

Baptist and Reflector

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Trustees allocate seminaries' funds

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees allocated funds for theological education in Eastern Europe and named a committee to work on relationships with European Baptists during their Feb. 10-12 meeting in Richmond.

In other action, trustees approved \$3.85 million, including \$1 million for Bibles and other materials, as the initial installment of their "Green Alert" initiative in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

They also elected Bill Goff, a 20-year veteran of missions in Venezuela, area director for mission work in Spanish South America, named a writer and editor for a book on the mission board's 150-year history, and appointed 17 missionaries.

The new appointments bring the mission force to 3926 in 122 countries, with work extending into several other nations.

Trustees divided the \$365,000 they had redirected in October to theological education in Eastern Europe among eight seminaries in that area. The funds originally were budgeted for the international Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The money was divided among seminaries in Bulgaria, \$100,000; Estonia, \$50,000; the Ukraine, \$50,000 in Kiev, and \$50,000 in Odessa; Russia, \$50,000; Latvia, \$45,000; and Romania, \$10,000 in Bucharest, and \$10,000 in Oradea. The work in Oradea received an earlier \$50,000 from the board for construction of the Second Church, which sponsors the seminary there.

The committee to work on relationships with European Baptists will respond to an invitation from the European Baptist Federation to explore

— See *Trustees allocate*, page 5

Closed session

Parks, FMB trustees set March meeting

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND (BP) — R. Keith Parks and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees will face a moment of truth about their future relationships March 19-20 behind closed doors in a Dallas-Fort Worth airport area hotel.

That's where the mission board president and trustees will hold a spiritual retreat to try to resolve the cloudy question of Parks' tenure — as well as questions Parks and some trustees have asked about willingness for mutual cooperation.

Parks himself brought the issue to a head in his address at the closing session of the trustees' Feb. 10-12 meeting in Richmond.

Missionaries, board staff, and Southern Baptists deserve an answer to the tenure question, he told trustees. He urged them to resolve it "or move as quickly as possible to change leadership."

Parks asked the trustees to respond to his request the same day to "lay to rest many anxieties" or, at most, no later than their next regular meeting

April 6-8 in Clemson, S.C.

During the ensuing discussion, some trustees agreed they must act immediately to assure Southern Baptists of their support for Parks and missions. Others argued for a delay so Parks, who had expressed strong disagreement with some trustee actions, could address his own willingness to work cooperatively with them. They decided on the spiritual retreat for dialogue and prayer with Parks and staff members of his choosing.

Agreement adopted

"I am simply asking if I have the option of exerting positive leadership and trying to fulfill the vision I believe God gave me until 1995," Parks said. He referred to his request last August that he serve through the Foreign Mission Board's sesquicentennial in 1995. The time would enable him to lay the groundwork for his ten-point vision for global evangelization now under study by a trustee subcommittee.

"If not, I then urge the board to move as quickly as possible to change

leadership," he said. "If so, then I pledge myself to work as harmoniously as possible in applying those seven principles you approved and maintaining momentum in reaching a lost world."

He referred to an agreement voted by trustees Feb. 10 that included affirmation of a statement of seven basic missions principles authored by Parks and willingness of trustees "to be led by our president."

That agreement, which some had called "miraculous" in the increasingly tense relationship between Parks and trustees, turned out to be just the first step in the direction of reconciliation.

"Even as I hear your public affirmation of me, I continue to get other messages that are contradictory," Parks told trustees, referring to actions and undercurrents he felt were taking place behind the scenes.

Trustee chairman Bill Hancock said later "the spirit of the (Feb. 10-12) meeting was to affirm Dr. Parks and

— See *Parks, FMB* page 5

SBC growing — now has 38,000 churches

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — The number of Southern Baptist churches topped 38,000 in 1991 as gains were posted in nine of ten key denominational reporting areas.

With an increase of 247 churches — the largest since 1988 — the total number of churches stands at 38,221.

A three percent or 11,637 increase in baptisms marked the fourth consecutive year of gains. The 1991 baptism total was 396,668 compared to 385,031 the previous year.

This represents the first time since

the 1940s that baptisms have increased four straight years, according to Jim Lowry, denominational statistics specialist in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department.

Church membership, which topped 15 million last year, increased by 1.3 percent or 193,870 to 15,238,283 in 1991. This was the largest numerical increase since 1982.

Southern Baptists' largest church program organization, Sunday School, posted a 2.2 percent enrollment increase of 174,303, bringing the new total to 8,183,801. The increase was the largest since 1976.

Gains were registered in five other areas, including music ministry enrollment, mission expenditures, ongoing Woman's Missionary Union enrollment, Brotherhood enrollment/participation, and total tithes, offerings, and special gifts.

In its second year of a new records system, Discipleship Training enrollment/participation, registered a negligible decrease of 3725 or 0.17 percent. The new total is 2,202,527.

Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. said the statistics are "a positive sign of health for the denomination. We can rejoice and praise God for this good news but we must not be satisfied. I truly believe plans in process for Discipleship Training, Sunday School, church growth, and other areas will result in greater progress in the future."

In the financial area, total tithes, offerings and special gifts posted a three percent gain of \$137,151,740 over 1990, for a total of \$4,704,986,720. The 1991 increase compares to gains of six percent in 1990, 4.4 percent in 1989 and

three percent in 1988.

Mission expenditures increased by \$13,614,716 or 1.9 percent, for a total of \$732,090,078. The 1991 gain is larger than the 0.8 percent increase in 1990 but smaller than the 3.4 percent of 1989.

Ongoing music ministry enrollment registered a 2.1 percent increase of 38,182, for the 26th consecutive gain. The new total is 1,875,610.

Brotherhood enrollment/participation showed an increase of 7850 or 1.3 percent, for a total enrollment of 601,694.

Ongoing WMU enrollment increased by 0.2 percent or 2726, for a new total of 1,200,713. The gain represents a turnaround after two years of decreases.

The statistics were tallied from 37,400 Uniform Church Letters processed by the board's corporate planning and research department.

Evangelism teams needed in Chile

Eleven teams consisting of 33 men and women are needed for an evangelism crusade April 2-12 in Talca, Chile, and surrounding towns.

Teams are needed for visitation, personal evangelism, and to conduct services in churches for four or five nights.

An experienced preacher is needed for each team. Volunteers should be able to share personal testimonies.

The teams will assist 11 churches in the heart of the agricultural section of central Chile.

For information, contact Jarvis Hearn at (615) 371-2028.



DOM OFFICERS — State directors of missions recently elected officers for the coming year. From left, Elmer Crosby, Maury, secretary; Herbert Higdon, Madison-Chester and Crockett, president; and David Myers, Hamilton County, vice president.

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Editorials

Major news events point to need for wisdom, courage

This February is proving to be a busy month for Southern Baptists. In fact, current events may be extremely momentous and crucial in Baptist history.

As this issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* goes to press on Monday night (February 17) we do not know the full impact of two far-reaching actions.

On Monday, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee was to have elected Morris Chapman president. He would follow Harold Bennett, who is retiring, as president/treasurer of the committee soon after he completes his second year as SBC president in June.

The other action is an ongoing situation with the Foreign Mission Board, centered around the tenure of President R. Keith Parks. It is important how these actions will affect Southern Baptists and two major SBC entities — the Executive Committee and the Foreign Mission Board.

It is no secret that Chapman is a "conservative" leader in Southern Baptist life. He is completing his second term as SBC president, a term which began last June when he was re-elected without opposition when the "moderate" wing of the convention offered no nominee.

Julian Motley, chairman of the Executive Committee's search committee which selected Chapman, said the committee noted "the significant contribution which he (Chapman) has made to the 'conservative' renewal in the convention" and his vision and leadership skills demonstrated as president. Motley also noted that Chapman has helped "mobilize agencies and people in Bold Mission Thrust."

Chapman, as chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, would lead in determining how the more than \$140 million in Cooperative Program gifts is distributed. The committee also acts for the SBC between annual meetings.

He would follow Bennett who retires October 1.

Bennett succeeded the late Porter Routh, each of whom had long tenures.

Southern Baptists have touted to other denominations the fact that there is no hierarchy in the SBC. However, it must be admitted that the Executive Committee and its president play a strong role in shaping SBC budgets and in shaping policies and convention action.

With a "conservative" leader at the helm under current conditions, the "conservative" movement in the convention is placed in the proverbial glass house. Perhaps more than ever its plans and attitudes will be closely watched.

The unsettled position of Keith Parks and the Foreign Mission Board is another matter of import — and potentially more volatile. If Parks should be dismissed or asked to retire early by that board, there could be a fallout that would be shattering to the Southern Baptist foreign missions effort.

For several weeks Southern Baptist state papers have reported the developing situation at the Foreign Mission Board. It began last year when FMB trustees voted to renege on an agreement to continue funding the Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, with about \$300,000 through 1992. Reactions became hot and heavy. Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker, two of the FMB's top European stateists, resigned in protest. Parks allowed the two to hold a departing news conference at board headquarters in Richmond where they expressed displeasure at trustees for their actions.

Subsequently, trustees asked the men to leave earlier than they had planned, and the board expressed alarm over Parks' allowing the press conference.

Last week, board members met with Parks. Many Baptists expected Parks to be dismissed or asked to retire earlier. The following day, he asked trustees to act on his tenure. They refused, instead setting up a closed meeting with Parks in Dallas-

Fort Worth March 19-20 to make a decision.

As the old saying goes, the jury is still out on Morris Chapman. Like others in "high places," he will be scrutinized. He faces a difficult task with some churches now diverting Cooperative Program funds away from the Executive Committee and using negative designations to support programs of choice.

He will have a majority behind him on the Executive Committee. But he will be dealing with touchy matters where there is still an approximate 55-45 division of Southern Baptists. He deserves an opportunity to prove himself — and he certainly needs prayer support. As SBC president, he consistently has said he would enlarge the tent in making appointments and committee selections. "Moderates" say they have seen little of that.

Even more important to Southern Baptists, however, is the well-being of the Foreign Mission Board. With Keith Parks as its leader, the board has continued the greatest mission effort in the world.

He has spelled out to Southern Baptists as well as to the board the necessity for leadership continuity in fleshing out plans in place for strong emphasis on reaching people for Christ through doors that are now open in Europe. There is a small window of opportunity. We need to act now.

Parks is the man to provide that leadership. No person is unexpendable, but he is the leader we need at this time of opportunity. Too much time would be lost in changing leadership.

We believe any board action short of allowing Parks to direct the mission effort for the next half decade would have a devastating effect on our corps of missionaries and upon those who support missions.

These are momentous days for Southern Baptists. It is good to know we have a Lord who knows us and yet loves us. — WFA

Bush administration wants churches to report donors' gifts

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Bush administration wants to require churches and other tax-exempt organizations to report to the Internal Revenue Service the charitable contributions of donors who give more than \$500 annually.

The proposal, part of the administration's fiscal 1993 budget plan, is aimed at helping IRS catch taxpayers who inflate the amount of deductible contributions. According to an administration document, preliminary IRS data shows taxpayers frequently have overstated charitable contributions in filing income tax returns.

Lewis urges Baptists to pray, promote peace

ATLANTA (BP) — While Foreign Mission Board issues have been the focus of debate in recent months, the Home Mission Board president urged Southern Baptists to be messengers of peace.

"Let's pray daily for our sister agency and those leaders," Larry Lewis said as he addressed the February executive committee of Home Mission Board trustees.

Lewis said his prayer concern is not only for the Foreign Mission Board staff and trustees, but for the denomination. "Any serious problem at the Foreign Mission Board or the Home Mission Board or any other agency affects us all," Lewis said.

"I just make an appeal that we be messengers of peace and that we try to do the best we can with whatever influence we have to bring healing and reconciliation to our denomination.

The proposal drew criticism from Baptist church-state relations specialists. "It is yet another ill-informed attempt of government officials who apparently have no depth of understanding regarding the dangers of church-state entanglement," said Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn. "It is more serious than a superficial reading would indicate because it represents a recurring pattern of willingness to use the churches for government's purposes. It is none of the business of religion to be a government agent."

Existing law requires most tax-exempt organizations that receive tax deductible contributions to file annual reports (Form 990) identifying donors who give \$5000 or more in one year. Churches and their related organizations have been exempt from this requirement.

"That's the way it should be," said J. Brent Walker, associate general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee. "This proposal opens the door even more for government to intrude into religious affairs and would result in unwholesome church-state entanglements. Proposals like this one belie Mr. Bush's public rhetoric about the importance of religion in our country."

Walker said the proposed reporting requirements, which the administration wants in place by July 1, also would create a record-keeping nightmare for churches.

"It would be awfully burdensome for big and small churches alike," Walker said. "Any member who gives as little as \$10 a week will hit the \$500 figure.

Multiply that by the millions of church members and you've got a monumental mass of red tape."

The administration's proposal would require churches and other tax-exempt organizations to determine whether the amount is potentially deductible as a charitable gift or whether it is non-deductible because it was received for goods and services — a requirement Walker said could put churches in a "dubious position."

"That should be between the IRS and the taxpayer," he said. "Churches should not be asked to give tax advice."

According to the Treasury Department, the proposal is designed to remedy the problem IRS has in distinguishing between gifts and

payments for goods and services such as admission to entertainment events or purchases made at charity auctions.

Charities with annual gross receipts of less than \$25,000 would be exempt from the reporting requirements. The Treasury Department indicated IRS likely would revise its tax forms to require separate rather than aggregate reporting of charitable gifts.

The administration estimates the change would save the federal treasury \$100 million annually through 1996 and recover \$200 million in 1997. The administration would use the savings to offset the amounts it would lose in providing more favorable tax treatment for gifts of appreciated property and gifts by multinational corporations to charities.

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Trip which began with tragedy ends in 'miracles'

A mission trip to Venezuela which began with a tragedy ended with "miracles," according to Dewey Dunn, including the return home of the Americans before an attempted coup which resulted in several deaths.

From Jan. 24-Feb. 3, 134 U.S. health care workers led by Nashvillians Dewey and Bobbie Dunn continued work begun during the 1986-89 Tennessee/Venezuela Partnership. Sixty-one Tennesseans participated.

At the beginning of the mission venture, a child was killed and its mother injured in an auto accident at a clinic site. Another tragedy was averted as a physician who was part of the team saved the mother's life.

"All were aware of the fragility of life," reported Dewey Dunn. "We prayed," he added.

Tennesseans reported the following:

- "Before this trip I had to decide

whether to take out as many bad teeth as I could or to work at a more sane speed taking time with each patient. . . . The Lord has shown me just how much more important these people are than how many teeth could be taken out in one week." — Andy Collins, dentist, Kingsport.

- "A lady from one of the sponsoring churches sat down and cried tears of joy when she saw all the medical supplies, food, and milk we brought with us." — Debbie Williams, nutrition worker, Murfreesboro

- "As the trip approached the enemy filled me with doubt. The enemy reminded me that I am a true introvert and there is no way I could use my gift of exhortation to encourage total strangers. . . . As we left today our hearts grew homesick and the nudge inside my heart was to stay in Venezuela rather than return to Knox-

ville." — Donna Guion, dental assistant, Knoxville

- "One man told the spiritual counselor, 'These people have something I don't and I want the happiness I see in them.' He received Jesus as Savior." — Jeanette Acres, nurse, Oneida

- "This past week I have been able to watch pure, unblemished love of God demonstrated in the lives of my Venezuelan brothers and sisters. This love shows in their faces, their songs, their very movement as it is undistracted by material possessions — simply because they don't have them." — Karen Hall, nurse, Chattanooga

The Duns, who will lead a similar project in Venezuela July 10-20, reported extensive contacts made during other visits have resulted in a large contingent of Venezuelan health care professionals who worked alongside the

Americans. Their leadership was a "strong spiritual example for the North Americans," he noted. Because of those contacts, some work was done in government-funded clinics, Dunn added.

Another feature of a Dunn-led project also was repeated. The academic teams led conferences. A lecture on infectious disease by Charles Shaefer of Augusta, Ga., was especially well received because of the current cholera crisis, Dunn noted.

Clinics were held at 23 sites without Baptist congregations with the hope they will be formed, he reported.

Volunteers, including people without health care training, wishing more information about the July trip should contact the Duns at 1303 Lone Oak Circle, Nashville 37215, (615) 383-8499. —Connie Davis

Overseas baptisms set record; more leaders needed

By Donald D. Martin

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and their national partners baptized more people in 1991 than ever before, yet declines in Christian training threaten long-term church growth.

A record 233,334 baptisms in 1991 reversed a decline in 1990, when baptisms fell by 8.4 percent. This was the third year since 1987 that worldwide baptisms set a new record.

However, mission planners express concern about the need to develop church leadership, said Jim Slack, church growth consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Slack prepares the board's annual statistical review.

Bible teaching ministries, which include Sunday School, continued to slip when compared to total church membership. Although 1991's Sunday School enrollment climbed by 6.4 percent to 1.7 million, the percentage of church members enrolled in this type of regular Bible study actually fell to 57 percent of total church membership.

Second medical team leaves for Philippines

Twenty-two Tennessee Baptists are among 28 health care volunteers who left Feb. 13 for a two-week trip to the Philippines.

The group is the second medical team to go to the Philippines during the Tennessee/Philippines partnership which concludes in March. A 32-member team traveled to the Philippines March 1-15, 1991.

The teams will be serving in Davao, General Santos, Dilo/Bacolod, Mati, and Cebu/Zamboanga.

Teams will work in local hospitals, conduct outreach clinics, and lead classes at medical schools.

Tennesseans on the trip include:

David Stockton, Larry Rodgers, Michael Fields, Shawn Mitchell, Gary Anders, and Cita Strunk, Knoxville; Melinda Turner, Chattanooga;

Darryl and Juanita Mullins, Erwin; Darlene Owens, Dewey, Bobbie, and Cathy Dunn, Shirley Silver, and Leslie Durham, Nashville; Ken and Betty Mattox, Springfield; Becky Lawrence, Oak Ridge; Ruth Womack, McMinnville; Rick Barkley, Goodlettsville; Kaye Rock, Kingsport; and Linda Whaley, Fayetteville.

For most of the 1980s Sunday School enrollment accounted for more than 70 percent of total church membership. The percentage has slowly dropped for the past 20 years, Slack said. Church growth begins to suffer when the percentage falls below 75 percent, he warned.

Also, an inadequate supply of seminary-trained leaders for church planting disturbs mission planners, Slack said. Enrollment in seminary extension programs dropped nearly 14 percent from 13,105 in 1990 to 11,285 in 1991. Enrollment in residential seminaries climbed from 12,586 in 1990 to 14,579 in 1991. But only a small percentage of seminary graduates actually become church planters, Slack said.

Most church growth gauges, however, signal healthy expansion, Slack noted. New church starts, preaching points, and worldwide church membership all made gains in 1991.

"We had positive growth in all major areas but we can't be happy with what we've achieved when you consider how many people are lost in the world," Slack said.

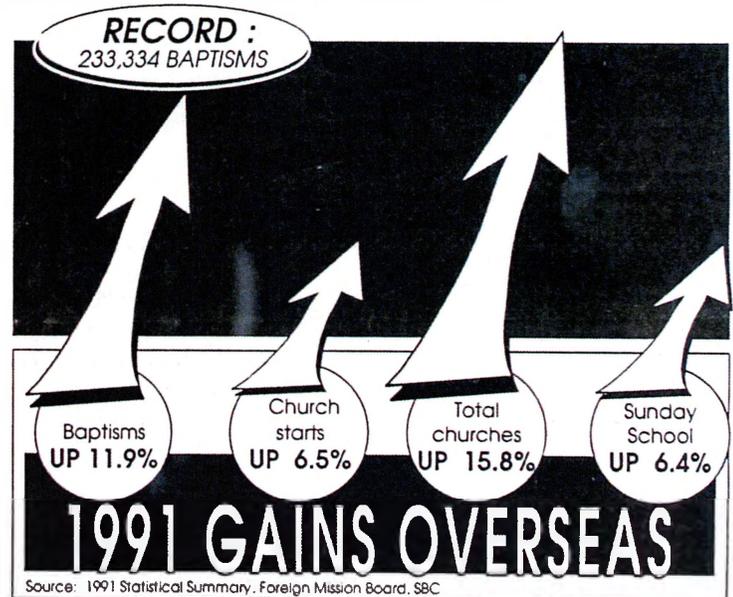
In 1991 missionaries and overseas Baptists started 1576 new churches, a 6.5 percent advance over 1990.

The number of overseas churches related to Foreign Mission Board work also increased from 24,122 in 1990 to 27,932 in 1991. This net gain of 3810 churches reflects a strong growth of 15.8 percent, Slack said.

The board tracks new church starts separately from net growth in the number of churches missionaries work with, Slack explained. Net church growth may increase in several different ways — new church starts, existing churches affiliating with a national convention, or improved record keeping overseas. In singling out new church starts, mission planners can best judge the board's evangelistic efforts since church starts highlight direct results of church planting in a given year.

Still, the net church growth rate is used to evaluate the board's progress in reaching a major Bold Mission Thrust goal. Bold Mission Thrust is the plan adopted by Southern Baptists in 1976 for spreading the Gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000 and for achieving a tenfold expansion of overseas Baptist work. In 1991, the

1991 GAINS OVERSEAS



net church growth rate easily surpassed the 12 percent needed to stay on track to meet the Bold Mission Thrust expansion goal.

Other good news, Slack said, included growth in worldwide church membership and preaching points. Overseas Baptist church membership

grew by about 12 percent from 2.6 million in 1990 to nearly three million in 1991. In 1991 preaching points, the early stage in forming a church, rose by 2319 to 22,736. This 11 percent increase marked a welcome improvement over 1990 when preaching points fell from 21,234 in 1989 to 20,417.

Drummond retirement package disclosed

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The retirement package for President Lewis A. Drummond which Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have been asked to approve amounts to a one-time cash gift of \$115,000 plus normal retirement benefits.

A seminary trustee, who asked not to be identified, told Baptist Press the package includes Drummond's base salary of \$70,000 for one year, plus seven months of that salary as sabbatic pay plus his seminary car, and some furnishings from the presidential residence.

However, he reiterated that the agreement, worked out by the trustees' executive committee Jan. 30 on the Wake Forest campus, must be approved by the full board of trustees March 9-11. A mail ballot has been asked by the executive committee for

the trustees to approve Drummond's resignation so the search process could begin immediately.

Normal retirement benefits for an administrator of Drummond's level and ten years of service would include a one-time payment of ten percent of his salary, a life insurance policy valued at \$20,000, vacation pay due, a Medicare supplement, and use of the seminary's health center. Drummond's salary and benefit package has been reported to be about \$100,000, of which \$70,000 is the base salary.

"The only part of the agreement which is not part of a normal retirement package would be the \$70,000 one-time gift plus giving Drummond the seminary car which has more than 50,000 miles on it," the trustee told Baptist Press. "That's not a golden parachute."

Our Readers Write

Volunteers needed

We are a small struggling church in a difficult area. We began in 1986 as HMB church planter apprentices. I appeal to persons in Tennessee who feel led to get more involved in missions.

These persons would need to serve alongside a missionary family, and be willing to have secular employment for support. They must share a vision for starting a cell group church. For information write to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 45, Keene, N.H., 03431.

Brent Ryland, pastor
Calvary Church
P.O. Box 45
Keene, N.H. 03431

Witnessing help

On June 6 Southern Baptists in Indiana will be joined by fellow Baptists in a great door-to-door soul-winning effort prior to this year's SBC. As a new work or pioneer state, Indiana has a great need for co-laborers in this effort. This will be the first such effort in a new work state since the inaugural effort in 1989 at Las Vegas.

I cannot describe how significant this will be to us. For almost two years we have been praying. We are asking Southern Baptists from all across the country to participate in a real-live home missions effort. Indianapolis, the crossroads of the midwest, is ripe unto harvest. Before doing the important business work at the convention, let's all do the main business before it begins, that of winning people to Jesus! Please contact our Indianapolis Metropolitan Association to sign up or to get more information. The address is: 952 North Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204, phone (317) 636-6728.

Alvin L. Reid,
Director of Evangelism
State Convention of
Baptists in Indiana
900 N. High School Rd.
P.O. Box 24189
Indianapolis, Ind. 46224

Solution offered

As a new student at Southern Baptist Seminary and a Tennessean I would like to state my opinion on all the recent **Bap-**

Lee Porter accepts church staff position

NASHVILLE (BP)—Lee Porter, registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention, has accepted a staff position with a Florida church.

Porter, 62, will become assistant to the pastor and administrator of St. Andrew Church in Panama City, effective March 1. Porter resigned from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board last year after 15 years and has been the bivocational pastor of Bell Road Church, Nashville for the past ten years.

Porter was narrowly re-elected registration secretary at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta last year following an earlier controversy over statements he made critical of SBC leadership. Earlier he had resigned from the Sunday School Board when board officials made it known they were opposed to his holding the SBC office.

The north Florida church records more than 800 in attendance, Porter said. Pastor is Randall Perry.

Porter's wife, Pat, will conclude 17 years as an employee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention where she also has been the state's registration secretary.

Baptist travails. First, I don't think the present controversy started ten years ago or in the 1950s, but when the Southern Baptist Convention was formed in 1845. From what I've put together we broke off from the American Baptists because of slavery and because the South was being ignored in general American Baptist life. Isn't that one of the things that "fundamentalists" are now saying? I believe it is true that the "moderate" branch of the SBC did pay less attention to the South throughout the later half of this century and is now reaping the rewards of such treatment.

One other problem that stands out is that of the organization of the SBC. The forefathers of our convention were not as wise as the forefathers of our nation. Our organization has been dated for years and it is time for a change. The SBC and state organizations are hierarchical in nature. Membership seems to largely reside on having a theology consistent with those at the top. This undermines the autonomy of the local church which may have differing opinions on issues such as ordination of women or divorced persons.

I feel the solution to our problem lies not in becoming theologically homogeneous or "turning it all over to God." The solution is to learn to live together, work together, and even worship God together.

Andrew F. Bennett III
SBTS Box 317
2825 Lexington Ave.
Louisville, Ky. 40280

Supports trustees

Southern Baptists have become so fussy we are slowly becoming paralyzed. Hardly any financial, personnel, or policy decision can be made by our trustees or convention unless there is an uprising. We have elected our trustees to make decisions that are often difficult. They are going to be abused whatever they decide. Will we continue to start seminaries, organize new offices to distribute mission monies (how wasteful), gather mobs to protest, fill our state papers with critical words, designate mission dollars to prolong entities that have been purged from our program of support, and steal institutions just because we refuse to be a democracy? How is it so many people know so much more than our trustees? I personally believe most of our trustees are morally, spiritually responsible men. In fact, I do not know of even one who is not. They did not slip into their office by a back door, they were elected by the convention in a regular business session. We won't even give time to see if the decision was a right one. We hear "Let us get on with our mission." How can we when every decision is criticized, and our publications are saturated with discordant reports and inordinately "puffed" articles.

Clay J. Frazier, pastor
Alpha Church
245 St. John Rd.
Morristown 37814

Likes newsletters

I am bivocational pastor of Dogwood Grove Church, near Montevallo, Ala. Several members have volunteered to read newsletters from other churches, as we search for fresh ideas on how to reach people for Christ.

If any churches in Tennessee would add us to their newsletter mailing list for a few months, we would greatly appreciate it. Our address is: Dogwood Grove Baptist Church, 56 Church Drive, Montevallo, Ala. 35115-9315.

Our church averages 40-50 in Sunday morning worship, but we are interested

in newsletters from a variety of churches — whether large or small, rural or urban, innovative or traditional.

We are also interested in receiving back issues of newsletters. Comments and suggestions are likewise welcome, and most especially the prayers of our sister churches. Thank you.

Keith Hinson
56 Church Drive
Montevallo, Ala. 35115

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.

Ruschlikon needs help

Concerning those who write about Ruschlikon's high costs, I wonder if they have been to Europe or lived there? Do they know how weak the U.S. dollar is there? I agree with them about the high cost at Ruschlikon, but where could the seminary go? All of Western Europe is expensive. Should our funds go to Romania where Baptists don't believe in eternal security? To Russia where their doctrines are very diverse from ours?

While I was an interim pastor in Belgium I attended the 1991 European Convention where I met part of Ruschlikon's staff, including Mr. Hopper.

Nashville hospital plans expansion

Baptist Hospital officials have announced plans for a new six-story medical office building to be built at the corner of 22nd Ave. North and State Street in Nashville.

In addition to the 107,910 square-foot medical office building, the \$14 million construction project will also include a nine-story, 263,642 square-foot parking garage. It will be located on the corner of 21st Avenue North and State Street, adjacent to the medical offices and, pending Metro Planning Commission approval, connected to the hospital by a covered, overhead crosswalk spanning 21st Avenue.

"This long-range building project marks the beginning of an important new phase of growth and development for Baptist," said hospital President David Stringfield. "And, I believe it comes at a crucial time for us as well as for our city in terms of showing substantial support for and confidence in the Nashville economy," he added.

Stringfield said groundbreaking on the 22nd Avenue Medical Office Building will be held soon with construction expected to take about a year. He said the initial medical office building project will generate approximately 300 jobs with an even greater number created as the hospital's building program progresses.

The new office building has been designed in glass and stone and has a covered driveway for comfortable patient entry.

The 21st Avenue parking garage, which will have 745 spaces, will serve physician tenants and staff, and patients as well as hospital employees and visitors.

They seemed no different to me than the 100 other tender-hearted missionaries that I met who are making a great personal sacrifice to live in expensive Europe. It is a pity that some readers will believe the "smoke screen rather than the people on the scene in Europe. I was one, a "fundamentalist," for 15 years and a faithful "conservative" for the next 30 years. I know the ways of their leaders.

There has been no rejoicing in my heart or most of Europe's hearts since EBC leader and President John Merritt rose to tell of the defunding of Ruschlikon. Pray that our present missionaries will/can stay to "manage the damage." I'm afraid Southern Baptists may be through in Europe just when so many doors are opening. I wish I could financially go back and help. There are many jobs open to English-speaking pastors if they can afford the time and money.

Ralph H. Lee
1844 Nandina Dr.
Maryville 37801

Paul's thorn

I would like to share the result of my research on what Paul meant as "a thorn in my flesh."

"And there shall be no more a pricking brier to the house of Israel, nor a thorn to cause them pain from all that are round about them, and that curse them; and they shall know that I am the Lord God." — Ezekiel 28:24

"And lest I should be exalted through the abundance of the revelations, there was delivered to me a thorn in my flesh, the angel of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted." — II Corinthians 12:7

1 — The enemies of Israel who were a thorn in their flesh.

2 — The enemies of the Church who were a thorn in Paul's flesh.

Archimedes A. Concon
4939 Princeton Ave.
Memphis 38117

The "North Tower" project which will be adjacent to the hospital's existing Central Building fronts Patterson Street. A construction timetable has not yet been firmly set for the eight-story 230,000 square foot building project. It will include expanded inpatient and outpatient surgical services.

C-N adds seminars to Norton Institute

Carson-Newman College's Norton Institute for Denominational Service has added four additional seminars/conferences during the spring.

The Norton Institute is an off-campus program designed to provide training for vocational or bivocational ministers, persons called to the ministry but not yet serving in a local church, and laypersons interested in becoming better equipped servants for Christ.

New courses are "The Doctrines Baptists Believe," "Pastoral Care," "The Bible and Suffering," and "Ephesians." The seminars are designed to be completed in four two-hour meetings in a month's time.

Courses are designed to meet practical needs, said Tom Madden, associate director of the Norton Institute.

Students may earn a diploma from Carson-Newman College after successful completion of a prescribed number of courses, Madden said.

The cost of each seminar is \$15 plus textbooks. A limited number of scholarships is available.

For additional information, contact Madden at (615) 471-3245.

Parks, FMB trustees schedule March meeting . . .

— Continued from page 1
his seven principles for doing missions. Dr. Parks' tenure or retirement was not on any agenda."

Hancock expressed hope Parks, trustees, and staff members can come out of the retreat with a consensus on how to handle disagreements and build future relationships. "It's a time to come together and crystallize our commitments," added Hancock, who said he would prefer not to comment further until after the retreat.

Although Parks expressed disagreement with trustees on certain matters, he said he affirmed them and their efforts as well as their decision to support the seven basic principles.

Some trustees have felt Parks has not returned the affirmation they have given him. He replied that one of his weaknesses is "not to offer praise as much as I should" because he never wants to be considered "insincere or manipulative." He especially credited Hancock for his "tireless effort" and for enduring "criticism and misunderstanding" as the board has faced controversy in recent months.

But Parks also told trustees frankly why he disagreed with some of their actions and philosophies.

Uncertainty hurts

Uncertainty over his tenure and lack of trust has undercut his leadership with missionaries and staff, Parks said. It has contributed "to an erosion of sound management that is reaching critical proportions" and to a diminishing of his leadership in a time of spiritual opportunities worldwide, he added.

That atmosphere also has led to violations of the trustee manual adopted in 1987, Parks stated. He said the manual says trustees "must studiously avoid unauthorized subgroups or cliques in trying to exercise undue influence over the body, . . . that the president is to be the point of information flow between trustees and staff in both directions, . . . and that the president is ultimately accountable . . ."

Due to lack of trust, he said, "a number of trustees now go directly to staff and missionaries" and get involved in administrative matters.

"This would be serious in any

organization," he said. "But it is disastrous in the Foreign Mission Board, given the scope, geographic spread, cultural diversity, missionary personalities, and involvement of national leaders. This administrative staff cannot function properly under those circumstances."

Parks also expressed strong disagreement with what he said appears to be a shift in the board's basic approach to missions. Such a shift, he said, "has occurred when this board is expecting theological conformity from those who receive Southern Baptist money. I am as concerned about correct Biblical belief as anyone is, but to use money to produce it is not the Biblical nor Baptist way."

"Our relationship with other Baptist bodies can never be an attempt to just extend our own American churches or convention nor an effort to dictate beliefs and practice," he continued, noting the New Testament shows "that even Christ himself never coerced or forced anyone."

The aim of such a relationship, he said, is "to teach, preach, nurture, interpret, influence, and persuade toward the soundest Bible theology possible" but to allow overseas Christians to have "the same freedom and access to God that we do."

Parks said he is "concerned by pressure on the part of some trustees in staff selection, as well as in missionary appointment." He took exception to "any effort to exclude a large segment of Southern Baptists." He also disputed what he called "serious misperceptions" on the part of some that there is a lack of Bible belief and evangelistic emphasis among staff and missionaries.

"Southern Baptist missions from its beginning always has been and is now based on the Bible and focused on Jesus Christ. . . . The missionaries, staff, and international Baptist partners believe, live, and preach God's Word as much as any of their critics. . . . Evangelism that results in churches has always been our hallmark," Parks said, noting that "God has blessed our missionaries and their co-workers with probably the greatest decade in evangelism we have ever had." (See separate story on page 3)

Speculation before the February meeting centered on reports that trustees would take steps to hasten Parks' departure as president. He will be 65 in October. The reports resulted in many expressions of concern and calls for prayer among Southern Baptists.

Feb. 10 sessions

Trustees did not discuss his tenure either in a two-hour closed session of the chairman's council or a one-hour open session of the full board on Feb. 10.

Trustees spent most of the one-hour open session discussing the public disclosure of a letter to Hancock from trustee Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

The letter, which was written last May and was in the hands of news media in early January, was cited by Parker in the Jan. 7 news conference as evidence of the trustees' new "global ambition."

The five-page letter makes accusations of "liberalism" among Baptists and FMB missionaries in Europe and urges the FMB to begin confronting "liberalism" around the world by developing relationships with "the new evangelical and non-compromised leadership" of Eastern Europe instead of with traditional Baptist unions on the continent.

Hancock said it was "an invasion of privacy" for Wilson's letter to be disclosed, circulated, and "promoted anonymously as propaganda all over the world." Neither Hancock nor Wilson has said how the letter became public.

"There was not one single item in that letter that was . . . implemented by the chairman," said Hancock, a pastor from Louisville, Ky. "Those who have maligned my character by choosing to circulate that letter have been less than above board in integrity and ethics."

Trustee Bill Blanchard, pastor of First Church, Soddy-Daisy, said the fact the items were not put into place is evidence the trustees don't have a global agenda. "Of the seven (Wilson) recommendations, none was followed," Blanchard said.

"That's hardly a basis for a global

agenda."

Blanchard asked Parks why he did not refute Isam Ballenger's and Keith Parker's charges at the news conference in the interest of fairness and openness. "I was surprised that someone did not give the other side," Blanchard said.

Ballenger and Parker were the board's two senior executives overseeing mission work in Europe who resigned in January because of disagreements with trustee actions and philosophy.

"It seemed to me," Parks responded, "that each of those individuals was giving his own impression of why he was retiring. I really didn't think of it as something I was to argue with or anyone else was to argue with."

Parks said his intention in staging the January news conference was to allow Ballenger and Parker "to express themselves" without censorship, not "to make anyone angry."

"There was no question that that story was going to be told," he said of the retirements. "It seemed to me, after hearing the various options, that the cleanest, quickest, simplest way to deal with it . . . would be to bring whoever wanted to report it to one spot," he explained.

Parks said his decision was based on his own philosophy of news. "There must be integrity, honesty, and candor in reporting our news. If we ever get to the point of using the news as a propaganda tool, simply telling of the good and minimizing or ignoring the unpleasant aspects, there will be an erosion of credibility."

Trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas later said he has "some disagreement" with Parks over the board's news policy. But he said trustee leaders weren't so concerned with establishing fault as getting assurances from Parks that he would "keep this from happening again."

Although specific precautions were not decided upon, Patterson said, there was unanimous agreement in the chairman's council "that we need to be sure we don't get another one-sided situation." — *This story also includes portions of an ABP report.*

Trustees allocate funds to seminaries . . .

— Continued from page 1
relationships in the wake of the trustees' vote to defund the Ruschlikon seminary. It will meet with European Baptist leaders in Europe, with the place and date to be determined.

Trustee committee members are Steve Hardy of North Carolina, John Simms of Virginia, Hoyt Savage of Nevada, John Jackson of California, Joel Gregory of Texas, and Pat Bullock of Texas. The committee also includes Parks and Winston Crawley, interim vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Trustees approved selection of William Estep Jr. to write the Foreign Mission Board's 150-year history and Johnni Johnson Scofield to edit it. Estep is emeritus distinguished professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Scofield is a retired Foreign Mission Board vice president of communications and special assistant to the president. The book is expected to be published by Oc-

tober 1994. The board will observe its sesquicentennial in 1995.

A trustee subcommittee will read the book's final manuscript, according to a contract signed by Estep. If approval of the book's content is not granted, the manuscript will become Estep's property. In that event, the contract stipulates the book would not be published until the year 2000.

In other matters:

• Trustees heard a report that Parks and interim Europe vice president Crawley will report to the board in April about their discussions with Ruschlikon seminary president John David Hopper about fund-raising in the United States.

Trustees had felt Hopper, a missionary of the board, was violating FMB policy against missionaries raising funds for their work among Southern Baptists in the United States. Crawley said a letter has been written to Hopper telling him to cease direct fund raising among Southern Baptists

if he is to remain a missionary.

That does not prevent Hopper, as president of the institution, from raising funds among other groups in the United States or elsewhere, Crawley said. Also, the Foreign Mission Board has no control over the fund-raising activities of trustees or non-missionary staff of the seminary, Crawley said.

• Trustees heard a report from their communications committee that it will appoint a subcommittee of trustees and staff to review and develop procedures for the board's news releases and press conferences, and report to the June trustee meeting. The action followed criticism by some committee members of certain news releases and a Jan. 7 press conference where Europe administrators Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker announced early retirement in protest of trustee actions and policies.

• The mission personnel committee accepted a recommendation to alter the way the International Service

Corps department processes personnel. The new procedure grew out of trustee protests over the selection of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Glenn Hinson to teach as a four-month ISC volunteer at the Ruschlikon seminary.

In the past, the ISC department simply reported to trustees names of those going overseas as ISC workers. Trustees had no formal way of raising questions about an individual in the process.

The new procedure, recommended by a committee of trustees and staff, provides a way for trustees to voice their opinions on an individual. Trustees now will have their concerns weighed when the staff selection committee reviews ISC applications. If the committee approves an applicant and trustees still have concerns, the decision about the applicant will rest with one of the two trustee committees reviewing career and associate applications for missionary appointment.

Tennessean has needs only Southern Baptists can meet

By Steve Barber

NASHVILLE — Sei-Hun Kim has needs only Southern Baptists can meet.

For Kim, a Southern Baptist home missionary who serves as a multi-ethnic catalytic language missionary in Middle Tennessee, many of those needs could be met with a higher level of giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

"I would fund ethnic pastors with any increase," Kim said. "We have 47 ethnic ministries going on but only 13 of those have a native pastor.

"We need an American Indian, Russian, Filipino, Ethiopian, Arab, and an Asian Indian pastor. I would use money for bringing language pastors here."

The 1992 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal is \$41 million. Since 1895 the offering has served as a source of caring to a nation in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The 1992 Tennessee state goal is \$3.1 million.

"I was a pastor in North Carolina and I didn't want to be in any other area of ministry for the Lord," Kim said.

"But as God called me as a language missionary, he has used me and that money (Annie Armstrong offering) to share the Gospel."

Kim observed the Annie Armstrong offering has helped "many people to turn around 180 degrees to go to heaven."

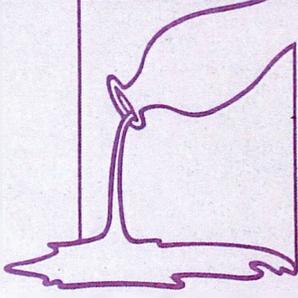
Kim is just one of more than 4500 home missionaries who continue to face seemingly daunting challenges in taking the Gospel to a nation where lost persons are in the majority. The latest figures from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's research department in Atlanta indicate that of 252 million Americans, 173 million do not have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"Alarming statistics tell us that millions of Americans have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ," said Dellana O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union.

"To me, that news is devastating, but not hopeless. If we pray and give as never before, miracles can happen across our land."

O'Brien added that Southern Baptists

A TIME FOR
Extravagance



Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 1-8, 1992

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
National Goal: \$41 million
Tennessee Goal: \$3.1 million

should look at the offering and the Week of Prayer for Home Missions as "a time for extravagance."

While it seems people are already

living up to this concept — "fancy homes, fine cars, and designer clothes — we, as Christians, need to focus on another kind of extravagance — extravagant praying and extravagant giving."

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, echoed the theme of "giving extravagantly" in light of the need and urgency for reaching the nation for Christ.

Lewis noted that last year Southern Baptists gave less to the Easter offering than they did for the previous year. It was the first time since 1970 that happened.

"We need to make up this decrease with sacrificial, even extravagant, giving to home missions," Lewis said.

James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, called for men and boys to do their part in promoting, praying for, and giving to the Easter offering.

"Time is short and the needs are so very great. But we can achieve it in God's mighty power and marvelous provision," Williams said.

Supporting missions comes close to home in Tennessee

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA — Supporting missions is a subject that is close to home for Tennessee Southern Baptists.

Of the 4922 home missionaries across the nation last year, 72 worked in the Volunteer State. They are examples of cooperative efforts between state conventions and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Many people assume that home missionaries, like foreign missionaries, are supported entirely by the mission board. In reality, only 119 home missionaries receive all of their support from the HMB.

In 1959, the Southern Baptist Convention instructed the Home Mission Board to develop a "single uniform mission program" to prevent duplication of ministries by state conventions and the HMB.

The result is the cooperative agreement, a written document negotiated annually between the HMB and all 37 state conventions and four fellowships.

"The cooperative agreement is the bedrock instrument that provides effective coordination and utilization of the gifts Southern Baptists provide for missions," says Jack Meredith, HMB planning and budgeting coordinator.

Among other things, cooperative agreements outline the financial support for missionaries in each state. In 1992, home missions in Tennessee will be supported 60 percent by the state convention and 40 percent by the Home Mission Board.

In states where Southern Baptist work is not as strong as it is in Tennessee, the Home Mission Board provides a greater percentage of support. For example, in New York the ratio of support is six percent from the state convention and 94 percent from the Home Mission Board.

Additionally, the Home Mission Board provides training conferences, some travel expenses and fringe benefits such as medical insurance for home missionaries in some states.

The nature of the cooperative agreements allows the HMB to implement a convention-wide program of missions, Meredith says. It assures that national priorities are given consideration as well as state needs.

State leaders are responsible for initiating the home missions process. State convention leaders identify places where mission work is needed and recruit people to fill that role. The Home Mission Board becomes involved in training and supervising the missionary.

Home missionaries serve in one of four categories: appointed, approved,

Mission Service Corps, and state administrative personnel.

In 1991, Tennessee had 20 appointed missionaries who are usually long-term or career missionaries. The state had 43 approved missionaries who serve for a limited amount of time.

Mission Service Corps is a national program for volunteers who serve one year or more. People who serve at least two years are included in the missionary count. In 1991, Tennessee has six Mission Service Corps missionaries and three people on the state convention staff who served as home missionaries.

OBU honors Tom Madden

SHAWNEE, Okla. — Tom Madden, retired executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Oklahoma Baptist University.

Madden, a graduate of OBU and an Oklahoma native, was cited Feb. 19 for his commitment to missions, said school officials.

"Tom Madden has distinguished himself as one of Southern Baptists' most outstanding state convention executives. He led the Tennessee Baptist Convention through days of its greatest growth and development," said OBU President Bob R. Agee.

"He has been a strong advocate for and participated in Southern Baptist world missions endeavors for many years. He has given his alma mater every reason to be proud of him,"



MADDEN

Agee added.

Madden retired from the TBC in 1989 at the age of 70. He currently is serving as associate director of Carson-Newman College's Norton Institute for Denominational Service and is pastor of Southside Church, Shelbyville.

Crossville church calls new pastor

Memorial Church, Crossville, recently called Bill Roberts to serve as pastor.

Roberts was pastor of First Southern Church, Pikeville, for 12 years before moving to Crossville. His first pastorate was at Silver Point Church, Cookeville.

The Knoxville native was ordained in 1978 at Homestead Church, Crossville. He earned a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Barbara, have two adult children.

Professor addresses state internationals

International students, church leaders, and campus Baptist Student Union leaders were challenged Jan. 24-25 to both grow in Christ and reach others for him at the International Student Ministry Conference at Henry Horton State Park. Ninety participants from 25 countries attended the conference.

Charles Scalise, assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., led three Bible studies based on John 14-17. Using the theme "Jesus' Farewell Love Letter: Images and Messages," Scalise presented Jesus as advocate, vine, and priest.

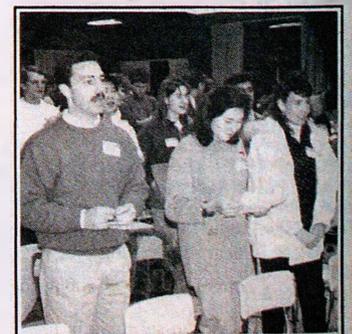
Ron Alley, Christian musician from Nashville, provided music leadership in the general sessions. Danny Hinson, missionary to Japan, and Alia Dzhiebbaeva, Belmont University student from Kazakhstan, gave testimonies.

In addition to general sessions for all participants, separate tracks were provided for the international students and church/BSU leadership. The internationals learned about Christian discipleship and outreach. The leadership track provided training for church and BSU leaders on developing ministries to internationals.

Neil Magee, director of student

ministries for the New England Baptist Convention, helped church and campus leaders understand effective ways to communicate with international students in Tennessee. Last year more than 4000 international students studied at 55 Tennessee colleges and universities.

The conference was made possible by the Golden State Missions Offering and was sponsored by the Student Ministries Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



AT CONFERENCE — Belmont University BSU Director Dane Anthony, left, and Belmont students Alia Dzhiebbaeva, center, and Kathy Skinner participate in the international conference at Henry Horton State Park.

Chile partnership draws Tennesseans to teach 'MKs'

By Connie Davis

Teaching children of missionaries in foreign countries is just as important as any other work done by volunteers, submits Raymond Langlois, who just returned with the first group to participate in the Tennessee/Chile Partnership since its official beginning Jan. 1.

"They told us, 'Tell everybody back home we're normal,' Langlois said of the 57 "missionary kids" taught by the 11-member group during a meeting of Southern Baptist missionaries in Chile.

"Most are happy and well-adjusted, but they feel the problem of being aliens in that (Chilean) society and when they come to the U.S. they're aliens here," explained the pastor of Judson Church, Nashville.

Their parents count the cost before making their commitment to missions, noted Langlois, but the children aren't "called," he stated.

Thus, they pay the highest price. He told of one youngster who,

although bilingual, was confused when asked to write English on activities brought by the group. Because the children attend public schools, they are most familiar with the Spanish language, Langlois said. To save the child embarrassment, team members Chuck and Lydia Padilla, natives of Mexico and thus, fluent in Spanish, directed the child to work in her "native language," he continued.

That experience was just one of many highlights for the Tennessee volunteers, suggested Langlois, who also led an inspirational retreat for the missionaries during the Jan. 10-18 trip. Team members, ten of whom are members of Judson Church, included a psychologist, vice-president of an insurance company, employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and a retiree. Gail West, accounts secretary for an East Tennessee bank, joined the team.

West's venture was one of personal firsts — first mission trip, first airplane travel, and first missions



OUT FOR LUNCH — Volunteers, from left, Lydia Padilla and Juanita Shaver, from Judson Church, Nashville, join MKs, from left, David Parks, Allison Parks, Daniel Baer, and David Baer, and missionary Terri Baer, for lunch at a restaurant.

volunteer from her church, Narrow Valley Church, Rutledge, in 40 years.

West, who left her husband and teenaged daughter to work in Chile, learned about the opportunity from David Tydings, director of missions, Grainger County Association. Her church, family, and business asso-

ciates helped fund the venture.

West gained a new perspective on American life, she said. "We have so much here at home and yet we fail to see that we have anything. It makes me see that we ... should have a whole lot more joy and response toward God in general," said West.

The children were "so appreciative ... of everything we did, even crayons we brought," said West, referring to the Vacation Bible School activities the team led.

West also heard the testimonies of missionaries she described as "very committed" during the meetings and attended a session of the Annual Assembly of the Baptist Convention of Chile in Temuco. West said she won't ever forget the singing of the hymn, "Victory in Jesus" at the assembly. The team also toured Baptist sites in Temuco, where the missionary meeting was held, and Santiago.

"I grew as a Christian," said West, who added she would like to return.

Langlois, a veteran of nine mission trips, noted the dividend is not only personal but churchwide for Judson Church. The church paid about 25 percent of the team's costs and members contributed about 50 percent, he added.

As the team members got to know each other, "the finest kind of fellowship" was created which results in a "great residual effect" on each person and the church, he stated.

Encouraging others to become involved, Langlois said Tennesseans shouldn't hesitate to visit the country because of culture shock — it's minimal because of the European influences in the South American country.

Chile is dotted with resort areas like "little Gatlinburgs" which provide white-water rafting and salmon fishing, he added. However, poor villages also exist, he noted.

Good transportation is readily available and prices are comparable to the United States, he said, adding the economy is the most stable in South America. The only barrier is the language, he said.

The Baptist school campus which was the site of the missionary meeting has about 1000 students and comfortable facilities including a gymnasium and outdoor athletic facilities, described Langlois. Temuco's Baptist association boasts the membership of 45 churches. The city has a population of 250,000.

"It's an emerging country with very sharp people who, although living in a traditionally Catholic country, are open to the Gospel," reported Langlois.

Association 'intentionally' starts church

It had been so long since a church was "birthed correctly" in Hamilton County Association, the constitution didn't provide for the addition of such a church. It only provided for a returning church or one resulting from a split, noted David Myers, director of missions.

According to Larry Kirk of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department, about 85 percent of Ten-

nessee's 68 associations didn't have "intentional starts" last year. About 20 churches were started in Tennessee, but he estimates only ten of those were "intentional starts."

Myers led Hamilton County to defeat the odds when the association took the initiative to start a church.

Dallas Bay Church, Soddy-Daisy, was started by local Baptists with the assistance of the association, Ten-

nessee Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Such a church start hasn't occurred in Hamilton County Association for at least 15 years, according to Myers.

The result three and a half years later is a church which draws an average of 139 people for Sunday morning worship from a community formerly without a Baptist church.

The Dallas Bay/Lake Site community is the location of one of the largest elementary schools in the county, noted Myers. The closest Baptist church was about four miles away, but in the opposite direction from the flow of the community, which is toward Chattanooga, he explained.

Myers and the association's missions development council spearheaded research which led to a survey of the community by the association's summer missionaries. Soon 40-50 people had formed a congregation at the school.

The congregation didn't have a sponsoring church, but Baptists from several churches assisted the congregation before First Church, Golden Gateway, Chattanooga, adopted it.

The association and First Church began sending the congregation money to fund its needs. And when it called its first pastor, Ken Duggan, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board subsidized his salary.

Miraculously, reported Myers, a couple who are members gave the congregation 13 acres across from the school. To help with building costs, the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department contributed money for the building.

On Jan. 5 the Dallas Bay congregation was constituted as a church.

Contrary to the fears of many pastors, new churches don't always draw members from area churches, said Myers, and Dallas Bay Church is an example. Most of its members are those who were not active in any church, he added.

Hindsight has taught Myers the association can't substitute for a sponsoring church because it should not have any power over its member churches. However, the association should initiate, with the support of churches, more church starts, he submitted.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Sending missionaries to other countries is a one-way street?

Most Baptists know better than that, but there are folks who probably see it that way.

They will agree that Christ's Great Commission demands that we who have the Gospel share it with all others — that's all others. But if you don't understand the Great Commission, realizing that it is a command of love, you might think that's all there is to it.



ALLEN

I first met Eleazer Zihembere in Kigali, Rwanda, in January of 1987. A handsome man with a glowing smile and buoyant attitude, he seemed to be everywhere. I was one of two Maryland/Delaware Baptists on an advance team to that small African nation. We were trying to nail down a Partnership Mission.

Zihembere, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Rwanda, traveled with us around the country. His presence opened doors and his Christian spirit enlightened us all along the way.

I can still see him standing in the doorway of the Baptist school at Nyan-tanga, decked out in Texas cowboy boots (a gift from missionary Crawford Keese), explaining his pride in what the school was doing for young Rwandans.

Eleazar, his co-workers, and

Southern Baptist missionaries led us through the partnership process. We were linked — spiritually and in service.

Later he traveled to Maryland and stayed with the Allens and others while capturing the hearts of Maryland/Delaware Baptists. What a leader God put there in Rwanda!

The rest of the story? Well, it is still happening. The partnership's three years have been completed successfully. Mission teams have gone and worked. The Gospel has been preached and people have been saved. Broken bodies have been healed.

I have learned that the gentle leader is still hard at work, however. The churches continue to grow.

Their latest mission is to send help across the world to another Baptist group in need. The first Baptists to start missions have come from Denmark. Rwanda Baptists are answering a call for help.

Zihembere heard of a need for a new church in Esberg, Denmark. There was no money. Baptists of Rwanda said, "Danish Baptists are our parents. We must help them to grow now as they helped us grow." They have collected \$1000 to help start the church.

A map of Denmark is on the wall of every Baptist church in Rwanda — with a star placed on Esberg — a reminder of prayer and financial support for the "overseas" mission.

And that is how Eleazar Zihembere and the Rwandan churches are carrying out the Great Commission.

New ethics center offers first national conference

By Lonnie Wilkey & Art Toalston
NASHVILLE (BP) — The fledgling Baptist Center for Ethics took a key step forward Feb. 3-4 in hosting its first national workshop.

The meeting, centering on "Ethics in the '90s: A New Agenda," drew about 300 participants from 17 states to Nashville's Immanuel Church.

The Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics was formed in September 1991 by "moderate" Southern Baptists disenchanted with what they viewed as a "negative and narrow" approach to ethics exhibited by the Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptists' ethics and moral concerns agency.

Former CLC staffer and interim executive director Robert Parham was tapped to head the new ethics organization.

Parham said the BCE conference was designed to address "issues which have been considered taboo for a number of years." Among workshop speakers' topics were teenage sexuality, the new genetics, racism, and civil religion.

The center's aims, Parham said, include efforts "to describe social problems, to equip people to think about ethical issues, and to equip them to address ethics."

Parham said the conference will give BCE "the traction necessary to break out of the backfield of obscurity into the open field of credibility and visibility," as well as "traction to go out and raise money now."

At present, the center is funded primarily by individuals and some

churches and also has received funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Alliance, said Joel Snider, pastor of Creevewood Church, Nashville, and chairman of BCE's board of directors. The fellowship voted in January to allocate 45 percent of its ethics funds to the center.

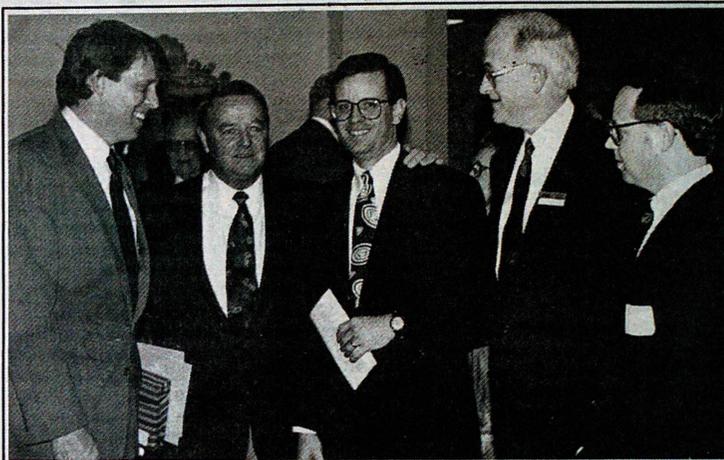
Parham said BCE received about 90 percent of its \$25,000 budget from September through December last year, while costs of the workshop were met by registration fees.

In the area of teenage sexuality, Bill Fletcher, professor of psychology at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, reported on his findings from seven years of research on sexual activities of Christian youth.

According to Fletcher, 63 percent of males and 48 percent of females had sexual intercourse by age 17. His study involved students who took his human sexuality course at Carson-Newman from 1984-91. Of the 313 males and 436 females in the survey, only three percent said they did not go to church. Others in the survey attended an average of 8.5 church services per month.

Fletcher's most recent data, collected in the fall of 1991, showed 66 percent of males and 65 percent of females had had premarital sexual intercourse. Those trends are consistent with students in the population at large, the professor said.

"I suspect that some in the religious community will react ... with shock and perhaps disbelief," Fletcher said.



A NASHVILLE WELCOME — Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden, second from left, is welcomed to Nashville by, from left, Pat Moore, layman, Woodmont Church, and pastors Joel Snider, Creevewood Church, David George, Immanuel Church, and Mike Smith, New Hope Church.

"While I have no supporting evidence, I am convinced that many in our church believe that the Christian values we teach our children are controlling their sexual behaviors. The evidence suggests this is simply not the case."

Christian youth reconcile their sexual behavior with their Biblical teachings by equating love with marriage, Fletcher said. "To them, a loving relationship and commitment to each other are the necessary and essential preconditions for a sexual relationship."

Fletcher said his advice is not to "preach" to teens because they won't listen. Instead, he said, church leaders must establish relationships and build trust so teens will talk candidly with them. Churches also must teach parents how to communicate about sex to their children at an early age, he added.

David Hughes, pastor of First Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., suggested in his address a new ethics agenda for the 1990s is not needed, rather, the one that has stirred America's conscience for decades is sufficient.

"Could it be that in the social turmoil of the '60s, the narcissism of the '70s, and the upwardly mobile sophistication of the '80s that many of us lost touch with salt-of-the-earth virtues like honesty, fidelity, and integrity?" Hughes asked. "Sadly, Southern Baptist denominational life is no exception to this rule. If you don't believe it, just ask our friends at Ruschlikon," he said, referring to controversy surrounding sudden action by Foreign Mission Board trustees last October to cut the board's \$365,000 allocation to European Baptists' Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Hughes targeted Christians for reactive instead of proactive responses to ethical issues. "We need, all of us, to stop being against fundamentalists or liberals and start being for God's agenda in this world. ... My hope for the 1990s is that we Baptists can so get our corporate act together, whether it be in old or new denominational wineskins, that the marketplace of competing ideas will be compelled to consider what we say because of how we live together in Christ."

In a panel discussion on racism, James Kennedy, pastor of Mt. Carmel

Church, Flint, Mich., told of a part-time staff member from a National Baptist background who came to work with his black Southern Baptist congregation. About six months later the man decided to return to National Baptists. Kennedy recounted, quoting one of the minister's reasons: "I've examined Southern Baptist literature and it is second to none. How come they don't practice what they preach?"

Speaking on the new genetics, Ellen Wright Clayton, assistant professor in both pediatrics and law at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, said science's progress in DNA research likely will allow people to "find out exactly what our children are going to look like." And doctors will be able to treat "broken genes" linked to genetic problems.

Other speakers included:

- Jerry Hickson, general pediatrics chief at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, who addressed the rising cost of health care in America. He urged the religious community to become involved in the U.S. health care debate, noting Medicare costs, if unchecked, will require 40 percent of the federal government's budget by the year 2060 to meet the needs of an aging population, and cover ongoing upward medical costs.

- Bobby Bowden, Southern Baptist layman and head football coach at Florida State University in Tallahassee, who said coaches can both "encourage ethics and teach young people to be successful."

— Connie Davis also contributed to this story.

Doug Brown accepts Waynesboro pastorate

Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, recently called Doug Brown as pastor. Brown has served as pastor of Ramble Creek Church, Big Sandy; First Church, Holladay; and Mifflin Church, Mifflin. Philadelphia Church is his first full-time pastorate.

The Collinsville, Ill., native was ordained in 1986 at West Jackson Church, Jackson. He graduated in 1987 from Union University, also in Jackson, and has taken classes toward a master's degree at Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

He and his wife, Anita, have two sons, Andrew and David.

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TenneScene

... From Kyles Ford to Karns,
on to Kimmons ...

Leadership ...

Mitchell Springs Church, Rutledge, called Martin Roach as interim pastor.

Paul Hall, retired associate and former interim director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department and who also served as interim director of missions for several state associations, began serving as interim pastor of Salem Springs Church, Murfreesboro, Feb. 9.

Sheldon Hale is the new pastor of Blessed Hope Church, Troy.

Thomas Woodard Jr., recently joined the staff of Southeast Church, Murfreesboro, as minister of education and administration. He came to Tennessee from Mississippi where he served First Church, Senatobia, for 11 years. He is a graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prince serves Memphis

Audubon Park Church, Memphis, has called Michael L. Prince, pastor, First Southern Church, San Diego, Calif., effective March 1.

Prior to his current position, Prince was director of missions, Long Beach Harbor Association, Long Beach, Calif. Additionally, he has been pastor of First Southern Church, Long Beach, Calif.; First Southern Church, Fallbrook, Calif.; First Southern Church, Ferris, Texas; First Church, Tioga, Texas; and Millville Church, Henderson, Texas.

A native of Oklahoma, Prince is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, from which he earned a doctor of ministry degree. He is a member of the board of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Brenda Dooley Prince, have three children.



PRINCE

tist Theological Seminary.

West Memorial Church, Saulsberry, recently called L. Scott Wilson as pastor.

Fordtown Church, Kingsport, called Jack Randles as interim pastor.

Freida Bunton is the new preschool division director and Doug Hinshaw the new minister of students at Skyline Heights Church, Johnson City.

Rick Keith is now serving as minister of education and youth at Midway Church, Johnson City.

Emmanuel Church, Humboldt, recently called Jerry Coln as pastor.

William E. Burney is the interim pastor at Shandy Church, Bolivar.

Doug Rayburn recently accepted the pastorate of Union Hill Church, Ardmore.

Bob Peek is the new interim pastor at Grassy Valley Church, Knoxville.

Athens native R. C. Hammonds is the new pastor at Lamontville Church, Calhoun, where he was ordained to the Gospel ministry last year. This is his first pastorate.

Churches ...

Members of Middleburg Church, Bolivar, recently burned the note on their new fellowship hall.

The congregation of Mountain View Church, Greeneville, gathered Jan. 5 to break ground for a new worship and education center. The new building will seat 450 people in the sanctuary and accommodate 750 people in the educational center. James Cambron is pastor.

Members of Lea Springs Church, Blaine, recently burned the note for their new heating and air system. The \$10,000 debt was paid off in seven months.

The new auditorium at New Hope Church, Dyer, was dedicated Feb. 9.

Revivals ...

Revival led by Mark Kitts will begin March 16 at New Blackwell Church, New Blackwell.

Evangelists Ray Hedrick and Joe Sexton will lead revival beginning March 1 at Puncheon Camp Church, Washburn.

Mt. View Church, Antioch, will hold revival March 8-11 with evangelist Verlon Moore. Wayne Wray will be music evangelist.

Revival will be March 1-5 at First Church, Lenoir City. Jack May will lead the services, and Price Harris will be guest musician.

Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Church, Nashville, will lead revival March 1-4 at Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain.

Calvin Metcalf will begin revival March 1 at First Church, Kingston. Tom Willoughby will be guest musician.

Ordinations ...

Steve Rhodes was ordained to the deacon ministry of Eastview Church, Ramer, Feb. 9.

Scotty Stanford was ordained to the Gospel ministry Feb. 2 at First Church, Franklin.

On Baptist Men's Day, Jan. 26, John Boyd, Troy Crowder, Carl Inglis, Doyal McNabb, and Tim Ownby were ordained to the deacon ministry of Waterville Church, Cleveland.

Red River Church, Adams, ordained



TRUSTEE RECOGNIZED — Bob York, right, an investment planner and member of First Church, Nashville, recently received a plaque of appreciation from Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. for completing eight years of service as a trustee. — Photo by David Haywood

John B. Nolen to the deacon ministry Feb. 2.

Hospitals ...

Baptist Hospital, Nashville, will offer a free seminar on "Exercise and Arthritis" Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the hospital's West Building Auditorium. The seminar will explain the principles of exercise and how a modified program can work for people with limited mobility. A demonstration of specific home exercises will be presented. For more information or to make a reservation, call (615) 329-2784.

McSwain accepts call

Mansfield Church has called Mark McSwain, former interim pastor, as bivocational as 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.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

The Eagle is flying high in the east. I am referring to the Carson-Newman Eagle. I am not referring to the winning season of the football team. I am talking about the bold venture being undertaken by the board of trustees and the institution itself.

I shared a few weeks ago in their campaign kickoff. It is called "Of Minds and Miracles." It is a \$50 million campaign. Thirty-three percent of this would go into their current operating needs over the years to come; 27 percent into their permanent endowment; 23 percent into a new student activities center; and 17 percent into the facilities and equipment of the school.

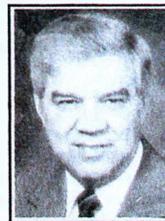
At the campaign luncheon it was announced that the board of trustees, board of advisors, and the faculty and staff were 100 percent in making either gifts or pledges to the campaign. This indicates a high level of commitment on the part of those most closely

related to the school. Their gifts and pledges came to almost \$3 million.

President Cordell Maddox reported that great strides have already been made toward the achievement of the goal of the campaign. It was a most encouraging report from him to the friends who were gathered at the school. We were able to participate in the groundbreaking for the new student activities center in the afternoon. I commend those responsible for this bold step of faith on the part of our school.

It is an appropriate time for alumni and friends of Carson-Newman to step forward and make a significant gift of pledge to the campaign. Our three colleges can continue to minister only if those believe in them support them. If you are a friend of Carson-Newman don't wait for someone to call on you, give them a call and volunteer your support. That will make it a double blessing.

We must enable our schools to provide quality Christian education. We must pray for them and encourage them in that direction. This can be done only if we're ready to provide quality support to the schools.



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The conference is sponsored by the Church Media Library/Church Recreation Office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Call (615) 371-2033.

Tanzanian relief project yields new believers, congregations

ARUSHA, Tanzania (BP) — The success of Southern Baptist hunger relief in Tanzania can be seen in the grateful eyes of an elderly Maasai man.

"He was gaunt, gray-headed, and very old," recalled Southern Baptist missionary Billy Oliver of Abilene, Texas. "He said his family was hungry and that some of his children were going days without food. Before he left with his food, he came over and, with tears in his eyes, expressed his appreciation for what we were doing."

Oliver has distributed more than 500 tons of food to nearly 5000 families affected by drought in the east African nation. But the face of the Maasai man, locked in an expression of relief

Baptist leaders meet with pope

Three Southern Baptist leaders met with Catholic Pope John Paul II and other Vatican officials in Rome recently to explore possibilities for an international, interfaith effort to combat child and hard-core pornography.

Southern Baptists who participated at the Vatican Jan. 30 were Richard Land, of Nashville, executive director of the Christian Life Commission; Oscar Romo of Atlanta, director of the Language Church Extension Division, Home Mission Board; and H. Robert Showers, Christian Life Commission trustee.

The meeting produced a document, entitled "Declaration of Concern and Common Conviction Regarding the Problem of Pornography," pledging interfaith action against the spread of child and hard-core pornography. Land

and gratitude, lingers in Oliver's mind.

The dilemma the old man faces also oppresses the lives of many other people as the drought tightens its grip on Tanzania's Arusha area. The dry savanna region, at the base of Africa's tallest mountain, Kilimanjaro, is in its second year of little or no rain. Oliver knows of five starvation deaths in the area.

The \$106,000 hunger relief project became possible because of Southern Baptists' donations channeled through the Foreign Mission Board's hunger relief fund.

Since November 1991 Oliver has given 200-pound bags of dried corn or 110-pound bags of cornmeal to local

was a member of the subcommittee that drafted the declaration.

Land, Romo, and Showers were among 19 U.S. religious leaders from a variety of denominations who met with the pope to encourage Vatican support for the effort. Included in the group were Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Mormons, Pentecostals, and representatives of the Salvation Army, the National Council of Churches, and National Association of Evangelicals.

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families through area Baptist churches, involving three Maasai and four Arusha churches. Most people in the area are Arusha, giving their tribe's name to the region and the town of 55,000. Oliver and his wife, Janice, of Muleshoe, Texas, live in the town of Arusha.

Evangelistic efforts among the Arusha and the Maasai have benefited by linking hunger relief to the local Baptist churches. The most recent result is the opening of a Baptist church Jan. 5. At the first service, 78 Maasai adults attended and 34 of them made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

"This village church, like almost all the others, started through hunger relief or human needs ministries," Oliver said. "When I have an opportunity to evangelize people, I try to take it. Hunger relief or human needs provide excellent opportunities for

evangelism. We want to alleviate hunger but we also want to have an opportunity to preach the Gospel."

At each distribution, located in villages scattered throughout the area, Oliver or a church leader begins with a worship service. Oliver estimates they have preached to 1300 Maasai.

In 1988, when Oliver began church development in the Arusha area, 12 Baptist churches and "preaching points" were meeting. Today the area has 26 churches and 12 preaching points.

"We've seen an openness to the Gospel like we've never seen before in Arusha," he explained. "Baptists are known for their compassion and the people have responded to that."

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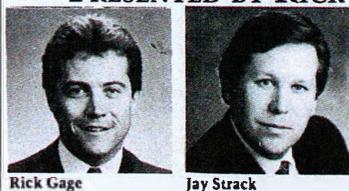
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Israel's moral decay

By Jerry Winfield, pastor; First Church, Bolivar

Beginning in chapter 4, the spiritual adultery of the Israelites is portrayed in detail. The symbolic acts of Hosea's marriage illustrated the people's unfaithfulness. The messages of chapter 4 and following describe that unfaithfulness. We see a dark and dreadful picture in which warning is repeatedly given of the inevitable judgment such unfaithfulness brings. Yet, God stood ready to pardon and restore if only Israel would repent and return to Him.

God's case against Israel (ch. 4:1-3)
A common prophetic device was to use a courtroom scene to deliver the prophet's message. Verses 1-3 of chapter 4 take this form. God was the prosecutor who brought the charges, but He was also the judge who rendered the verdict.

Almost unbelievable are the sins of omission and commission committed by the Israelites. Their failure made them spiritually no different from

those in nature who had no knowledge of God.

God's accusation against the priests (ch. 4:4-10)

Even though the people of the nation were sinful, God did not hold them totally responsible. The distinction of being the primary offenders was reserved for Israel's spiritual leaders, the priests.

The priests had failed their responsibilities miserably. Not only did the priests refuse to share God's will with the people, they didn't even know God themselves (v. 6). They were so corrupt they were glad when the people sinned because it meant more sacrifices for them to share (v. 8). Sadly, the people were no better than their priests, and God promised spiritual famine as a result (v. 10).

God's condemnation of pagan worship (ch. 4:11-5:7)

The enticement of pagan worship was too much for Israel, Hosea knew

firsthand the sins of unfaithfulness and he painted a sordid picture of the Israelites sin. When they finally sank as low as they could go spiritually, they called out to God, but neither the people nor leaders could find Him.

The crises of civil war (ch. 5:8-14)

In the midst of Israel's moral and spiritual decay came a military and political crisis. The nation of Assyria had designs on Palestine, and Israel and Syria tried to enlist Judah's aid to thwart this threat. Instead Judah sought Assyria's help against Israel. The ultimate result was the doom of both kingdoms. Israel was destroyed and Judah became a vassal of the Assyrian king. Despite their efforts to prevent it, God's judgment came against both segments of His people.

Israel's shallow repentance (ch. 5:15-6:6)

When the Israelites realized their moral and political predicament, the people engaged in what appeared to be repentance (v. 1). In fact, as these verses show, God knew the intent of

their heart. He recognized that what the people desired was only a removal of the consequences of their sin (v. 4). In their calling out to the Lord, the people never mentioned sorrow for their sin or real repentance as evidenced by a change of heart and actions.

BIBLE BOOK
February 23 Lesson
Basic Passage: Hosea 4:1-7:2

Deep sins that must be corrected (ch. 6:7-7:2)

The Israelites mistakenly believed God would overlook their sins because of His covenant with them. Hosea once again reminded them it was precisely because they broke the covenant that God was going to judge them. He compared their sin to the actions of the barbarous robbers of Gilead. So deep and serious was their sin that even the religious leaders encouraged them in their evil. As a result, God had no choice but judgment.

The 'Hallelujah Chorus'

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

Have you ever sung in a church choir with organ, piano, and orchestra accompanists? I have, and it was terrific.

Can you picture yourself being a member of a huge heavenly choir that sings praises to God? As exciting as it sounds, I cannot begin to comprehend the size and sound. You may not be able to carry a tune on earth, but in heaven you will be able to sing as never before.

We do not have to delay our praise to God until we get to heaven. We can praise Him now in our worship services, prayer meetings, and Bible studies.

The apostle John spent his last years in and around Ephesus. During the reign of Emperor Domitian, he was exiled to Patmos, approximately A.D. 90-95. During the last years of Domitian's reign, there was an increase in opposition and persecution of Christians. Christians were in great need of encouragement to face these opposi-

tions. These needs came from God as John focused on God's ultimate victory over Satan.

We, too, can find hope and encouragement in these God-breathed words that comforted John. Verses 2-4 are considered as three songs in one: the song of victory over all satanic forces, the two songs of deliverance of Moses and the children at the Red Sea and of Jesus at Calvary, and the song of praise and adoration by Christians of "all nations."

CONVENTION UNIFORM
February 23 Lesson
Basic Passage: Rev. 15:2-4, 19:1-8

John had a vision of people standing on a flaming sea of glass (v. 2) sharing in the victory over the beast. Who is the beast? I believe he is Satan. This pictures the final victory of God's people singing songs of victory and praise to their God and all His wondrous works.

God's people in every age have experienced great opposition. From the Israelites, and Pharaoh's confrontation at the Red Sea, to the dispersion of the early church, the followers of God and the New Testament Christians have been persecuted.

Even in our day opposition is great. The intrusion of government and the world into the church; civil and spiritual unrest of church members; lack of spiritual knowledge, increase of cults and occults, slaughter of innocent unborn babies; ravages of sexual, drug, and physical abuse; and breakdown of the homes are only some of the enemies of Christianity.

We come now to the revelation in chapter 19, which describes the worship of God in heaven. To me, these verses imply that all God's people in the Old and New Testaments are in unity in the worship of God. The important thing is the elders and beasts are worshipping and singing God's

praises together. They are saying "amen, alleluia." Amen means "so be it." Alleluia means "praise the Lord."

While the elders and beasts are worshipping and singing, an unknown voice is heard from God's throne calling on all to "praise our God." I see at least three points in verses 4 and 5. (1) All God's people, great or small, are to praise Him. (2) There is only one status for all who stand before the throne. (3) Worshipping together in unity of spirit is one of many responsibilities of the Christian. "Forsake not the assembling together to worship" (Hebrews 10:25).

The chorus was so astounding that John described it as "a great multitude." Their message was "Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." This worship precedes the marriage of the Lamb. As the bride is arrayed in white, we are clothed in white, for Jesus has cleansed us from our sins and all unrighteousness.

Giving priority to persons

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

Saying "yes" to one thing usually means saying "no" to something else, and making others a priority requires us to rearrange our attitudes, activities, and energies. All the components of our "to do" lists are important, but frequently we are forced to redefine and sharpen our focus on what is really important.

Matthew's chapter 12 opens with two incidents in Jesus' life in which His handling of the situation did not support the priorities of the Pharisees. Religious tradition and the activities of the Sabbath topped the Pharisees' priority list, which was known for pushing persons to a lower rank of importance.

Verses 1-8 show Jesus and the disciples walking through a grain field enroute. In that day it was lawful for a traveler to enter a path through a vineyard or grain field and pluck a

grape or head of grain provided he did not gather grapes in a container nor use a sickle to gather grain. This humanitarian provision by the farmers enabled the disciples to pluck the grain rightfully and lawfully.

The Pharisees, taking issue with Jesus over the disciples' behavior, accused Jesus of condoning their actions on the Sabbath. The Sabbath became to the Pharisees a revered, holy time frame which ultimately became a burden with the hundreds of laws governing one's action on the day. Holy do's and don't's were not Jesus' intentions for the Sabbath. To illustrate the burdensome Pharisaical rules, one could not eat an egg laid on the Sabbath nor drag a stick in the dirt — both actions represented work with the hen working and the person with the stick plowing.

Jesus' reply to the accusers referred

to King David and his men eating the showbread in the temple (1 Samuel 21:1-6). He continued, emphasizing the Sabbath is a working day for the clergy, yet they are not viewed as violating the Sabbath. To paraphrase Jesus' words in verses 6-7, the Pharisees were so blinded by their unhealthy allegiance to the Sabbath and their self-imposed rules, they "couldn't see the forest for the trees." They were oblivious to Jesus' authority over the Temple and the priority of persons over rules.

LIFE AND WORK
February 23 Lesson
Basic Passage: Matthew 12:1-21

With no real concern for the withered hand (possibly the dominant working hand) of the man in verse ten, they posed the question, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" Jesus'

answer in verses 11-12 said it all: "It is lawful to do well on the Sabbath!"

Writer Herschel Hobbs' thoughts put the lesson into proper perspective. The ancient Jews almost defied the Sabbath. Today the multitudes turn the holy day into a holiday. "The truth is found somewhere between the two extremes."

Jesus would surely say to us today that the Sabbath is for worship, for doing good, for setting aside to rest, for making different from the other six days of the week, and not for doing all the things on our "to do" list that we put off doing during the week. I don't believe Jesus would tell us to withhold our efforts to help or heal others on this day. After all, God is glorified through our love and our expressions of love for others, even if it means not being able to execute our normal Sunday activities at church occasionally in order to improve another's life.

TENNESSEE BROTHERHOOD

a quarterly newsletter paid for by the Tennessee Brotherhood Department

Disaster Relief Training

Statewide Disaster Relief Training will be held March 6-7 at Clearview Church, Franklin. Program begins Friday - ends with lunch on Saturday. Lunch will be prepared from the disaster unit.

Basic training will be offered for those who previously have not had any training. Child care training, a safety course for clean-up crews, and a session for ham radio operators also is being offered.

Clearview Church is on Highway 31 between Brentwood and Franklin, about three miles south of the TBC offices.

Attendees will need to make their own overnight reservations. Hampton Inn (615/373-2212) is in Brentwood. There is a Best Western Maxwell's Inn (615/790-0570) and Holiday Inn (615/794-7591) in Franklin.

Sheetrock Schools

Two schools on how to hang sheetrock for construction volunteers are being held on Feb. 22 and March 21.

The February workshop is being held at Blythe Avenue Church in Cleveland.

The March workshop is being held at Potter's in Oak Ridge. These are Saturday events and each person will need to bring a sack lunch along with his sheetrock tools.

For further information, call Curtis Fowler at (615) 588-6047 or the Brotherhood Department (615) 371-2026.

Lay Renewal Training

Lay Renewal training is being conducted Feb. 21-22 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. This training is designed for those interested in being a Lay Renewal coordinator or member. Please contact Tom Brown at (615) 893-9328 for further information.

RA Racers for the Dakotas

We have received a request from Norman Wagoner, Brotherhood Director of the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship for used RA Racers.

Since our Congress RA Racer rules state, "All RA Racers are to be newly made, they are not to have been run in a previous Tennessee State Congress," we know there are at least 600 cars from last year's Congress. This is a simple way to help others. Just ship your old race cars to: Norman Wagoner, Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 7187, Bismarck, ND 58502, (701) 255-3765.



May 28-31
Rhodes College -
Memphis
Single room with
8 meals - \$165
Shared room with
8 meals - \$145
meals only - \$90

Baptist Young Men

• March 21-29 - Baptist Young Men's Home Missions Project in San Francisco, Calif., work project, 25 men needed, \$200 each.

• June 22-28 - Baptist Young Men's Canoe Retreat in Ely, Minnesota, canoeing and fishing, open for ten, \$225 each.

• July 20-Aug. 6 - Baptist Young Men's Overseas Missions Project in Lima, Peru, work project, ten men needed, \$1100 each from Miami.

Missions Flag Campaign

In the August 1991 meeting of the RA/HSBYM Fellowship of Leaders the Missions Flag Campaign was born. The campaign is to raise monies needed to purchase a new set of foreign flags for such events as RA Congress, Brotherhood Convention, etc.

Individuals, chapters, units, and churches can pick the flag they want to purchase (for \$50 per flag). In return, they receive information on the Southern Baptist missions work of that country for the purpose of creating a missions study.

If you need more information or an order form contact the Brotherhood Department.

State Prayer Retreat

The statewide Brotherhood Prayer Retreat will be held March 27-28 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Featured program speakers are Wallace Williams, executive director of the Penn-South Jersey Baptist Convention, and Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men.

All Tennessee Baptist pastors, laymen, and spouses are invited to participate in this great weekend of spiritual development. Participants are asked to make their own room reservations and meal arrangements. The program begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27, and ends on Saturday at noon. Plan to bring a car or van full of folks from your church.

This retreat is jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Prayer Office and the Brotherhood Department.

Brotherhood president shares dreams

By Dewey Dunn, Nashville

This is a personal report to you because our plans for Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood are discussed in other articles. Because of the January mission trip to Venezuela, 1992 has already been a tremendous blessing in my life. The Health Care projects have continued after the Tennessee/Venezuela Partnership and our 12th project was the most significant thus far. There were 134 volunteers from 18 states who served in the Caracas area with almost 11,000 patients seen and nearly 1000 persons accepting Christ. The testimonies of volunteers tell about God's power, love, witness, miracles, tears, joy, blessings, and victory. This team had clinics at 23 sites where new work has been targeted and there were eye clinics in two established churches. We had a visit with the minister of health and explained about our Baptist work. The academic team shared new developments with Venezuelan health professionals and Venezuelan students worked in clinics with our volunteer dentists and physicians. The Venezuelan Baptist leadership felt that the Capitol '92 Project began a new era for Baptists in the Caracas area. We praise God for our missionaries and the partnership with Venezuelan Baptists.

This week we have a team going to the Philippines to do another Health Care project. This is our third trip related to the Tennessee/Philippines Partnership. We have only about half the number of persons requested. Many on this team have previous mission experience which gives us confidence that the Lord will give us victory as He did in 1991.

It is my personal challenge to Tennessee Baptists that each person seek opportunity to be involved in Bold Missions (unless there is a significant limitation). With our new partnership with Chile, many Tennessee Baptists have opportunity to respond to God's call for volunteers.

I look forward to meeting many of you in March at our Prayer Retreat and at the Brotherhood meeting in August.



38th Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress

Are you ready? It's coming April 17-18 at Union University, Jackson. The theme is "Missions Involvement Through Embracing the Word."

Our special guests will be Chuck Maxwell, a contemporary Christian recording artist, on Friday and Brad Goad, the illusionist we had at our 36th congress, on Saturday.

There are many things from years past and new as well. Information on all of the Congress events can be found in the five-year Congress Information Packet with updated information in the Congress Supplement.

In Need Of A Few Young Men

The Brotherhood Department is in need of a few young men ages 17 and older to serve as summer missionaries on the TRAC (Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camp) staff. Over the last six years, 35 percent of those who have served on the TRAC staff are in or preparing for full-time service to our Lord.

Applications are available from the Brotherhood Department. Many are seeking these positions so apply soon.

New Brotherhood Bookstores

For the convenience of those who do not have access to Baptist Bookstores, the Brotherhood Commission has placed materials in the following: Parsons Christian Bookstore, 109 Tennessee Ave. North, Parsons, Tenn. 38363, (901) 847-7614 and Under the Banner Bookstore, 5225 Hixson Pike, Hixson, Tenn. 37343.

Alaska Mission Trips Available

Again this year, Tennessee Brotherhood has been asked by the Alaska Brotherhood to come north to Alaska.

A training trip will be headed by Frank Green on May 11-15. This trip needs six individuals with the ability to lead age level training. For further information contact Frank Green, (615) 623-2764.

The second is an opportunity to help with Alaska's RA summer camp which will be headed by Steve Steinmann June 22-26. This trip needs ten individuals to be counselors and lead different camp events. For further information contact Steve Steinmann, (615) 356-2862.

TRAC '92

There is something new at TRAC 1992. TRAC as we have had in the past, will now be called Regular TRAC Groups A, B, and C. From your request, we will begin our new Lad's TRAC which will include Lad's Half TRAC and Lad's Full TRAC.

Lad's Half TRAC - a shortened camp - will be available the first week of Camp Carson and Camp Linden. The first Half TRAC is Monday-Wednesday and the other Wednesday-Friday.

Lad's Full TRAC will be the second week of Camp Carson and Camp Linden, and at the week of Camp Cordova. Lad's Full TRAC will be a full week of camp.

Lad's TRAC will be limited to 35 campers so get your registration in early to secure a spot for your Lad's.

Last year we had to cancel the Adventure Float trip. Other speciality camps such as Adventure Challenge and Man/Boy Weekends are also on the schedule for this year.

TRAC dates, location, times, and cost can be found in the Congress supplement. TRAC promotion will be mailed in early spring. Or call the department for information. Should you need more information before main promotion is mailed please, call the department.



WORLD CHANGERS
Southern Baptist Youth Making A Difference

Coed Youth Missions
U.S. AND FOREIGN PROJECTS

Call (901) 272-2461

or write World Changers, Brotherhood Commission,
1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38104