a recently renovated church in St. Petersburg.

Team members included Rodney Wilson, associate director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Ministries Department; Jeremy Wilcox, student at Vanderbilt University, Nashville; Charlie Johnson, director of the student ministries department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and his wife, Shirley; and Brad Gray SSB department consultant for world student ministries.

The trip had a three-fold purpose, Wilson said. The group laid groundwork for future Baptist student involvement in the Moscow area, participated in a church dedication, and examined mission opportunities in northwest Russia.

The student representatives met with George and Vita Lozuk, Southern Baptists' only missionaries in Russia.

Wilson reported the team visited a church site north of Moscow and saw where construction had begun on a sanctuary behind a house which had been converted to a church. Construction assistance is badly needed, Wilson said, noting one church source said Baptist students would be welcomed to provide assistance.

First, Gainesboro, calls Estell Brewer

First Church, Gainesboro, called Estell Brewer as pastor Dec. 1.

Brewer is the former pastor of Grace Church, Clyde, Texas. He also has served as pastor of First Church, Putnam; Zion Church, Putnam; and interim pastor, Bible Church, Cisco. He has been a member of the United States Secret Service, Washington D.C., and the U.S. Air Force for 12 years. He currently is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve.

A graduate of North Virginia Community College, Brewer was ordained in 1977 at Aburn Missionary Church, Nokesville, Va.

The native of Pikeville is married to Sue Thurman.

The team also visited the site where the Russian Union headquarters building is being constructed. Student help could also be used at this site, Wilson said.

He noted official requests for such projects will be coordinated by Lozuk.

Team members participated in the dedication of the Temple of the Gospel in St. Petersburg. Many of the team members had worked on the renovation in previous trips.

Both Wilson and Wilcox were on the first team of students to assist in the project in the summer of 1990. They were among the first short-term volunteer team of Southern Baptists to work in Russia in more than 70 years.

Wilson noted that due to a strike last fall, progress on renovation completion was delayed about three weeks. He said the sanctuary was about 90 percent complete. A special dedication service was held Jan. 7, the Russians' second observance of Christmas day.

"The spirits of the church have been raised tremendously since we were here 18 months ago, even in such uncertain days in their country," Wilson said.

"They have a sense of expectancy and excitement in seeing their place of worship become beautiful once again," he continued.

Wilson said the building had been constructed around 1900 as a Russian Orthodox church. During the Bolshevik Revolution it was taken over by the government and used for a variety of purposes through the decades.

Five years ago Russian Baptists were allowed to use it as a worship facility, Wilson said.

Wilson, who spoke during a worship service at the church, told the con-

Carlton Connelly moves to Murfreesboro church

Carlton Connelly, former pastor, Hillcrest Church, Nashville, is serving Green Hill Church, Murfreesboro, as its first full-time pastor.

A former employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Connelly was bivocational pastor of Fountain Head Church, Portland, and Liberty Church, White Bluff, during his tenure there.

Connelly was ordained in 1979 by Grandview Church, Nashville.

The native of Nashville is married to Linda Watts. They have one daughter.

gregation. "Your expressions are different than those people I see on the streets of your city. There is something special about you.

"I believe it is that you are 'pondering in your heart' the things that Jesus has done for you. Your strength is in the Lord and it shows."

The third purpose of the trip, Wilson said, was to consider U.S. Baptist student mission possibilities beyond the church in St. Petersburg.

The group met with officials of the Northwest Baptist Mission. Wilson compared the mission to a Southern Baptist association, but noted it covered all of northwest Russia.

We were able to explain various types of ministries our students could do without imposing "our own agenda upon them," Wilson said.

"Our endeavor was to make ourselves available to responding to their concerns. Our focus is on identifying their needs, which we believe has the best potential for establishing a true long-term ministry."

Wilson concluded that "despite difficult conditions over there, the future of Christian ministry opportunities looks bright in Russia."

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

January is the month to make your will! Every adult needs a will for the sake of their family. Whenever a person dies without a will, the family is left with a doubly difficult task. They will have legal problems piled on top of their grief.

Every Christian needs a will for the sake of their stewardship. The Lord will hold you responsible for what you leave just as He will what you do with what you have during your life.

What should you consider when you make your will? You should make provisions for any unfinished business. You may have started something that you want to financially finish.

You should remember your family. If you have a spouse, they should be

cared for. If you have children, you will probably want to bless them through your will. There may be others you will want to bless.

You may want to include your church. This would be a good way to express your gratitude to God for what your church has meant to you during your life.

What about something for missions, Christian education, Christian benevolence, or a favorite charity in your will? I have been personally helped in my education and ministry by people who remembered Christian education in their will. I help administer money in missions regularly that comes because somebody included the work of God in their will.

Do you need help? You can receive good help from your Tennessee Baptist Foundation. Call Earl Wilson at (615) 371-2029 today. Let's take the first step before January is history.



LOWRIE

Union to host bivocational pastor's conference

Ministers and their wives attending Union University's bivocational pastors' conference on Feb. 21-22 will learn how to share Christ in the marketplace.

"Blooming for Him in the Marketplace" will serve as the theme of the weekend conference, where bivocational pastors, deacon chairmen, and their wives will focus on the challenges, frustrations, and joys of the "double-duty" life. The meeting is sponsored by the university, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board,

and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Keynote speakers will include Reid Hardin, director of the Marketplace Evangelism program of the Home Mission Board; Rob and Judy Finley, consultants from the Memphis-based Resources, Inc.; Dale Holloway, national consultant for the bivocational ministries department of the Home Mission Board; John Adams, vice president for religious affairs at Union; and Larry Kirk, representative from the TBC missions department.

Other program leaders will include bivocational pastors Robert Pearce, Springhill Church, Robertson Association; Michael Powers, First Indian Church, Big Hatchie Association; David Reeves, Harmon Church, Haywood Association; and David Stutts, Latham's Chapel Church, Gibson Association. Becky Jenkins, a bivocational pastor's wife from Bethel Church, Gibson Association, also will speak.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a banquet at 5:30 in the Coburn Dining Room.

The conference program, including women's seminars for the wives of **Spegal to Rutherford**

Old Bethlehem Church, Rutherford, called Kenny Spegal to his first service as pastor of a church.

Spegal is a bivocational pastor who works for a company which manufactures doors and frames in Milan. He is a graduate of Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

The native of Milan is married to Felecia Hughes and they have two children.

bivocational pastors and deacon chairmen, will begin at 6:15 p.m. and continue throughout the weekend.

A registration fee of \$10 per person covers the cost of the sessions plus materials and the banquet. Special room rates are offered by the Casey Jones Motel and the Days Inn, both located near the campus.

Individuals desiring more information should contact John Adams at (901) 668-1818, Ext. 243.

TBC committees, boards seek leaders

Guidelines adopted by the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees allows all Tennessee Baptists to make nominations.

The accompanying form should be filled out and signed. The form and/or letter of nomination can be mailed to D. L. Lowrie, Executive Director/Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

Nominations also can be mailed to the temporary chairman of the Committee on Boards, the Committee on

Committees, or to the head of any TBC institution or agency.

The Committee on Boards meets May 11, 5:30 p.m. and May 12, 8 a.m. at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Temporary chairman of the committee is Ken Altom, pastor, First Church, Cookeville, 18 S. Walnut Avenue, Cookeville 38501.

The Committee on Committees meets May 14, 10 a.m., at the Baptist Center, Brentwood. Its temporary chairman is Ronald Murray, pastor, First Church, Kingston, P.O. Box 239, Kingston 37763.

RECOMMENDATION TO 1992 COMMITTEE ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Deadline for submitting recommendations is April 1

Believing in this person's moral integrity, spiritual commitment, and other qualifications for service as a director, trustee, or committee member,

I RECOMMEND (Name): _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Zip code _____

Ordained minister _____ Layperson _____ Occupation _____

Church membership _____

Association _____

Involvement and work within the Association _____

Prior service on state boards and committees _____

Training, skill, experience which would qualify this person for service _____

Nominations may be made for the following: Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, Union University, Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Baptist Health Care System, Baptist Health Care System of East Tennessee, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes; and the following committees: Arrangements, Audits, Boards, Credentials, Church Staff Compensation Study, Constitution and Bylaws, Historical, Resolutions, and the Committee on Committees.

Write on this line name of board, or committee for which you nominate

Please understand that this recommendation does not assure nomination. However, your recommendation will be given serious consideration. No contact will be made by the Committee on Boards or the Committee on Committees until nomination has been approved.

Signed _____ (name of person making recommendation)

(mailing address) _____ (zip code) _____

(area code, telephone) _____ (date) _____

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Get-Together for Baptist Women
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 Gatlinburg Convention Center

Registration Fee: \$10
Program Highlights:

Friday
 4:00 p.m. Missions Potpourri and Early Bird Conferences
 8:00 p.m. General Sessions featuring missionary testimonies, Bible study, dramatic theme interpretation and music

Saturday
 8:30 a.m., 2:45 p.m. General sessions as described above
 10:00, 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Conferences including missionaries, The Gifted You, Finding Life's Balance, From My Kitchen, Beyond Royal Service, Health Food for the Spirit, and more!

Adjournment by 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Rooms are blocked through January at the following hotels; after that date on space available:
 Gatlinburg Travelodge — 615/436-7851 River Terrace — 615/436-5161
 Days Inn-Glenstone — 615/436-9361 The Edgewater — 615/436-4151
 Holiday Inn — 615/436-9201 LeConte View Motor Lodge — 1-800-842-5767

For more information contact Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union at 615/371-2038

Visions of Israel's destruction

By Jerry Winfield, pastor; First Church, Bolivar

Often times the onset of illness is preceded by certain warning signs. These signs are the body's way of telling us that something is wrong and medical attention is needed.

The preaching of Amos served as spiritual warning signs to Israel. Unfortunately, the Israelites, like many of us, refused to heed the warning. In this lesson, we examine four of the five visions Amos received. The visions were from the Lord ("the Lord God hath showed unto me"), and were further, and final, warning signs of God's coming judgment.

The vision of locusts (ch. 7:1-3)
The first vision Amos received was of a plague of locusts (KJV — "grasshoppers"). This vision, like the others, centered around an event in the course of everyday life. The scene was harvest time, a time of joy, work, and celebration. But in the midst of the harvest, the locusts destroyed the crop. The result was certain starvation for

many. A holy God can use anything He desires as an instrument of His judgment — even grasshoppers!

This vision caused Amos to intercede for Israel and beg for God to relent (repent). This God did as an indication of His grace. Thus, judgment was momentarily postponed. Only Israel's repentance could save them. However, this is the one thing they were unwilling to do.

The vision of fire (ch. 7:4-6)
Amos' next vision was one of a consuming fire. This fire was so powerful it even dried up the underground water supply. Amos once again was moved to intercede. God heard his plea and again temporarily withheld judgment.

The vision of the plumbline (ch. 7:9)
Anyone familiar with construction or building is familiar with the concept of a plumbline. This tool consists of a pointed weight on the end of a string. When hung from a point, it always will

hang perfectly perpendicular. In this fashion, a builder can check the straightness (trueness) of a wall. Such a plumbline was the center of Amos' next vision.

Israel's sin was measured by God's spiritual plumbline. Their sin was so great God had to tear down the wall (nation) and rebuild it. This time there would be no reprieve ("I will not again pass by them").

Amaziah confronts Amos (ch. 7:10-17)
The preacher of God is not always popular, especially if his message is one like the message of Amos. Amaziah, the personal priest of the king of Bethel, took exception to Amos' prophecy. He accused Amos of conspiracy against king Jeroboam and preaching only for money, and ordered him to leave Israel and return to Judah.

In response Amos defined his prophetic call and pronounced a serious judgment on Amaziah and his family

(v. 17). Neither Amaziah nor the people ever seemed to understand the real problem. It was not Amos' preaching, but rather the sins of the nation.

BIBLE BOOK
February 2 Lesson
Basic Passage: Amos 7:1-8:3

The vision of summer fruit (ch. 8:1-3)
The fourth vision Amos received was that of a basket of overripened fruit. This image probably (symbolically) had to do with a harvest celebration of some sort. This celebration marked the end of the harvest season and this vision underscored the nearness of the end of the nation of Israel.

Why wouldn't Israel listen and heed the warning signs? Why wouldn't the people confess their sins and repent? Why did they continue in their selfish ways and their empty worship? Why do we?

The model prayer

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

The book *Holding the Ropes* by Helen Jean Parks says, "Prayer must rest on something far more stable than our emotions. Most of us do not pray until we feel like it. Maybe this is why we pray so little."

Every time I visit a Christian bookstore, I am amazed at the number of books on the subject of prayer. More books seem to be added each year. Is this an indication that Christians are dissatisfied with their prayer lives?

The disciples were not strangers to prayers or devotions. They had been taught by rabbis in the synagogues. Their religious culture was entrenched in them. However, their instructions and practices fell short of the way Jesus prayed. In their quest for this type of meaningful prayer they said, "Lord, teach us to pray."

The model prayer is located in the Sermon on the Mount. Our text actually starts with verse 5. Our Lord was counseling the disciples on how not to pray. Jesus warned them of hypocrisy, especially in prayer. He referred to the prayer and daily devotions being per-

formed on the street corners. Sometimes these became competitive in spirit.

Prayer does not consist of loud voices, body gyrations, flowery words, or any particular stance. What difference does it make if we stand erect with bowed heads or with uplifted eyes and arms? What difference does it make if the one praying is on one knee or both? Prayer must come from the heart and soul of the individual praying.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
February 2 Lesson
Basic Passage: 1 Chronicles
29:10-13; Matthew 6:7-15

Aaron Malone Jr., a 30-year-old insurance agent, was a member of Chinguapin Grove Church. He had a terminal brain tumor. After each visit with him, I would pray. This young man was aware of his condition, and wanted no sympathy from anyone. After each prayer in his behalf, he would say, "God is so good to me." He then would pray, "Dear God, thank

you for loving me, thank you for my food, shelter, clothes, friends, a warm church, great Sunday School class, loving parents, brother, and sisters." His prayer would not always be in that exact order, but it certainly was a sincere prayer of praise, adoration, and thanksgiving. Junior considered his sickness as a ministry of service for his God.

Sincere prayer is what the disciples wanted — not memorized vain repetitions. "Lord, teach us to pray like you" was their heart's desire.

In this model prayer, we find a pattern for prayer. I see at least three major sections I wish to consider.

(1) Verse 9 affirms the majesty and holiness of God. Verses 9 and 10 show reverence to God. In verse 10a, when we pray "Thy Kingdom come," we are expressing a desire to see more and more people come into God's family.

Verse 10b is both a mission and a challenge. If we pray "Thy will be done in earth," we are acknowledging there are places on earth where God's will is not being done. Therefore, recognizing this condition obligates us to do something about it.

(2) The second area is the confession of our needs. Verse 11 reminds us

of the constant dependence we have on God. All necessities of life are supplied by Him. It is by Him that we live and have our being. Verse 12 teaches us our need for forgiveness. Our debts are our failures to obey God's commandments. Our debts are so tremendous in number they are unpayable. The only way to satisfy these debts is to receive mercy and forgiveness from God.

Verse 13a is a plea for protection. The word "temptations" should be understood as trials. This is a plea for protection from our everyday trials and experiences that test our human weakness. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "God will not permit us to face trials or testings above that which we are able to bear, but He will make a way of escape for us."

(3) In verse 13b, we have a doxology of praise, adoration, and thanksgiving. We should always include these three things in our prayers.

Verses 14 and 15 are not a legalistic approach to forgiveness. God does not forgive us because we forgive others. To experience forgiveness we must know the shed blood of Christ. Then we must forgive others.

May our desire always be to pray in a manner that is pleasing to God.

Overcoming anxiety

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

Anxiety is a dreary word, raking up mental pictures of one's being torn in mind over an impending or anticipated problem. An anxious person is one who cannot concentrate on the functions and purposes of the day for being distracted with mental pictures of the potentially negative outcomes of the immediate uncertainty.

Folks sitting on the hillside listening to Jesus' sermon in Matthew 6 were anxious about personal and family survival, debts, clothing, and politics. Most were followers of Christ. We are followers of Christ, and most of us are torn mentally over politics, debts, our economy, the world scene, job security, and relationships.

I have to admit my spiritual feathers get a ruffling when someone implies Christians experiencing anxiety don't trust God. "Just trust God, and everything will work out," they bark at

us, hoping we'll quit bothering them with our worries. "I do trust God; I'm a Christian, but I still worry sometimes," is our desperate reply.

What does a Christian do about anxiety when everything is falling apart?

Let's examine Matthew 6:25-34 to see what Jesus said about dealing with worry.

Perspective is important in considering the matter that torments us. Nothing puts life's excess baggage into proper perspective better than a death experience. In light of death's finality, our once monumental concerns become minimized.

LIFE AND WORK
February 2 Lesson
Basic Passage: Matthew 6:19-34

My brother-in-law, just home from Viet Nam in 1968, watched his mother

fret over details of Thanksgiving lunch. Finally he could stand it no longer and lovingly hugged her and said, "Mom, having the meal just perfect is really not important." His spirit, his voice, his wisdom resulting from his new perspective on life affected our entire family that Thanksgiving.

Jesus would tell us that looking for quick fixes and magical solutions to our worries is futile. Take note of God's provisions. The birds, the flowers, our life's work, our family, our gifts from God, our health, our survival, our hope — all are evidence of God's loving care for His children. Although God provides food for the birds, they still have to scratch for sustenance. The flowers, clothed in beauty, are not mindful of their creator, yet we Christians are clothed in righteousness because of Christ's blood shed for us.

The priority of spiritual things (v. 33) should displace our worry and fears. Seeking first God's kingdom

doesn't necessarily erase our problems, but knowledge that we are putting God first is a soothing, assuring ointment for our overactive imagination.

Experience has taught that some of the best actions we can take when weighed with anxiety are (1) pray about the situation; (2) count your blessings (on paper!); (3) recall specific answered prayers at other anxious moments; (4) ask the question, "what is the worst thing that can happen?"; (5) get busy with hands, mind, and feet which temporarily lessens the intensity of the problem; and (6) concentrate on physically doing something for someone else. Although this prescription for the "meanwhile of anxiety" is not a panacea, God can use our willingness to overcome anxiety by giving us a quiet spirit of assurance resulting from our trust in Him.

Years ago Norman Vincent Peal said that approximately 92 percent of all our worries never materialize.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Center for evangelism and church growth opens at NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS — Southern Baptists' first Center for Evangelism and Church Growth has opened its doors on the campus of the New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. The center was dedicated Jan. 28.

Charles M. Lowry, of Greenbrier, Ark., is director of the center. He served with the Louisiana Baptist Convention for 23 years as director of the Church Training department, the Sunday School department, and the Church Programs division. He has been involved in evangelism and church growth for 40 years.

A 9000-square-foot building, the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth is a specialized facility including offices, library, seminar and conference rooms, and a computerized research lab, as well as a resource center which is in the process of assembling a complete collection of all available evangelism and church growth books, resources, and materials. Also, the center contains the latest computer software to provide churches with customized consultation and research to do demographic studies on their areas and personalized church decadal growth studies.

"We're going to be there to help you reach large segments of your area for God," Landrum P. Leavell II, NOBTS president, recently told alumni concerning the opening of the Center.

Indiana Baptists seek help in starting 52 churches

ATLANTA — Southern Baptists in Indiana are trying to start 52 churches this year with the help of fellow Southern Baptists. The thrust of the church planting effort will coincide with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11 as part of the "Crossover Indianapolis" evangelistic endeavor.

Twenty-five sites have been identified as prime locations for new churches, said Carol Fowler, director of missions for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Some of the sites are mobile home parks and apartment complexes where space already has been secured for church meetings. Another is a county seat town of 8600 without a Southern Baptist church. Other sites include areas of predictable population growth. "We need pastors first of all," Fowler said. The 25 sites selected for the convention focus are less than half the places Indiana Baptists have identified as potential church sites, he said.

Fowler said he is recruiting bivocational pastors and retired full-time pastors to lead the new congregations. In addition to seeking people to move to Indiana to become pastors of new churches, Fowler said short-term volunteers are needed for Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools, and recreation activities to attract people to the new churches. People also are needed to survey neighborhoods, make phone calls, and mail follow-up material.

Though concentrated efforts will take place the week before the SBC annual meeting, Fowler said volunteers are welcome throughout the summer.

People interested in helping with the church starts can contact Fowler at the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, P.O. Box 24189, Indianapolis, IN 46224 or (317) 241-9317.

New editors named for Review and Expositor

LOUISVILLE — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors James W. Cox and Charles J. Scalise have assumed editorial positions for *Review and Expositor*, the Louisville seminary's faculty journal.

Cox, the Victor and Louise Lester professor of Christian preaching, is the journal's managing editor. A faculty member since 1959, Cox has written or edited 14 books and numerous journal articles. He was editor of *Pulpit Digest* from 1983-85 and currently serves as an advisory editor for the publication.

Scalise, assistant professor of church history, is the journal's associate editor. Scalise has written articles for several scholarly, denominational, and popular publications. He joined the seminary faculty in 1987.

Review & Expositor, founded in 1904, is published quarterly. It carries articles and book reviews by Southern professors, scholars from other academic institutions, local church ministers, and denominational leaders.

Ashley named director of Golden Gate's Northwest campus

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Clint M. Ashley, president of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Alberta, has been elected director of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's Northwest campus in Portland, Ore. He was unanimously endorsed by the executive committee of Golden Gate's trustee board in December following the recent retirement of William K. Peters, the Northwest campus' founding director.

Ashley, 52, has been president of the Canadian seminary since it opened in 1986. He begins his new duties Feb. 1. He is a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil where he specialized in theological education.

Ashley was pastor of Emmanuel Church in Pullman, Wash., from 1978 to 1986. Active in the Northwest Baptist Convention, he was on the convention's executive board from 1980-86, the long range planning committee in 1982, and was president of the regional convention from 1984-86.

"With such a close relationship between Northwest Baptists and Golden Gate, we are excited about Dr. Ashley's call to this new area of service and ministry," said Clayton K. Harrop, Golden Gate's acting academic dean. "He is one of the Northwest's recognized and proven leaders." Ashley was on Golden Gate's board of trustees from 1983-86 and was a member of the SBC Canada Study Committee from 1983-84.

South Carolina native takes Home Mission Board post

ATLANTA — David Winfrey, religion news reporter for a daily newspaper in

Greenville, S.C., has been named associate director of news and information for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Since 1988 Winfrey has been a reporter for the Greenville Piedmont. His assignments have included crime and city government in addition to religion.

Winfrey, 25, succeeds Mark Wingfield who resigned in July to become news director of the *Western Recorder*, newjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Winfrey is a native of Lyman, S.C. He is a 1988 graduate of the University of Georgia with a major in journalism and minor in political science.

Baptists offer relief to Texas flood victims

DALLAS — As record rainfalls swelled the Brazos River in southeast Texas, flooding the homes of about 2500 Angleton-area residents, Southern Baptist volunteers responded to flood victims with hot meals and Christian compassion.

At the request of the American Red Cross, the Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Mobile Unit was sent to Brazoria County Jan. 8. The mobile unit is an 18-wheel, tractor-trailer rig specially equipped with a self-contained field kitchen. Setting up food services at the Angleton fairgrounds, Baptist volunteers began providing meals Jan. 11 for more than 1400 flood victims per day.

Of the 2000 homes flooded in the ten-county southeast Texas disaster region centered around the Brazos, Trinity, and Colorado rivers, more than 600 were in Brazoria County, according to Jo Flint of the American Red Cross. About 120 Texas Baptist volunteers from at least a dozen churches in Gulf Coast and surrounding associations ministered to flood-ravaged Brazoria County residents, said Texas Baptist Men volunteer coordinator Troyce Bennett of Williams Trace Church in Sugarland, Texas. At times more volunteers were available than could be put to work, he noted.

HMB trustees elect director of black church extension

ATLANTA — Willie T. McPherson of Atlanta has been unanimously elected director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division by the trustees' executive committee.

McPherson, who has served as associate director of the division since 1989, will succeed Emmanuel McCall who left the Home Mission Board in July to become pastor of Christian Fellowship Church in Atlanta.

McPherson began working for the Home Mission Board as a national consultant in 1984. The Mississippi native is a graduate of California Baptist College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as a youth director, pastor, and home missionary.

National Fellowship gets new name

MEMPHIS — The initials are the same, but the name has been changed. The National Fellowship of Baptist Men is now the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions.

"The change of our name has come about to further the involvement of women, although we have included women in our membership since we began," said Bob Salley, director.

The fellowship, part of the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, involves laypersons in missions by using their vocational skills, gifts, interests, and expertise. More than 59,000 Southern Baptists were involved in missions through the fellowship in 1990.

Jess Moody still nominee for SBC presidency

VAN NUYS, Calif. — California pastor Jess Moody, an announced candidate for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency, said he has received encouragement for his candidacy and is "committed to do it."

Moody's candidacy was announced in August by an ad hoc committee led by Don Letzring, a Tampa, Fla., pastor. At that time Moody said, although a reluctant candidate, he would be available but would not actively pursue the nomination.

Moody, 66, also said he would "bow out by December" if he felt there was not an enthusiastic response to his announcement. Contacted by Baptist Press, Moody said the response to his announcement was "quite good and from some very interesting sources." He did not comment on the sources.

"My feeling is if there is hope for reconciliation in our convention, then one last ditch stand ... it ought to be done," Moody said. "I believe every word of the Bible. As far as the Bible goes, I am as conservative as you can get. I, also, believe in freedom. I love my denomination," Moody added. "I want to bring us together."

Moody is pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Chatsworth, north of Los Angeles.

Oklahoma, Indiana reach agreement of cooperation

OKLAHOMA CITY — Southern Baptists in Oklahoma and Indiana have approved an "agreement of cooperation" that will informally link the two state conventions in missions and ministry activities. The agreement was unanimously adopted by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma board of directors, following the unanimous adoption by the executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

While it does not involve financial resources, the agreement opens the door for sharing human resources and skills at both the associational and state convention levels. A second recommendation passed by the BGCO board will allow Indiana churches to attend one week of Falls Creek Baptist Assembly in Davis, Okla. Falls Creek is the largest Baptist youth encampment in the world.

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the BGCO, hailed the agreement as "a wonderful opportunity for genuine mission exchange in both conventions."

Charles W. Sullivan, executive director of the SCBI, said the agreement is one of the most important steps the Indiana convention could take.