

# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

## BJCPA, CLC oppose government proposal on church giving

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs have expressed strong disapproval to Congress of a White House proposal requiring churches to make burdensome and unprecedented government reports on contributors.

Under the proposal in President George Bush's recently announced 1993 budget, churches and religious organizations would be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service the name, address, Taxpayer Identification Number, amount given, and the circumstances under which contributions were made on every person who gave more than \$500 during the calendar year. The Tax Identification Number usually is the person's Social Security number.

If passed, the reporting requirement would affect about 80 percent of Southern Baptist churches. Churches with receipts of less than \$25,000 in a year would not be required to make such reports. About 7500 of the Convention's 38,000 churches report annual contributions of less than \$25,000, said a staff member in the Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department.

The CLC, joined by the National Association of Evangelicals, and the BJC wrote separate letters criticizing the proposal shortly before the President's tax-package proposal was reported to the House of Representatives without recommendation by the Ways and Means Committee Feb. 12.

The proposal would not only burden many small churches but would entangle liable churches in the "government's tax collection business," the CLC, and NAE said in a letter to leaders of Congress' tax-writing committees.

The reporting requirement "would offend deeply held religious principles about the privacy of one's gift to God through the church," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the CLC, and Robert Dugan, director of the NAE's office of public affairs.

While the government may be expected "to impose reasonable requirements for documentation" of gifts to churches and other charities, the burden for obtaining such information should be on the donor, Land and Dugan said in their letter.

"The church or charity should not be made the tax enforcement agent of the government," they said. "At the very least, churches and other religious charities should be exempted from the proposed reporting requirement."

## Committee names Chapman to succeed Bennett Action taken on disputed fund, homosexuals

By Wm. Fletcher Allen and Lonnie Wilkey

Election of Morris Chapman to succeed Harold Bennett as its president-treasurer was the major action taken by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee at the Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville.

Other actions included approval of a recommended SBC operating budget of \$4.2 million for 1992-93 (an increase of 4.67 percent) and the Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$140.1 million.

Chapman, current SBC president and pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, will begin work June 15 after the SBC session in Indianapolis.

A recognized leader of the "conservative" movement in the convention, Chapman is completing his second one-year term as SBC president. He was elected by the committee without a dissenting vote. Chapman will succeed Bennett on Oct. 1 following Bennett's Sept. 30 retirement.

The Executive Committee also acted on an issue that has been discussed by Southern Baptists for months. A reallocation of a \$300,000 disputed fund claimed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the SBC Christian Life Commission will be recommended to the SBC in June.

The fund was initiated in 1964 by the convention to provide financial aid for the BJCPA in building an office in Washington. Through the years the BJCPA has drawn interest on the principal — and the Executive Committee recommendation would give a remaining \$84,000 interest to the BJCPA and reallocate the \$300,000 principal. (See separate story.)

Another action finds the Executive Committee positioned against homosexuality and against two churches considering homosexual situations. Members adopted a resolution singling out two North Carolina churches, and approved a motion instructing their administrative subcommittee to develop a proposed change to the SBC constitu-

tion and/or bylaws — for convention action. (See separate story.)

The election of Chapman to succeed Harold C. Bennett occupied most of the Monday evening (Feb. 17) business

"Southern Baptists keep on doing things that are proven and tried."

The Texas pastor said he views himself as "a servant of Southern Baptists" and pledged to "carry out the



**CHAPMAN WELCOMED** — Three Tennessee members of the SBC Executive Committee congratulate new president-treasurer Morris H. Chapman. From left, Chapman; Joe Warwick and Hollie Miller, Knoxville; and James Cooley, Chattanooga.

session. Chapman was elected with no dissenting votes cast.

Julian Motley of North Carolina, chairman of the search committee, told Executive Committee members the committee came to the clear conviction "Morris Chapman is the man God has chosen to fill this responsibility in our denomination at this time."

Motley noted Chapman "has distinguished himself as a man of vision and diplomacy" as a pastor and denominational leader.

He also cited Chapman as one who is "theologically conservative" and who "has demonstrated his personal commitment to the direction taken by the Southern Baptist Convention theologically and toward a sound, Biblical evangelism and missions thrust."

In accepting the post, Chapman said, "I want God's will, nothing more, nothing less."

Chapman said he desires to see

will of the majority while working toward bringing healing in the denomination.

Chapman's base salary and housing will be \$120,000 annually, plus normal retirement and insurance benefits and transition costs. Chapman's salary is below the current salary of Bennett. Motley said.

A six-month transition period for the incoming and retiring executive officers was approved by the Executive Committee. Bennett, 67, will be feted at a number of receptions beginning with the annual meeting in Indianapolis in June.

Harold and Phyllis Bennett will receive all expenses paid through 1995 for commitments he has as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, expenses for the couple to attend SBC annual meetings throughout their lives, a 1993 Lincoln Towne Car automobile.

— See Committee names, page 5

## March 13-14 Youth Evangelism Conference set

Southern Baptist evangelist Jay Strack of Dallas and pastor Rick Ousley of Birmingham, Ala., will lead the 1992 Youth Evangelism Conference set for March 13-14 at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gymnasium.

The two speakers will address duplicate sessions to provide for the anticipated 30,000 youth who are expected to attend.

Strack, head of the Dallas-based Jay Strack Evangelistic Association, will speak Friday while Ousley, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birm-

ingham, will address the youth on Saturday.

Special music will be provided by Chris and Diane Machen, concert and recording artists from Dallas. The Tennessee all-state youth choir also will perform.

Tennessee youth on the program include Heather Denton, state Acteen panelist from Bolivar; John Highsmith, state Royal Ambassador president from Nashville; and Chad Segreaves, state youth speaker's tournament winner from Huntingdon.

Youth from Middle and West Tennessee are asked to attend the Friday (March 13) session from 4:30-6:00 p.m. East Tennessee youth will meet from 8:00-9:30 p.m.

On Saturday (March 14), the session for Middle and West Tennessee will be 9:30-11:00 p.m. Those youth will then



STRACK



OUSLEY

attend personal witnessing conferences at area churches from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

The schedule is reversed for East Tennessee youth.

All times stated are Central Standard Time.

Interpretation for the deaf will be provided.

For additional information, contact the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058.

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## Editorials

# Mission to Michigan, cup of water in Gatlinburg

Southern Baptists have the honor and privilege of participating in two of the greatest missions efforts in world history. We believe in teaching and preaching the Gospel in the homeland and wherever people live on God's earth.

Two elements are emphasized strongly in each emphasis — prayer and financial support. The third emphasis, of course, is the going — in person. We have that opportunity in various plans — including our Partnership Mission with Chile, and mission work with Michigan, Gatlinburg, and many other places.

The homeland effort is emphasized this year March 1-8. Tennessee Baptist churches join with thousands of Southern Baptist churches in the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, and in the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

The national goal for the home missions offering is \$41 million and Tennessee's goal is about seven and a half percent of that — \$3.1 million.

The emphasis for foreign missions comes in December.

The goal of reaching all people with the Gospel by the year 2000 is admirable and reachable. But it is tenuous sometimes, like a rope stretched out beyond its length.

When we think of all the reasons not to participate in either prayer or giving, we humor evil

### The year 1991

## A significant time, one of God's surprises in history

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND (BP) — It may never top 1492 in the textbooks, but 1991 ranks with 1917 and 1945 as one of the most significant years of this century.

Historians will remember 1991 as the year Soviet communism — long in intensive care — finally expired, unleashing forces of change worldwide in all spheres of life, including religious faith.

Several world watchers associated with the work of Southern Baptists abroad recently reflected on the significance of the year. Christians should celebrate the Soviet empire's demise, they agreed. But they cautioned that the church faces plenty of other challenges to its global advance.

"The demise of communist control is obvious in the big changes that have come in Eastern Europe," said Clark Scanlon, director of research and planning at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "What's not readily apparent is that this has a domino effect all over where you had strong Soviet and communist influence — Nicaragua, El Salvador, Angola, and Ethiopia. We're talking about a rock thrown into a pond that continues to have a ripple effect in many places.

"I see what happened in 1991 as one of God's surprises in history, and this warns you once again of the danger of just extrapolating, projecting what's happening today into the future — because we have some things like this that fundamentally change alignment," Scanlon said.

Anglican mission researcher David Barrett also admits the danger of forecasting the future. Several years ago he predicted communism would collapse — in about 2010.

By the end of 1991 "roughly one billion people in the world who formerly were attached to non-Christian ideologies suddenly found themselves rootless," said Barrett, who researches the unevangelized world for the Foreign Mission Board and other mission agencies.

"Obviously, this is mostly the Soviet

Union and Eastern Europe but it also applies to all their ideological colleagues throughout the world. I knew Marxism had fallen into evil times for maybe 20 years with young people but the total collapse of anti-Christian ideology like that is something nobody could forecast. We were all caught napping by the speed of events."

Unfortunately, the church is still napping, Barrett contends.

"You get the greatest missionary situation in 2000 years suddenly happening over a period of weeks and the reaction of the churches is quite extraordinary," he said. "It's almost a cynical reaction, very similar to (the reaction to) Kublai Khan. (In 1266 A.D.) the famous Mongol emperor of China specifically invited the Western church to send 100 missionaries . . . and was (virtually) ignored. Up to now, that was the greatest missed opportunity in Christian history. Well, this one could be the same if we don't do better than what has been happening the last four months."

Western Christians aren't ignoring the opening of the former Soviet world, Barrett stressed. Many groups, including Southern Baptists, strive to respond to countless new evangelism and mission opportunities. But as in the past, Christianity's fragmentation prevents unified response. And while different denominations dither or compete, changing conditions, or another military coup could close the open window in the former Soviet Union at any time.

Often in history Christians "pray for China to open up or they pray that Genghis Khan may be overthrown or something like that," Barrett said. "The situation that evolves is in effect what we've been praying for but in an unrecognizable form and we don't know what to do with it. Well, our prayers have been answered. The one billion (formerly closed) people can now (be reached) . . . The bad news is that God is not offering them to us already converted on a plate. We now have to proceed with your part of the bargain."

and sell short the Gospel. And we injure our own faith and message by demonstrating unconcern and lack of courage.

Perhaps some facts about missions in America (including Tennessee) will help melt the ice:

- Cost of operating the Home Mission Board per month — \$7,062,708.
- HMB budget for 1992 — \$84.7 million.
- HMB supports work of 4573 missions personnel in 50 states, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, American Virgin Islands, Canada.
- A Korean church is born every week, and there are more than 600 in the United States.
- There are 3000 Spanish-speaking Southern Baptist churches in the U.S.
- One of every two missions started by Southern Baptists is ethnic or black.
- Americans use more than 636 languages to communicate with each other.
- Jews are the largest non-Christian group in the U.S., numbering more than five million. Islam may replace Judaism as the largest by 2000.
- Among its ministries, the HMB used Annie Armstrong offering funds in 1991 to help missionary Arlie McDaniel with coordinating volunteer groups serving in Hawaii, assisted Rainy Lake Church of International Falls, Minn., with the cost of utilities, funded a deaf interpreters' workshop in Birm-

ingham, Ala., provided a winter clothing allowance for the state evangelism director in Anchorage, Alaska, and assisted with distribution of Scripture among Hispanics, Ukrainians, and Koreans in Harrisburg, Pa.

These were all small amounts — and only a handful of many such ministries.

● Of 250 million people in the United States, an estimated 174 million are without Christ. Many more than half the people are lost! Do we live in a Christian nation?

It is good to know that 100 percent of the Easter Offering for Home Missions is used to support the work of home missions on the field. None of it is used in Atlanta for operating expenses.

Tennessee Baptists again have the blessing and opportunity to touch people in the homeland through habitual prayer and sacrificial giving — to enhance the work done by the Home Mission Board.

The Week of Prayer begins March 1, lasting for a week. The Tennessee portion of the Southern Baptist offering is \$3.1 million. Reach out, dig deep. Pray fervently and continually for lost people right around you. They are God's people too.

When WMU groups lead our churches during this special week — it will be interesting and rewarding to know what God is doing through his instruments. — WFA

Other challenges face the church in the wake of 1991:

- Government opposition. "Totalitarianism is alive and well" in many countries despite the Soviet collapse, said David Garrison of Southern Baptists' Cooperative Services International aid organization. Even communism is alive — if not well — in China where it still rules the lives of 20 percent of humanity. Legal and social hostility to Christian missions prevail in much of the unevangelized world.
- Tribalism and nationalism. The explosive re-emergence of old ethnic and national identities in the Soviet republics, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, South Africa, and many other places threatens the existence of the modern nation state. At its worst, such ethnic identity becomes "corporate self-worship," Scanlon said. In some areas Christians "will be caught in the middle . . . The Christian church will have the challenge of showing that in Christ there's no East or West, that the family of God" transcends ethnic groups.
- Islam. Like Christians, Muslims face numerous internal divisions. But Islam is growing rapidly and has

always had a "missionary impulse," Garrison said.

Iranian, Saudi, and Pakistani Muslims are mounting a "staggering effort" to spread their faith across the traditionally Islamic republics of Soviet Central Asia, he added. "I think they see the former Soviet Union as a place they want to reclaim."

● Secularism and materialism. The rapid spread of democracy and capitalism around the globe could create as many problems as opportunities for Christianity. Eastern European church leaders already bemoan the corrupting influence of Western culture on their nations' young people. The West's ceaseless pursuit of pleasure and possessions is "practical atheism," according to Scanlon — "life lived without reference to God."

Concluded Garrison: "The communist system hasn't yet been replaced; it's simply been dismantled. The question is: What's going to follow? It's going to be a very chaotic time, probably for years to come. But there's a lot of cause for hope and optimism. There probably has never been a greater time for ministry needs and opportunities."

## Baptist and Reflector

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# FMB, HMB plan transnational mission work

By Jim Newton

NASHVILLE (BP) — An agreement to enable the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards to cooperate across national and geographic boundaries has been approved by the presidents of the two agencies.

Under the agreement, each of the two mission boards will establish a transnational missions desk with a staff member to coordinate joint missions efforts in both the United States and 122 other countries where Southern Baptists work.

Wally Buckner, assistant executive vice president at the Home Mission Board, and Tom Prevost, director of the international service department at the Foreign Mission Board, have been named to direct the transnational mission desks at their respective agencies.

Their appointments to the coordinating roles were announced during a dialogue between key staff members of the Home and Foreign Mission boards held in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. A special 11-member staff task force recommended the plan for cooperation after a year's study.

Buckner and Prevost will assume the coordinating responsibility in addition to their other duties on special assignment by the two presidents.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, said the agreement is an indication the world has become "a global community" with interdependent activities affecting every sector of society.

"The world continues to change radically and rapidly," Parks said. "What we've done is develop a system whereby we can work together on a shorter response time across national boundaries."

Lewis said the agreement acknowledges the two agencies "are very different, but share a common concern for reaching the whole world for the Lord Jesus Christ. There is much we can do together in partnership and ways we can work together."

During a dialogue between key staff members of the two agencies, Lewis also pledged support of the Home Mission Board to the Foreign Mission Board's "Green Alert" initiatives to respond to urgent mission needs in the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union).

Paul Adkins, vice president for ministry at the Home Mission Board, suggested one way the Home Mission Board could help is through involving 20,000 Baptists in the United States who have been trained through HMB-

sponsored literacy programs to teach English as a second language in overseas situations where volunteers are needed.

The presidents of the two mission boards approved a pilot project to pair major cities in the United States with major cities overseas that have similar characteristics. No specific cities were named as participants in the pilot project, which would be jointly developed and proposed by HMB and FMB staffs.

The two coordinators were assigned by the presidents to define opportunities and challenges, propose solutions to problems impeding mutual action, facilitate cooperative efforts, negotiate and coordinate cross-office and interagency work to respond to mission needs, and enhance ongoing efforts related to major cities, international students, seafarers, diplomats, and special events.

Parks said program statements adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention have prohibited other SBC agencies from taking the initiative in direct involvement in missions work outside the United States. Parks said the new plan for cooperation between the HMB and FMB enables the convention to keep the program statements intact, but work cooperatively in coordinated mission efforts.

"If we discover from actual practice

that the program statements need to be changed, we will revise them in the light of need rather than in the light of theory," Parks said.

In a report to the presidents, the task force noted the program statements for SBC agencies were developed to define boundaries between the agencies and were negotiated so agencies stayed out of one another's turf. "The program statements served well during the 1970s but both society and our churches have changed," the report said.

Although Parks and Lewis said the new cooperative plan is not a step toward actual merger of the two mission boards, it will enable the two boards to share plans, materials, and personnel in ways not possible in the past.

The two coordinators also will be assigned to involve Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood organizations in supporting transnational missions, and working with the Sunday School Board's national student ministries in training college students in transnational missions.

Buckner and Prevost, the coordinators, will work under the supervision of the executive vice presidents of the two mission boards. Bob Banks of the HMB and Don Kammerdiener of the FMB.

## SBC Executive Committee takes position against homosexuality

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee squarely positioned itself against homosexuality Feb. 18 and against two North Carolina churches weighing measures sympathetic to homosexuality.

The Executive Committee adopted a resolution singling out Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh and Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill, reminding them "God regards homosexuality as a gross perversion and unquestioned sin."

"I believe these two churches ... laid down the gauntlet to Southern Baptists," said Fred Wolfe, a pastor from Mobile, Ala. If the Executive Committee fails to take a stand, he said, it will be interpreted "by the liberal press that we've chickened out."

The 77-member committee also initiated efforts to recommend to the Southern Baptist Convention that it amend its constitution and/or bylaws to include measures against any church "affirming, approving, or endorsing in any way the active practice of homosexuality," according to one

proposal. Such acts would include ordaining or licensing homosexuals into the ministry, performing marriage-like ceremonies, or otherwise affirming homosexual practices as an "alternate lifestyle."

Members of Pullen Memorial voted Feb. 9 to use a secret mail ballot to decide whether to sanction a "same-gender union," or marriage-like ceremony, requested by one of the church's members and his homosexual partner. The ballot will be mailed to nearly 800 church members and the vote will be announced by the end of February, according to church pastor Mahan Siler.

The ballot also will ask Pullen members whether church membership should be open without regard to sexual orientation.

Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church is in the process of deciding whether to license a homosexual member of the church to the Gospel ministry. A series of small group discussions is planned prior to an April 5 meeting to decide the matter, said church pastor Linda Jordan.

The resolution adopted by the Ex-

ecutive Committee expresses "deep and compassionate concern for these churches (and their) departure from doctrine and theology generally held by Southern Baptists ... ." Committee members resolved "to pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will admonish and enlighten these churches in their deliberations ... that their members will have sufficient grace to know and do that which is right in the eyes of Almighty God ... ."

But Executive Committee members also wanted something more substantive than a resolution against homosexuality.

They approved a motion by T. C. Pinckney of Virginia instructing their administrative subcommittee to develop a proposed change to the SBC constitution and/or bylaws to address "the possibility of some churches endorsing homosexuality."

And Executive Committee members referred another motion by Pinckney to their bylaws workgroup. Pinckney brought the motions to the Executive

Committee's closing session after failing to get them reported out of a subcommittee.

Both the administrative subcommittee and the bylaws workgroup are to report their recommendations to the Executive Committee in time for the items to be considered during this year's Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11 in Indianapolis.

Several Executive Committee members voiced no fear over the possibility of a lawsuit by someone excluded from participating in the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting over the issue of homosexuality. "I don't care if 10,000 lawyers tell us not to do it," Wolfe declared.

Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Executive Committee since 1979, said in response to a question he could not recall the group ever adopting a resolution on a social issue.

"We probably have never been faced ... with this kind of aberration," noted committee member Guy Sanders, a pastor from Florida.

## Nelson Price announces candidacy

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP) — Citing "a broad base of encouragement from friends across the country," Marietta pastor Nelson L. Price announced Feb. 21 he would allow himself to be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the 1992 session in Indianapolis.

Price, pastor of Marietta's 8000-member Roswell Street Church for 26 years, currently is the convention's first vice president. He also served terms as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention from 1982-1983 and was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in 1987.

In a prepared statement, Price said, "Since June of last year, persons have encouraged this announcement." He said his decision to allow his nomination "is a consequence of grass roots

requests and comes after much prayer."

Price's announcement came through his office, and did not emerge from any strategy session with the leadership of the "conservative" movement, he said. In recent years only one "conservative" candidate has been nominated each year for the presidency. That candidate usually has emerged from a process of collaboration and consultation among "conservative" leaders.

That process, said Price, has been essential in the past, but he said "this is a new day, when a candidate emerges by grass-root encouragement."

California pastor Jess Moody, running on a "centrist" platform, has said he will be nominated for the office.

## Senior adults plan March meeting in Memphis

MEMPHIS — A senior adult conference is scheduled March 9-11 at Broadmoor Church, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Shelby Association.

"A Celebration of Life," Senior Adult Years Conference, is co-sponsored by the Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department.

The opening night program features Dale Evans Rogers who will share in testimony and song. Conference leaders include Brian Harbour, pastor of First Church, Richardson, Texas; Steve Taylor, seminar leader and lecturer; Chip Arn, associate with L. I. F. E. of California; Ken Hemphill, pastor of First Church, Norfolk,

Va.; with musicians Harold, Darrell, and Gerald Ware.

The conference begins with registration on March 9 at 4 p.m. The opening session begins at 6:30 p.m. The final session ends at 11:30 a.m. on March 11.

The program includes Bible studies, testimonies, music, and teaching sessions. During the two morning sessions, a leaders' workshop will be offered. It will focus on church growth through senior adult ministry and training senior adults to serve in church and community service — and is available for lay leaders, church staff, and pastors.

The conference features an exhibit area and book store.

# Reaching baby boomers means meeting needs

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — To reach baby boomers, churches will have to wake up to boomers' specific needs, Chuck Kelley told participants in a recent "Reaching Baby Boomers" conference at New Orleans-Baptist Theological Seminary.

The seminary's associate professor of evangelism said ministers cannot expect boomers to attend church because of loyalty to their parents' religion, the nature of the denomination, a lack of anything to do, proximity, or even the fact that it is Sunday.

Most boomers have different standards than their parents, Kelley said. Many would rather give money than their time because their time is precious to them. They look for quality in a worship service to justify making time to go. Whereas many boomer parents were committed to their religion "through thick and thin," boomers tend to evaluate the worth of the worship experience in deciding whether to be faithful.

Born between 1946 and 1964, boomers have enjoyed experience-oriented entertainment not related to the socio-economics of their families, mainly because of televisions, theme parks, and other easily accessible forms of amusement.

Brought up on Christmas lists and family vacations with parents who "pour out everything" on their kids, boomers generally have great expectations for fulfillment in life. But, Kelley said, experts have predicted they will

be the first generation who will have less than their parents at death.

Many boomers also suffer from dysfunctional family systems brought on by divorces, child abuse, and other problems. An estimated 50 percent of their children will live with a single parent by the time they graduate from high school.

The rapid changes in society during the boomer era have caused them to be non-committed to personal relationships, churches, or political parties, Kelley continued. "Baby boomers are frustrated with their options," he said, "and their expectations are not being met."

For many boomers, the most important room in the church is the nursery, said Kelley, a native of Beaumont, Texas. Having started their families later in life, they tend to be more protective of their children, checking to make sure the nursery colors are bright, the room is clean, the toys in good shape, the adult-child ratio is acceptable, and interaction occurs between teachers and children.

Also, boomers are looking for marriage helps, such as workshops on divorce recovery, keeping marriages together, money management, or finding joy in the midst of stress.

They prefer a transcendent form of worship, with dynamic preaching, dynamic music, and dynamic people. "Boomers enjoy upbeat music," Kelley said, "and after listening to pros all week (on radio and TV), they expect

the best."

Churches also need to provide answers to their questions, especially in areas where they are hurting.

"Baby boomer parents want a better life for their children but baby boomers want a better life for themselves," Kelley said. "They have been striking out in the area of personal relationships. If money could fix it, they could." Some congregations may want to connect boomers with Christian friends with common needs.

Also, churches need to "offer alternatives, not attacks, on something that's wrong," he continued. For example, a Halloween alternative could be a fall festival, with games for adults and children alike. If small churches have difficulty planning such an event, it could be done association-wide.

In addition, churches need to be flexible to meet the boomers' schedules. Because many boomers work on Sundays, some churches now offer Saturday night worship services as well as Sunday services.

"Boomers like to experience things," Kelley said. "Don't just talk about missions; offer them mission trips . . . or other mission projects they can get involved in."

Furthermore, because many must dress up all week for their jobs, some may be looking for a church that allows informality in attire.

However, a church's first step to reach boomers is to educate its leaders

to boomer needs through workshops and conferences. Second, a personal, church and community assessment should be done, asking questions about gifts, abilities, God's calling, and likes and dislikes. Third, churches should offer alternatives such as a "come as you are" event or a Saturday evening service in addition to the church's normal activities.

Kelley advised against changing the central worship on Sunday mornings so those being reached by the current program will not be left out. However, "repackaging" could be done through Sunday School, an adjustment in preaching style, ruthless evaluation, (eliminating what is not working) and a user-friendly mentality (signs to help newcomers find their way easily around the church).

The boomer generation makes population's line of history look "like a python that swallowed a pig," Kelley said, because they far outnumber their neighboring generations. As a result, "they've been pitched to commercially all their lives and are used to being the center of attention," he observed.

"Baby boomers are and will be the most educated generation in history," Kelley continued, even though only 25 percent have graduated from college. "Because of a higher degree of education, there is a higher tolerance for the beliefs, lifestyles, and cultures of others." However, if baby boomers are to be reached today, he said, churches must be willing to meet their needs.

## Dyer church overcomes obstacles, dedicates new sanctuary

The congregation of New Hope Church, Dyer, overcame several obstacles to dedicate a new sanctuary on Feb. 9.

The church is located several miles from Rutherford and Dyer in an area of stagnant economic and population growth. Just two years ago about 100 members were meeting in a building

### Cumberland prepares for July crusade

Leaders in Cumberland Association hope that the attendance at the association's evangelism conference Feb. 3 is a sign of things to come.

About 700 people attended the conference at Hilldale Church in Clarksville.

The conference began with a banquet and rally for 275 people who are serving on the association's Starlite Crusade committees. The Starlite Crusade is an evangelistic endeavor set for July 12-17 and is sponsored by churches in the association.

Kelly Green, an evangelist from Mobile, Ala., was keynote speaker for

### Union Hill Church calls Tim Adams as pastor

On Jan. 1 Tim Adams began serving as pastor of Union Hill Church, Goodlettsville.

Formerly Adams was pastor of Cumberland Church, Cumberland, Ky., Island Creek Church, Manchester, Ky., Saylor Park Chapel, Cincinnati; as youth minister of First Church, Algood; and nursing home minister, Gambrell Street Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

He is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Adams and his wife, Faith Brown Adams, have a son and a daughter.

built in 1915 and remodeled in 1953.

Then the congregation began to grow as Pastor Kyle Rudd led them. Last summer they needed more space — for meeting and for parking. Their prayers were answered, said Rudd, when a member gave land to the church.

The work began on a 330-seat sanc-

tuary. Church members were assisted by Volunteer Christian Builders from Tyler, Texas, a team of Tennessee Baptist bricklayers, and workers from Olivet Church, Paducah, Ky.

Contributions from businesses in Dyer; Trenton; Tyler, Texas; and friends were made. Because of the help, the building cost less than half the estimated cost, reported Rudd.

The dedication event was made more special by the attendance of members of the Texas team.

The growth of New Hope Church to 212 members in the past two years topped all other reports of numerical growth in Gibson County Association.

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## Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — March



Prayer requests have come for specific needs and for several undated requests in the Tennessee/Chile Partnership Mission.

**March 1** — Today is missionary Hawk Hawkins' birthday. He is a newly appointed missionary who is now residing at the Missionary Learning Center in Richmond, Va., in missionary orientation. Pray for him as he begins his new life as a missionary!

**March 2** — Happy Birthday to Jackie Bursmeyer! Pray for Jackie as she readjusts to her Chilean lifestyle after a recent furlough in the states.

**March 3** — Pray for Juan and Maria Cerda, a young Chilean couple who, with their new baby, are serving in Ecuador as Chile's first foreign missionaries.

**March 4** — Today is Delia Canumir's birthday. Delia is a resident in the Baptist Children's Home in Temuco. Pray that the Christian environment of this home will equip this young girl for a productive future.

**March 5** — Many Chilean Baptist churches also house schools. Pray that these educational programs will provide avenues of ministry to parents and the community. A new school year is just now beginning in Chile.

**March 6** — Pray for Nellie Yanez, director of the Baptist School located in El Sembrador Church in Temuco. Pray also for the 250 students in grades K-12.

**March 7** — Pray for Jarvis Hearn, Chile/Tennessee Partnership Coordinator for TBC, as he conducts volunteer orientation today for those going to Chile.

**March 8** — Earnestly pray for the churches in Chile today as they meet for worship, Bible study, and fellowship.

# Committee names Chapman to succeed Bennett . . .

— Continued from page 1  
and the title of "President Emeritus" of the Executive Committee.

In addition, the auditorium in the SBC building in Nashville will be named the Harold C. Bennett Auditorium with appropriate bronze plaque. Bennett will receive a \$22,000 retainer for three months following his retirement, through Dec. 31, 1992, as "the need is determined by Dr. (Morris) Chapman." He also will receive additional retirement benefits allotted in the personnel manual of the Executive Committee.

The audit of the 1990-91 fiscal year for the convention operating budget revealed the budget ended that year \$287,372 in the black. Coupled with \$103,096 surplus to start the 1990-91 year, the current fiscal year began with a nearly \$400,000 balance in the convention operating budget fund.

Program statement revisions also were approved for the Executive Committee and the Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary. The WMU had requested approval of the revision, although as an auxiliary, was not required to do so. Both program statement revisions were approved for recommendation to the Indianapolis annual meeting.

However, the WMU revision did bring a unique request from Executive Committee member E. Gibbie McMillan of Louisiana. He moved that the WMU be invited to initiate legal steps to become an agency of the SBC instead of an auxiliary. Following some discussion, his motion was referred to the administrative subcommittee for further study.

A three-member Executive Committee team focusing on seminary accreditation reported on its meeting with the Accreditation Task Force of the Southern Baptist Education Commission. The team listed five recommendations it offered: 1) annual trustee training, including an overview of the nature of various accrediting bodies, 2) legal review of institutional documents to assure "clear, legal, and proper procedures for decision-making," 3) affirmation of seminary administrators and trustees "for their efforts to carry out their mission," 4) renewed priority by administrators and trustees for "affirming their institution's Southern Baptist heritage and . . . spiritual mission," and 5) a request to accrediting agencies "to avoid creating pressure or the illusion of pressure designed to affect the theological posture" of the seminaries.

Executive Committee members elected two people to fill vacancies on the SBC Committee on Nominations —

## Johnson City church sends resolution to FMB

Central Church, Johnson City, has sent a resolution pertaining to "the current crisis" to trustees of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond.

Pastor David Crocker says the statement is "one of positive encouragement toward a resolution of present tensions within the FMB."

The resolution notes the long tradition of Central Church for missions at all levels and "desires to see all mission endeavors" supported by the church to increase "in quality and quantity."

The church also realizes "unprecedented" growth rates of the FMB under leadership of President Keith Parks, and noted recent FMB developments "seem to have raised concerns

Wendell Wood, Eastgate Church, Burton, Mich., and Bill Meleski, First Church, Kenai, Alaska.

Meleski, however, was not the first choice of the administrative subcommittee. The committee earlier in the Tuesday meeting elected Herb Cotton, a black layman and former president of the Alaska Baptist Convention. Cotton was one of two people whose names had been recommended by the executive director of the Alaska convention.

When the subcommittee reconvened following a break, a motion was made to reconsider Cotton's nomination. One member said he had talked with Alaska's representative on the Executive Committee (Patricia Davidson) and that she wanted to recommend Meleski. (Subcommittee meetings are under background rules, so there cannot be direct attribution of quotes.)

The committee voted to reconsider with only two or three dissenting

## Executive Committee proposes reallocation of funds

NASHVILLE (BP) — A reallocation of \$300,000 in disputed funds, held by the Southern Baptist Foundation, to "convention causes as the Executive Committee deems appropriate," will be recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis in June.

The Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-18, voted overwhelmingly to approve a recommendation that the controversial account, claimed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and sought by the SBC Christian Life Commission, be reallocated. The decision, a voice vote without audible dissent, was the climax of months of study by the Executive Committee but may be fought by the BJCPA, a Washington-based religious liberty agency.

"I don't believe the Lord leads people to take money that is not theirs," Oliver S. Thomas, BJCPA legal counsel told Baptist Press after the vote. Thomas said he felt the decision by the Executive Committee was inconsistent with the SBC action in 1964 setting up the fund.

The Executive Committee also will ask the SBC annual meeting to "disclaim any right to the interest accumulated on these funds on deposit and request that the Foundation remit all accumulated interest to the BJCPA as soon as practicable." As of Jan. 27, 1992, the accumulated interest was \$83,954.45. The BJCPA had been granted the interest earned on the funds over the years and has drawn \$568,384 since 1968.

Thomas rejected the decision as a

among mission personnel on foreign fields affecting their confidence in the future of their work as well as among Southern Baptists at home."

Central Church voted to request FMB trustees to reaffirm Parks "in his leadership through 1995 for the purpose of bringing to fruition his vision for foreign missions."

Part of the resolution asked all "mission-minded" Southern Baptists to pray for trustees and FMB staff for quick resolution of "any conflicts or misunderstandings hindering their work."

The FMB trustees have called a special meeting with Parks in Dallas March 19-20 to discuss his tenure as president.

votes; Cotton was renominated and Meleski, nominated. Meleski, was approved and his name was submitted to the entire Executive Committee for approval.

Executive Committee members okayed a five percent increase adjustment in their staff's salary structure, effective Oct. 1.

Resolutions of appreciation were approved for Julian Pentecost, retired editor of the Virginia Religious Herald; Lloyd Elder, past president of the Sunday School Board; and Lewis A. Drummond, retiring president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Executive Committee members approved a contract with C. Barry McCarty to serve as chief parliamentarian for the 1992 SBC meeting June 9-11 in Indianapolis, Ind. McCarty is president of Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. He has served as chief parliamentarian at

every convention since 1985.

Terms of the contract call for McCarty to receive \$1000 per day while he is at the convention site, beginning June 6 and continuing each day thereafter, whether he is present for an entire day or any portion of a day.

Further, the contract calls for McCarty to receive an additional \$125 per hour for pre- or post-convention consultation away from the convention site, not to exceed \$1000 per day. Such consultation will be at the initiative of the SBC president.

McCarty also will receive \$1000 for pre-convention preparation and will be reimbursed for all travel expenses which include, "but are not limited to" meals, lodging, round-trip transportation, long distance telephone calls, postage, and any other "out of pocket" expenses associated with the parliamentary duties at the convention. — Baptist Press contributed to this story.

possible compromise with the BJCPA getting the interest but not the original funds. Asked if the BJCPA would pursue legal action if the SBC approves the recommendation in June, Thomas would say only that he planned to report to the BJCPA board of directors who ultimately would make any decision to respond.

The funds have been held for nearly four decades by the Southern Baptist Foundation — which sees itself as an agent in the matter instead of a trustee — but last year a dispute erupted between the CLC and the BJCPA over ownership of the funds. The BJCPA requested the funds last fall with the intent to purchase a building in Washington; however, the matter had by then been referred to the Executive Committee by the foundation.

A special committee appointed to research the matter spent hours in

closed sessions before making the recommendation.

In a two-page background statement, the committee cited a number of reasons for their decision: critical differences between BJCPA and the SBC, a religious liberty assignment now with the SBC Christian Life Commission, the cessation of funding for the BJCPA from the SBC, the desire of the SBC to disassociate itself from the BJCPA, lack of a valid request from the BJCPA fulfilling the original requirements to get the funds, the money was neither a gift, nor contract to the BJCPA, and the funds have been the property of the SBC from the original deposit at the foundation in 1966.

In addition, the present theological differences between the SBC and the BJCPA were cited which would make it a "breach of trust" for the SBC to give the funds to the BJCPA.

## One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I had a note from Inspector 18 the other day.

The note was in the pocket of a new jacket. It read, "I have personally examined every detail of this garment to make sure it meets our high quality standards. Thank you for buying our product."

We all have found similar notes in pockets of something new. Usually it simply says that the garment was inspected by an employee with an identifying number.

But Inspector 18 — well, I think the jacket was given a close inspection. After all, the note said that every detail was personally examined.

I wonder how that compares with our evaluations of other people or of their performances?

A dear friend of years gone by led a consecrated and continuous prayer life. She was known as a prayer warrior. She was often called on to sing a favorite of hers, with a pointed question: "Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray?"

Her life was open, lived for Christ. Never was she petty even though she suffered physically. Her heart was always joyous.

An examination of her would yield few flaws. She was indeed a prayer warrior and her life reflected such even under close examination.

In family life, among friends, in our churches, and in other settings, we often tend to judge and examine others. We look for motives, we try to discover differences, and we may be guilty of stressing our own standards.

Inspector 18 evidently knows the company standards — and has been given the task of examining closely every detail of the garments sold.

However, our Lord admonishes us that we are not to judge others. I think that privilege has not been given us because we might not personally achieve "the high quality standards." There is a difference.

Not only do we need to minister, we should be ambassadors of grace. That nullifies the claim for being inspector. Ambassadors of grace abhor pettiness, bickering, name-calling, labeling, self-serving, piety without compassion. The high quality standards surely must include Christ's command to love one another.



ALLEN

# Jodi Chapman's roots 'run deep in Tennessee'

NASHVILLE — Though she has lived in Texas most of her adult life, Jodi Francis Chapman feels she is "leaving home to come home."

The wife of Morris H. Chapman, newly-elected president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will be returning to her native state.

"My roots run deep in Tennessee," she says.

Born in Clarksville, she lived in Columbia and Memphis during her childhood and youth.

Her grandfather, J. W. Nelson, was a long-time Tennessee Baptist pastor in Stewart County.

One of her earliest recollections was as a six-year-old at First Church, Columbia. She remembers standing up in front of the church and receiving a bookmark after she repeated the 23rd Psalm.

At the age of seven she moved to Memphis with her parents, J. E. and Bonnie Francis, and her sister. They became members of Bellevue Church where she grew up under the pastoral ministries of Ramsey Pollard and R. G. Lee.

She accepted Christ at the age of 16 at Bellevue Church.

Chapman never returned to her native state to live after she enrolled

at Mississippi College in Clinton. She met her husband there and in 1963 the two were married.

She is not surprised that her husband is leaving the pastoral ministry to head the SBC Executive Committee.

"My mother (who died two years ago) always said Morris would not stay in the pastorate. She could see his administrative skills even then," she said. Her mother's statement always "remained in the back of my mind," Chapman says.

The new president's wife does not see a great deal of difference in the new role. Recognizing that a pastor's wife is sometimes seen "as in a fishbowl," she says she will just "be in a bigger fishbowl."

"My role will not change that much," she says, noting she will continue as a strong supporter of her husband's ministry.

A leader in her own right as evidenced by her tenure as a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and a member of the SBC Peace Committee, Chapman is secure with her own identity.

"I have tried not to let myself be pressed into a mold. I just try to be myself," she says.

The new move, however, will take some adjusting, she admits.



JODI CHAPMAN

"We have never had to search for a church home," she says, noting that always came with her husband's role as pastor.

She observes that for years she has always seen her husband from the back because she sang in the choir. "Now, I have to decide if I want to sit with him in church," she laughs.

Chapman also is excited that for the first time "we will have weekends." A minister and his family do not have weekends, she observes.

Also, for the first time in her married life, she will be living near rela-

tives. Her 82-year-old father, who still lives in Memphis, is happy about their move, she says. He attended the Executive Committee meeting Feb. 17 to see his son-in-law's election.

Chapman also has an aunt who lives in Clarksville and a cousin, "who has been like a sister," who lives in Nashville.

The Chapmans' children, Chris and Stephanie, also are pleased about their parents' move, Chapman said. Chris is minister of singles and college students at First Church, Lakeland, Fla., while Stephanie works in Christian counseling in Houston, Texas.

On her trip to Nashville last week, she says she was surprised at the feeling of nostalgia she had. She notes "it will be fun to be back in Tennessee" and have the opportunity to "read all the historical markers that didn't interest her as a child."

She also plans to take her husband to the annual Mule Days celebration in Columbia. She remembers participating in a Mule Days parade as a child.

"My roots run deep here," she says, but "when you're away you don't think about it that much because you go where God sends you." — *Lonnie Wilkey*

## Pastor describes rewards of 27-year tenure at church

By *Connie Davis*

Leading a church in a community built to farm the rich silt of the meandering Mississippi River would seem to offer a quiet life.

J. V. Reeves, pastor, Smyrna Church, Burleson, for almost 27 years, claims its not as quiet as it sounds.

Known as "Marrying Sam," Reeves has married about 1000 couples from across West Tennessee. Many of the couples travel about 20 miles from the U.S. Naval base in Millington to get married by Reeves.

Not quite sure how he earned his reputation, Reeves explained he sees it as a ministry, especially the counseling session he conducts prior to the ceremony. "I think they sense that — as well as share it," he said.

Reeves, a sailor during the Korean War, can relate to the sailors from the Naval base. During an interview with

### Pearson begins pastorate

Steven H. Pearson, a native of Chattanooga, has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Spring City. His first Sunday in the pulpit was Feb. 2.

Pearson was ordained to the Gospel ministry at First Church, Hixson. He was pastor of First Church, Muenster, Texas, and Mountain Creek Church, Chattanooga.



PEARSON

He earned a bachelor's degree at University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and master's degrees in divinity and religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Pearson and his wife, Glenda, have two young children, Bailey Troy and Loren Gail.

the Baptist and Reflector, Reeves recalled the life-changing events which prepared him for his long tenure at one church.

While stationed in Guam, Reeves met a Southern Baptist chaplain who challenged him to search for God. He began to read the Bible every day and to lead a Bible study for the chaplain. On ship, Reeves filled the empty hours with study.

He resisted when he felt God wanted him to become a preacher. "But the only thing that would give me peace was when I agreed to do it," said Reeves.

In addition to choosing a career, Reeves also experienced ecumenism during his military service. "During that time I met some of the most genuine Christians on the earth. . . . God has people everywhere in the world and in different churches. . . . You realize the essentials are the Word of God and believing that Jesus is the Savior. The finer points of theology, they aren't essential to fellowship."

During those years, Reeves changed from a "nominal Christian" to one committed to ministry, he recalled. The chaplain who launched his career made such an impact on Reeves that he has never ignored one piece of the chaplain's advice. He estimated he can count the days on one hand he has not read the Bible.

Those commitments prepared him for his long tenure, Reeves suggested, because he "never dreamed" he would stay at Smyrna Church so long.

Although he has received at least ten invitations from other churches to serve as pastor, Reeves said he's happy in his present job. "God called me to this church and he hasn't called me anywhere else."

"Whatever success I've had is because God has given me a love for people. They're first," Reeves said. He added meeting their needs is more important than programs and sermons.

His Biblically-based priority plan he calls "dry seasons" — periods when no one makes a spiritual decision. To readjust and return to success, he examines himself at the end of the day, decides to correct tomorrow what is outside of God's will, and then lives one day at a time.

"If we can make sure we are doing what God would have us to do that then we are living successfully and we are successful," he explained.

His goal is for everyone to be "saved and church-ed. . . . I would never dare set a goal any lower," he reported.

To approach that goal, Smyrna Church gives 20 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program. During 1989-90, the church ranked 40 in percentage of gifts to the CP among Tennessee's 2920 churches.

The church continues to reach people although the Burleson community is small — about 500 people. Smyrna

## Centrifuge camps offered in Tennessee

NASHVILLE — "Decision" is the theme of the 1992 Centrifuge programs, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department.

Centrifuge will be held at seven stationary locations, including three colleges, two beachside camps, and Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Gloriaeta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers.

Three traveling Centrifuge teams will go to 17 state convention sites.

Beachside camps are being held at Endless Summer Retreat, Panama City, Fla., June 6-Aug. 12, and Gulfshore (Ala.) Baptist Assembly, July 18-Aug. 6. Centrifuge on college campuses will be held June 6-Aug. 7 at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Union University, Jackson; and Mobile (Ala.) College.

All Centrifuge programs include Bible study, special interest activities, recreation, evening worship,

Church has added an average of 24 new members each year during his tenure, Reeves noted. The church also has renovated the sanctuary and fellowship hall and built an activities building.

After his military service, Reeves, a native of Henderson County, graduated from Union University, Jackson. He also attended Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis. Before serving the Burleson Church, Reeves was a bivocational pastor and public school teacher for four years.

He was second vice president of the 1978-79 Tennessee Baptist Convention, moderator of Beech River Association, moderator and vice moderator of Big Hatchie Association, and associational chairman of evangelism and Vacation Bible School.

"I've learned what being a Christian means. God will take care of your tomorrows too. Live one day at a time," stated Reeves.

fellowship, devotions, and quiet times.

Information on Centrifuge registration may be obtained by writing Centrifuge, Church Recreation Department, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn., 37234.

## Don Martin serves Lake City church

Main Street Church, Lake City, has called Don Martin as pastor. Formerly Martin was pastor of East LaFollette Church, LaFollette, for 17 years.

The Clinton native is a graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., and Emmanuel School of Religion, Johnson City. He also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Martin was ordained in 1972 by Pleasant View Church, Anderson City.

He and his wife, Lee Brooks Martin, have two sons.

# Death row experience keeps Caudill active in prison ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey

**MEMPHIS** — It was an experience R. Paul Caudill will never forget.

The year was 1929. The now pastor emeritus of First Church, Memphis, was a ministerial student at Wake Forest College (now University) in Wake Forest, N.C.

He recalls sitting at the breakfast table that morning when news came over the radio about a man who was going to be executed at the North Carolina State Prison that afternoon.

"I raced to the prison and they let me see the man" Caudill says.

Caudill remembers that he witnessed that man for 30 minutes.

"He made a confession of his sins and a plea for forgiveness, like the thief on the cross. And if the thief on the cross was forgiven, I think he was forgiven," Caudill says.

Caudill recalls walking with the young man to the electric chair, at the prisoner's request, and standing beside him until the execution was over.

The North Carolina native says he asked the young man what message he



CAUDILL

would have for others. The soon to be executed prisoner replied, "Tell them not to follow my example."

"From that day on, I was plunged into prison ministry," Caudill says. He also cites Luke 4:18 as the Scriptural basis for his concern for prison inmates.

Caudill's interest in prison work followed him throughout his pastoral ministry which included pastorates in North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

When Caudill came to First Church, Memphis, as pastor in 1944, he soon began making the first radio broadcasts to prisoners in Shelby County.

With his help and persistence, a chaplaincy program, staffed by members of the Memphis ministerial association, began at the city jail. Those efforts eventually led to the employment of a full-time chaplain at the facility.

Caudill's concern about prisoners became common knowledge around Memphis. He was approached about helping to build a chapel at the county's penal farm (now correction center). Caudill served as chairman of the committee and the effort to build a chapel succeeded. Recently, the chapel was named the R. Paul Caudill Chapel in his honor.

He points out his involvement in prison work was over and above his pastoral ministry and denominational activities. Caudill has served on numerous SBC and TBC committees and is a former TBC president (1957-58).

Though he retired from First Church in 1975 after 31 years as pastor, the 87-year-old Caudill does not like the word "retired." "I did not retire. I just went on to other things," he says.

At the center of "those other things" has been continued work in prison ministry. Four years ago Caudill and his wife, Ethel, felt burdened that every inmate in Shelby County should have a New Testament on Christmas Eve.

He recalls calling the American Bible Society four days before Christmas four years ago and placing an order for about 4000 New Testaments. ABS leaders were aware of Caudill and his ministry and gave him a discount, but told him it normally took about three weeks to fill such an order. Caudill persisted and four days later the Bibles arrived in boxes marked, "Rush, Rush, Rush."

Every Christmas Eve since, Caudill and his wife have distributed New Testaments to Shelby County inmates. This past Christmas, they gave away

5500 copies of Holy Scripture.

When he presents the New Testaments he holds a brief service. The services usually result in a number of professions of faith, he says.

Caudill feels there is a need for intensified efforts to reach prison inmates. Where else can one go and find a ready, willing audience who needs so much to hear about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he asks.

Caudill believes his experience in 1929 has given him credibility among prisoners. "I have walked where few men have walked. When I talk to these prisoners they know I'm someone who is interested in their problems," he says.

The Caudills have pledged to continue to provide New Testaments to Shelby County inmates every Christmas as long as they are alive.

His dream and prayer is that every inmate across the U.S. willing to accept a Bible, will receive a New Testament on Christmas Eve.

"The placing of even one portion of Scripture can lead to a conversion," he says.

People interested in learning more about how to supply New Testaments to prison inmates should contact Caudill at 2045 Thornhill Road, Memphis, Tenn., 38138 or call (901) 756-6200.

## High self-esteem can prevent teenage problems, C-N professor says

**JEFFERSON CITY** — High self-esteem may help prevent high school drop-outs, teenage pregnancy, crime, and drug abuse, according to research discussed at a recent self-esteem seminar at Carson-Newman College.

The seminar, sponsored by C-N's Barnabas House Counseling Center, is the first of three spring workshops offered to the public free of charge. Upcoming workshops will address the probing issues of love and guilt.

Self-esteem enters into everyday life in virtually every situation we encounter — from our relationships and careers to the way we dress and speak — said Bill Blevins, who led the workshop entitled, "It's Good Being Me."

Although much of self-esteem development occurs in early childhood, adults can learn to understand and nurture their self-esteem, he said, adding that since the quality of one's life is directly proportional to one's self-esteem, most everyone can benefit from learning more about how it impacts our lives.

Blevins observed parents should take a special interest in how they can impact the self-esteem of their children, not only by how they treat them but by how they project their own self-esteem.

"Within the family context, it is vital that parents themselves have a high level of self-esteem if they are to nurture healthy self-esteem in their children," Blevins said.

"Whenever high parental self-esteem is lacking, children have extreme dif-

### Only Church, Only, welcomes Marvin Suiter

Marvin Suiter, a native of Clarksville, recently became pastor of Only Church, Only.

Suiter came out of retirement in 1990 to serve Only Mission as interim pastor, a position he held until he became pastor when the mission of First Church, Centerville, was constituted into a church.

ficulty developing their own self-esteem and personal effectiveness," he continued.

"Love Is More Than Butterflies in Your Stomach," a workshop for those who wish to enrich their lives, as well as those with whom they have a significant relationship, will be held Feb. 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will examine how the presence or absence of love affects physical and emotional health and

learn how real love differs from what often masquerades as love.

"Guilt: When Your Conscience Says You're Bad," will be held March 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Attention will be given to how guilt can be used as a positive force in one's life and how it functions to impact emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

As an added element to last year's workshops, each will be followed by a three-week module class which will in-

vestigate the workshop topics more deeply. All module classes will be held on Saturdays and can be audited or taken for college credit.

To reserve a place in the workshops, call Edra Cureton at (615) 471-3311. To secure a spot in any of the module classes, contact Jack Shannon at (615) 471-3413. All module classes and workshops will be held in room 218 of Henderson Humanities Building.

## Two Rivers celebrates anniversary; breaks ground

**NASHVILLE** — Two Rivers Church, Nashville, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the church Feb. 16 and then broke ground for a new 3300-seat worship center and education building.

Pastor Jerry Sutton called the event "a declaration of faith and confidence. We believe God is doing a great work and we are thrilled to be a part of it."

Sutton noted Sunday School classes are quickly approaching capacity. The church's average Sunday School attendance is more than 2000. The church also has three separate worship services.

The anniversary celebration included a video presentation which brought greetings from several Southern Baptist leaders including Ed Young, Houston, Texas; Morris Chapman, Wichita Falls, Texas, and new president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; Fred Wolfe, Mobile Ala.; Jerry Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.; James Merritt, Snellville, Ga.; and Adrian Rogers, Cordova.

Speaking during the service were D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director; Harold Bennett, president, SBC Executive Committee and first pastor of Two Rivers; and James T. Draper, member of Two Rivers and president, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Former pastor Jim Henry, now pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., brought the afternoon message.

Two Rivers Church was formed in

February, 1962, when 102 people met at the north edge of Nashville between the Stones and Cumberland Rivers to begin a new church. They were assisted by Lincoya Hills Church.

Following the service, groundbreaking was held for the new worship center which will include additional preschool and adult education classrooms, a media library, prayer rooms, and an orchestra/choir rehearsal

suite. The addition will roughly double the facility's size, adding 120,000 square feet. The immediate needs of additional preschool and worship space will be met first.

The church is in the midst of a three-year \$4.5 million fund-raising campaign. The total cost of the project is \$11 million. The church anticipates holding its first services in the new facility next spring.



**BREAKING GROUND** — Members of Two Rivers Church recently broke ground for a new 3300-seat worship center and education building. Participating in the service were, from left, Joe Gebhardt, Terry Gant, T. W. Hunt, Pastor Jerry Sutton, Ray Moss, Jan Jacobson, Rosie Mathison, and Dan French.

# Remembering those who made a difference with memorial gifts to the Children's Homes

People whose lives reflect a special concern for children are often remembered through memorial gifts made to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Gifts in memory of the following individuals have been received by the Children's Homes since January 1991:

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- Mrs. Ann Lamb  
Betty Shackelford
- Mrs. Annie Huggins  
Emmett Taylor
- Mrs. Beatrice Lyons  
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- Mr. Cecil B. Poston  
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- Mr. Doyle Shelton  
Frank McCullough
- Mr. Earl Glass  
Douglas Stamper
- Mrs. Earline Fletcher  
J.L. Womack  
Robert Robeson
- Mr. Ed Clark  
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R.M. Archibald
- Ms. Eliza Salley  
Jack Boyle
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- Ms. Elsie Long  
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W. Dale Hunter
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Lee Williams
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Darrell Hamar
- Mr. Everett Blibrey  
David Seay
- Mrs. Flora Mae Shipley  
Mary Lou Haven

- Ms. Florence Lindsey  
David Purcell
- Mr. Floyd Hendrix  
Ida Hendrix
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- Mr. Gino J. Facenelli  
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- Ms. Gladys Jones  
William Deen  
Edith Radford
- Mrs. Grace Wade  
Earl Wood
- Mr. Harold Dye  
Larry Shotwell
- Mr. Harold Wayne Adams  
Boyce Spurlock
- Mr. Harry E. Brogden  
Harold Porter  
Mary Peak  
Daniel Clippenger  
Leon Davis  
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Everett Bullard
- Mrs. Ira Humphreys Lester  
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Frank Stanley  
Earls Seymour
- Mr. William Henry Blevins  
Thomas Callahan
- Mr. Winfield W. Pope  
Jimmy Hopper
- Mrs. Zeta Ogden  
Doug Clarke



People who take the time to make a difference in a child's life are truly special. Pictured enjoying an afternoon of play with two youngsters is Allene Hannah, more affectionately known as "Ma Maw." She and her husband, Ray, were favorites of the children on the Franklin TBCH campus during their years of service there.

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Charles Davis

Gifts made to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes are used to provide care to children all across the state. TBCH has main campuses in Chattanooga, Franklin and Memphis; satellite group homes in Johnson City, Kingsport and Burrville; Alternative Homes for Unwed Mothers in Greeneville and Franklin; and a Boys Ranch in Millington.

Honor gifts are a nice way to remember birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, or any special occasion. An acknowledgment is sent to the person you are honoring. Gifts in memory of a deceased relative or friend will be acknowledged to the next-of-kin or to any person you designate.

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|--|

# TenneScene

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

## Leadership ...

First Church, Gruetli-Laager, called Wayne Perry as minister in training. He will work in the youth and music ministries.

Rick Sellers of Mississippi is the new minister of music and youth at First Church, Spring City.

Macedonia Church, Cleveland. Pastor R. T. Roberts will retire Feb. 29.

Steve Vaughan recently resigned the pastorate of Gum Springs Church, Lawrenceburg, to become associate pastor in charge of youth and children's ministries at First Church, Lawrenceburg.

George Pabst resigned as minister of music and youth at Leoma Church, Leoma, to accept a position in Georgia.

J. C. Carpenter is now serving as interim pastor at Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg.

Cortney Hill recently joined the staff of Sidonia Church, Sharon, as youth director.

Larry Cook is the new associate pastor at Mooresburg Church, Mooresburg.

Mike Ray has been called to serve as minister of education at First Church, Martin.

Members of Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah, recently called their third full-time ministerial staff member. David Alan Primm, originally from Smyrna, Ga., began service as minister of youth and activities Feb. 17. He most recently served Keene Terrace Church, Largo, Fla., as

## First, Savannah, calls Dennis Trull as pastor

On Jan. 20 Dennis Trull began serving First Church, Savannah, as pastor. Previously he served in Mississippi at First Church, Tunica, and First Church, Sledge, as pastor.

Trull is a graduate of Memphis State University and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of Humboldt, he was ordained in 1984 by Emmanuel Church, Humboldt. He and his wife, Suzanne McCardle Trull, have two sons and a daughter.

minister of youth and education. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

## Ordinations ...

First Church, Dyer, ordained David Hatfield, minister of music and youth, Feb. 23.

Kenny Spegal, pastor of Old Bethlehem Church, Rutherford, will be ordained Feb. 26.

New Hope Church, Paris, ordained Homer Hayes as deacon Jan. 19.

Don Watkins was ordained to the deacon ministry of West Paris Church, Paris.

Dalewood Church, Nashville, ordained Gene Holder, Jarry Marable, and Ray Stewart to the deacon ministry Feb. 2.

Randy Beeler was recently ordained as deacon at Gillespie Avenue Church, Knoxville.

First Church, Oliver Springs, ordained Brady Lester as deacon.

Jim Travis was ordained to the deacon ministry of First Church, Camden, Feb. 16.

Bethlehem Church, Crossville, ordained Minister of Music and Youth Al Mahan to the Gospel ministry Feb. 2.

## Pastors meet at Union

The West Tennessee Pastors' Conference will meet March 3 at Union University.

Tim Wheat and members of the Baptist Student Union will present the program titled "The Pastor Ministering The Word Through College Life." Wheat is the BSU director and assistant vice president for religious affairs at Union University.

Pastors are invited for a fellowship time beginning at 10 a.m. in the foyer adjacent to the university's chapel. The program will begin at 10:45 a.m. in Room D-3. A complimentary lunch will be served in Union's cafeteria at noon.

The Ministers' Wives Fellowship meets during the pastors' conference. Their program begins at 10:30 a.m. Free nursery services are provided at Calvary Church on Oil Well Road.

## People ...

Three Tennessee Baptists recently were honored by the alumni association of Union University, Jackson. Doris "Dot" Gee, a member of Ararat Church, Jackson, received the association's distinguished faculty/staff award. A 33-year member of the staff, Gee is an administrative assistant in the office of development. James Leon Burnett, deacon emeritus at First Church, Jackson, received the distinguished service award for outstanding commitment and service to the community. William A. Adcock, member of First Church, Newbern, and a Union trustee, received the honorary alumnus award.

## Revivals ...

Jim Wilson and Larry McFadden will lead revival March 8-11 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

Revival services will be held March 29-April 1 at Ewtonville Church, Dunlap. Ron Phillips will be evangelist.

D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be guest evangelist at First Church, Goodlettsville, March 1-4. Dan Norris, minister of music at Grassland Heights Church, Nashville, will direct the music and singing. He was formerly with First Church, Franklin.

## Missions ...

Bob Hull, H. B. and Helen Fisher, Ralph and B. J. Jones, and Gale Parks from First Church, Humboldt, will travel to France in March on an evangelistic mission trip.

Missionaries to Venezuela Rich and Susan Hutchens are in the states and



**LIKES SUNDAY SCHOOL** — Matilda West, center, recently was honored by Mount Horeb Church, Ethridge, for 22 consecutive years of attending Sunday School without missing a day. With her are Delano Benefield, left, Sunday School director, and Pastor Randall Runions.

may be written to at 7504 S. Watterson Trail, Louisville, Ky., 40291. The former Susan Hinkle considers Knoxville her hometown.

James and Janice Johnsonius, missionaries to Argentina, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study. Their address is Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco des Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica. He is a native of Paris.

Missionary to Ghana Jane Paysinger has arrived on the field to begin her first term of service. Her address is Box 400, Accra, Ghana. Paysinger was born in Oak Ridge and considers Cleveland her hometown.

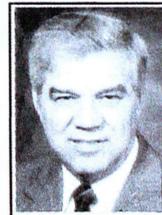
Missionaries to Nigeria Philip and Sandra Wilson are in the states and may be addressed at 5511 Melvin, Memphis, 38120. They are natives of Tennessee. He was born in Humboldt and she was born in Memphis and considers Ellendale her hometown.

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

The people of God are beginning to pray in a new way. This is an answer to prayer.

When I spoke in Fayette Association a few days ago, I heard of two new prayer ministries. Pastor Joe Acuff told of the new prayer ministry at Oak Grove Church. Even though this is a rural church, they have an intercessory prayer ministry.



LOWRIE

Paul Williams, pastor of First Church, Somerville, shared about the new prayer room and the prayer partners in this fine congregation.

Several churches across the state have become a part of the Watchmen National Prayer Alert. Johnnie Hall has shared with us about the involvement of the Judson Church, Nashville. Raymond Langlois is the pastor at Judson.

Does your church have an intercessory prayer ministry? I want to bear witness! My years of pastoral ministry taught me the importance of the prayer ministry. When I began as

a young pastor in East Tennessee, I saw a church come alive as the people began to pray. Your church needs a prayer ministry.

The Watchmen National Prayer Alert is a good place to begin. You can get information about it from your director of missions or from the Discipleship Training Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. It will connect your church with other churches across the country.

Let me encourage you to accept the responsibility to initiate a prayer ministry in your church. If you begin to pray in a special way, then your church has a prayer ministry. Others will join you in the commitment.

## Joe Davis accepts Niota pastorate

Joe Davis, former pastor of Goodwill Church, Cleveland, recently became bivocational pastor of Valley View Church, Niota.

A native of Athens, Davis was ordained in 1990 at Idlewild Church in his hometown.

Davis and his wife, Marjorie, have three daughters. He is employed as a millwright at Olan Chemicals.



**WATERVILLE CELEBRATION** — Roger Hobbs, center, pastor of Waterville Church, Cleveland, burns a note to celebrate the conclusion of a debt retirement campaign known as "Love Found a Way." Hobbs is surrounded by church committee members and trustees.

# State Baptist newspapers could face rate increase

WASHINGTON — State Baptist newspapers could face a double-digit rate increase in 1993 if Congress approves President George Bush's budget proposal.

However, a spokesman for the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers said, if history is an indicator, Congress would not enact that proposal.

The budget proposes \$122 million — \$360 million less than the U.S. Postal Service requested — for the non-profit mail subsidy, known as revenue foregone. Revenue foregone reim-

## Conferences address refugee sponsorship

People wishing more information on refugee sponsorship should attend one of four regional Refugee Sponsorship Conferences to be held across the state, reported Terry Sharp, Missions Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The conferences are in Memphis on March 9 at Speedway Terrace Church, in Nashville on March 10 at Haywood Hills Church, in Knoxville on March 12 at Grace Church, and in Chattanooga on March 13 at Ridgeview Church.

Participants will learn how to become a sponsor, how to prepare for the arrival, and how to assist the refugee(s). Refugees and sponsors will also speak at the conferences, which are sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the TBC.

The meetings will be held from 7-9 p.m. More information is available from Sharp at the TBC, (615) 371-2032.

burses the Postal Service for the non-profit mailers' share of overhead expenses. Non-profit rates reflect only the cost of handling that class of mail.

If the budget proposal is approved, second-class non-profit mailers could see a 17 percent rate hike and third-class non-profit rates could spiral 31 percent, estimated Dan Doherty, executive director of the Alliance of Non-profit Mailers. Most state Baptist newspapers are second-class non-profit mailers.

In addition to the reduced funding, the budget also proposes ending or restricting preferred rate status for second-class non-profit mail with more than ten percent advertising and for third-class non-profit mail with advertising, advocacy material, or educational data for organizations that are not schools.

Doherty does not think Congress will enact the budget proposal, but if it is approved, some non-profit mailers would lose eligibility entirely and others would have difficulty surviving, he said.

He noted the 1993 budget proposal is "hardly a new scenario" because Bush proposed a similar cut to revenue foregone last year. Congress took steps to prevent a rate increase for most non-profit mail in 1992.

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While Doherty is somewhat confident, he said that non-profit mailers must take the proposal seriously because the economy is in bad shape and legislators are having to tighten the federal government's belt. Non-profit mailers have many sympathetic sup-

porters on Capitol Hill, but legislators have multiple concerns and interests, he added.

Bush challenged Congress to approve his budget by March 20 during his third State of the Union address.

— ABP

## Virginia state paper elects pastor editor

RICHMOND (BP) — Virginia Baptist pastor Michael J. Clingenpeel has been elected editor of the Religious Herald, newjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Trustees of the Herald unanimously elected Clingenpeel Feb. 10 at a meeting of the board in Richmond. He is to assume the position around May 1. Clingenpeel, 41, succeeds Julian H. Pentecost, who will retire April 30 after 22 years as editor of the 164-year-old Baptist journal.

Since 1983, Clingenpeel has been pastor of Franklin Church in southeastern Virginia. He is currently first vice chairman of the Religious Herald trustee board and has been a trustee

since 1986 and a member of the board's executive committee since 1988.

A graduate of the University of Richmond, he holds master's and doctorate degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

His wife, the former Vivian Stephenson, is the daughter of former BGAV executive director Richard M. Stephenson of Falls Church, Va.

Clingenpeel has been active in Virginia Baptist life, serving as the BGAV's first vice president in 1988.

## CLASSIFIED

**Oaklawn Baptist Church**, 5714 Benjestown Road, Memphis, 38127 is looking for a part-time choir director and part-time youth director. If interested, please send resumes to above address to attention of pastor Rick Bennett.

**Part-time youth director** — Send resume to Boones Creek Baptist Church, 304 Pickens Bridge Road, Gray, 37615 or call (615) 282-1371, Mon., Wed., or Fri. from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., for more information.

**Part-time music and part-time youth workers**, or one person full-time to do both. Send resume to Range Hills Church, 2741 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, 38127 or call (901) 357-5560.

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# Israel's political and religious decay

By Jerry Winfield, pastor; First Church, Bolivar

God's judgment was coming against Israel for two primary reasons. First, as seen in last week's lesson, was the nation's spiritual decay. This lesson deals with the second reason: Israel's political and religious decay. The lessons of history teach us that when a nation falls spiritually, political ruin cannot be far behind.

**Corruption in the palace (ch. 7:3-7)**  
The children of Israel had failed to be the holy people of God. Their sins were many and serious. Hosea pointed out in these verses that the leaders, kings, of Israel were setting a terrible example for the people by their own sinful conduct. The royal inaugurations and celebrations had degenerated from times of joy to drunken orgies. Israel was on her way to ruin, and the kings were leading the way.

**Danger of foreign alliances (ch. 7:8-16)**  
Like a half-turned cake, burned on the bottom and raw on the top, Israel had become a useless nation. Instead

of depending on God and trusting Him for their protection, the Israelites had turned to alliances with foreign nations. These alliances had not led to a stronger nation, but rather a weaker one. Every nation aligned with Israel extracted heavy payments of tribute. The nation, like an old man, was turning gray and was about to expire. Like a silly dove, Israel was caught in a trap and didn't even know it.

**God condemns Israel for idol worship (ch. 8:1-14)**

Because the Israelites had carelessly sown their seed of sin in a gentle wind, the time of harvest would come and bring with it the destruction of a whirlwind. Hosea preached four oracles (messages) to warn them about what was to happen.

The first message in chapter 8:1-3 was about the broken covenant. The second message in chapter 8:4-6 was about how the people broke the covenant through the worship of idols.

Message three showed how the foreign alliances the Israelites made were really a lack of faith in God. The last message was about the superficial and empty ritual of the Israelites' worship. Like many people today, the children of Israel loved to go through the motions of worship. They just didn't bother to make sure God was present and pleased.

**Warnings about the coming judgment (ch. 9:1-9)**

Hosea, in these verses, contrasted the joyous celebrations of Israelite worship with the conditions that would exist when judgment finally came. There would be devastating famine and great mourning. Even times that should have been happy would become times of sorrow. Amazingly, the people of Israel refused to repent or even admit they had sinned. God had no choice except judgment.

**Israel's sin and God's punishment (ch. 9:10-17)**

As these verses show, the Israelites' unfaithfulness to God was not new. Even before they entered the promised land, they became enamored with the pagan gods at Baalpeor. That idolatry was judged then, just as their current idolatry would be judged. Even their demand for a king, which they thought would make them like other nations, was a costly mistake. Most of their kings were like rotten fruit. The result would be captivity.

**BIBLE BOOK**  
**March 1 Lesson**  
Basic Passage: Hosea 7:3-10:15

**Judgment on a corrupt society**  
(ch. 10:1-15)

All of chapter 10 is a description of the judgment of God and the different ways the people of Israel had sinned. Verse 12, however, is pivotal. God's judgment was not intended to destroy all the people. Rather, its purpose was to bring the people to a place where they would be willing to obey and trust the God of their salvation.

# Identification and testing

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

God did not need a way to be introduced to mankind. He could have spoken or willed this revelation to man. However, God chose to have a "child of promise" introduce the opening of a new day. Hebrews 1:1 - "God - at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto our fathers" ... reveals God had actively communicated with His people. However, during the 400 year span between Malachi and the opening remarks of John the Baptist, God became silent. Also during this time there was strife, wars, oppression, and rebellion against foreign ruling power. God was preparing the world for His Son and His mission.

**CONVENTION UNIFORM**  
**March 1 Lesson**  
Basic Passage: Mark 1:1-15

By the time John the Baptist appeared the people were ready to hear from God, but they were not ready for God's Word. Both Isaiah and Malachi

prophesied that a forerunner would prepare the way for Jesus' arrival and His mission. The message John was to present was not a new religion, but a call to people to repent. The messages of John the Baptist and Jesus would be similar yet distinctively different (v. 4). John the Baptist "preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." The message and baptism of Jesus brought an opportunity to a newness of life.

John the Baptist's simple lifestyle was a volunteer reaction to the luxurious lives of the religious leaders who valued expensive clothes and special food.

The introduction of Jesus by John the Baptist was humbling and honorable. John said Jesus was superior to him, that he was not worthy to do the servant's task of washing Jesus' feet. As popular as John the Baptist was, he declared, "He must increase and I must decrease." (John 3:30).

It is not known if Jesus and John the Baptist had previous contact before the

baptismal experience. Both had been promised and prophesied to carry out God's plan.

Jesus left Nazareth of Galilee and met John the Baptist at the Jordan River to be baptized. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness" was being publicized far and wide. People came to hear John's message. They responded by being baptized for the remission of their sins. However, Jesus was sinless. He had no need for repentance and baptism. 1 John 3:5 says, "And we know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin." I see at least five reasons for Jesus' baptism. 1) He identified with sinners, and shared our humanity. 2) Jesus was making a statement that all mankind needed to repent and turn to God. 3) He demonstrated His commitment to His mission. 4) He was starting His public ministry. 5) The act of baptism depicted an internal experience. It has the same meaning for us today, being born again to new life.

Mark recorded in verses 10 and 11 an event at the baptism of Jesus. Those watching along the bank saw only Jesus and John the Baptist, but what was seen and heard by John and Jesus

was important. "The heavens opened and the Spirit, like a dove, descended upon Him." Then came a voice. "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." To John, it meant God's mission for him had been completed. To Jesus, it was God's stamp of approval for His mission. The message to us is two-fold: He who knew no sin identified with sinful mankind in baptism, and God, the Father, acknowledged His pleasure with Jesus and identified Him as His divine Son.

Verses 12 and 13 are very brief, but important. Jesus' baptism and the affirmation from God did not keep Jesus from trials and testings. Neither will the salvation experience and baptism into church membership today keep trials and testings from Christians. The closer we walk with God, the more trials and testings we will face. However, divine aid from angels is available.

Jesus' mission in this world was to provide salvation for all who would receive Him as Savior. This salvation can be ours when we repent by turning to Jesus Christ, confessing sin, asking for forgiveness, and trusting Christ to be Savior and Lord.

# Counting the cost

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die." "... being disciples of the Messiah/King requires our unconditional commitment to Him and our willingness to sacrifice self in His service."

Both these statements - the first penned by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the second by writers of our Southern Baptist Convention Life and Work Curriculum - speak of probably the most crucial demand of being a citizen in the kingdom, that of counting the cost of following Christ.

When beginning any new venture, one must count the cost. Planning to deny ourselves of lesser things for the desired goal is part of cost counting. Predetermining that personal sacrifices must be made is cost counting. Affirming that working to achieve the desired goal is more important than immediate gratification is cost counting.

Counting the cost of following Christ is serious business. Christ did not promise an easy road of life for His followers, and we are remiss in giving a false impression in statements such as, "Just follow Jesus, and all your problems will be solved." In fact, Jesus warned that allegiance to Him as a result of our faith would make demands on our priorities, our loyalty to our family, our pocket book, our time and energy, our friendships, our lifestyle, and yes, in some cases, even our job or our lives!

A zealous scribe caught up in the emotion of his encounter with Jesus indicated his willingness to follow Jesus anywhere in Matthew 8:19-22. (Sounds like many of us singing "Wherever He Leads I'll Go.") Jesus' reply in verse 20 is the first time Matthew records Jesus' referral to himself as "Son of Man" which identifies with man. Recognizing the impulsiveness of the

scribe, Jesus implied in His statement about His homelessness that true discipleship actually means a life of hardship.

**LIFE AND WORK**  
**March 1 Lesson**  
Basic Passage: Matthew 8:18-22;  
10:24-39; 16:13-28

Considering the conditional willingness to follow Jesus of the disciple in verses 21-22, I am reminded of a fine, Christian, single lady of about 75 years of age who spoke of God's leading her to a missions vocation as a young woman. Upon her seminary graduation, which was the first step of preparation for the mission field, her mother became gravely ill. Not wanting to leave the care of her mother to her married siblings with families of their own, she unselfishly began staying with her mother, thinking all the time that this was just a temporary setback in the plan for her life. One year led to five years, which led to ten years of staying with her mother, until

one day it was too late for her to go to the mission field. This 75-year-old lady related to me genuine remorse that approximately 50 years of her life she had put God "on hold" while she attended her mother and other family affairs. What a life of guilt!

About six months prior to His crucifixion, Jesus spoke the strongest demand of discipleship and the mark of a true follower in Matthew 8:24. Lest we forget, cross-bearing has nothing to do with an illness, a physical condition, or one's plight in life. When Jesus bore His cross, He bore responsibility for the world, and He did so willingly and unselfishly, not grudgingly.

Our cross is like Jesus' cross. The cost of discipleship is shouldering our Christian responsibility for devotion to Christ, study of His Word, prayer, ministry, service to Him through His church, and loving our fellow sheep in His pastures. Christ asked us to bear our cross daily. His cross led to His death. Are we willing to bear our cross for Him to our death? Knoxville's Bill Wallace of China was willing.

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

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

**Missionaries busy at Winter Olympics**

ALBERTVILLE, France — Five Southern Baptist missionaries are at the Winter Olympics, but were working rather than watching. The missionaries, all based in France, joined a 140-member Olympic ministry team called Action Evangelique Olympique (Olympic Evangelical Action) made up of Baptists, Free Church, and Brethren workers. More than 100 of them are evangelical students from across Europe who paid their own way to minister during the games. Others are pastors and missionaries.

Each day evangelism teams went out among the crowds to pass out tracts and explain the Christian plan of salvation. Each evening they sponsored concerts, films, and Christian theater groups in a church in the city, all designed for Christian outreach.

"We were out in the streets witnessing on Saturday just before the opening ceremony," said Southern Baptist missionary Dennis Barton, based in Pau, a city in southwestern France. Missionary Robert Shehane, based in the Nancy area, leads training sessions for the workers. Other missionaries are Woody Wilson, Joel Sutton, and John Perkins. The missionaries spent a week in Albertville.

Did the missionaries take time off to see even one sporting event? "No," replied Barton. "That's not why we were here."

**Historic Iowa church destroyed by fire**

WINTERSET, Iowa — After a fire destroyed the historic First Church of Winterset Feb. 5, the congregation recorded its highest-ever Sunday School attendance Feb. 9 — 223 adults, youth, and children in the local high school.

The church was founded in 1856. Later in the 1800s, George Washington Carver was a member of the church and sang in the choir after coming to Iowa, having heard of the state's openness to blacks, according to Dennis Hansen, evangelism and stewardship director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

After a 1902 fire destroyed the church, it was rebuilt as a two-story brick structure, with timbers from the St. Louis World's Fair and stained glass from Europe. "We know that the Lord hasn't stopped being the Lord," Pastor John Shaull told Baptist Press.

Most likely cause of the fire was a faulty furnace, Shaull said. Only church records and Shaull's belongings in the office somehow survived the early morning blaze, which was battled by fire departments from Winterset and five surrounding communities. The congregation had dedicated its new hymnals Feb. 2. The church and its contents were insured for \$640,000.

**Bivocational leaders set national strategies**

FORT WORTH, Texas — No one would mistake Kentucky pastor Chuck Stewart for a surfer but his imagery was unmistakable: "If bivocationalism is the wave of the future, those of us engaged in bivocational ministry today should be catching the crest of that wave."

Stewart met with other officers and directors of the National Council on Bivocational Ministries for two days on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to hammer out strategies for strengthening and supporting bivocational ministries across the Southern Baptist Convention. Stewart is current president of the council and pastor of Rose Hill Church in Ashland, Ky.

The six priorities identified by the steering committee are expected to set the direction and agenda for the organization the next several years. One goal will be to increase representation of bivocational ministers on denominational boards and committees and on programs of state and national meetings. Participants in the meeting agreed that at present such assignments almost always go to fully supported ministers, even though one-fourth of all SBC churches have bivocational pastors.

Matching bivocational ministers with both ministry and marketplace opportunities was another concern addressed by the group. They expect to work with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and other entities to develop a network for such connections. The group also plans to encourage development of resources and continuous training opportunities for bivocational ministers.

Three other strategies will seek to affirm bivocational ministers, in part by getting them involved with each other. Each state convention will be urged to designate a staff person to promote and coordinate bivocational ministries within the state. The council will develop materials to help local Baptist associations establish bivocational fellowships. Every bivocational minister in the convention also will be encouraged to join the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers' Association, a national fellowship organized just over a year ago.

**Southern Baptists asked to join hunger campaign**

WASHINGTON — Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy group dealing with hunger issues, is asking Southern Baptists to help influence Congress to increase funding for three government programs aimed at needy children.

The Washington-based organization is encouraging Southern Baptists and other religious groups to participate in an "Every Fifth Child" Offering of Letters campaign to enlarge budget allocations for Head Start, the Job Corps, and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

In an offering of letters, a church invites its members to write letters to their senators and representatives urging support for selected programs. Some churches ask their members to write the letters Sunday and place them in the offering plate as a gift of citizenship before being mailed, according to Bread for the World.

"Southern Baptists are a generous and caring people," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "We are encouraged by a recent Home Mission Board survey which found that 92 percent

of all Southern Baptist churches have some form of ministry to needy people. And yet the fact that poverty and hunger persist calls for a redoubling of the ministry efforts of our churches."

One of five children in the United States is either hungry or at risk of hunger, said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. "But now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shift resources that have been lavished on the Cold War into programs that meet basic human needs," Beckmann said.

**HMB trustees elect staff, new national missionary**

ATLANTA — The first missionary to work with abortion alternatives and an assistant director of refugee church growth were elected during the February meeting of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Barbara Noakes was appointed to work as a national missionary in alternatives to abortion. Noakes has been director of the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Oklahoma City for four years. Noakes will move to Atlanta where she will work with Sylvia Booth, HMB coordinator for alternatives to abortion ministries. Noakes will be available to churches throughout the nation to help them develop abortion alternative ministries.

William M. Fulkerson was elected to the refugee church growth position to administer the HMB immigration and refugee resettlement program. Since 1983 the Kansas native has directed language ministries for the Atlanta Association.

During the meeting it was also reported that the chaplains commission endorsed 81 chaplains, bringing the total number of Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains to 2338.

**Pastor is first black leader of Penn/Jersey convention**

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Philadelphia pastor Bill Johnson has assumed the presidency of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey — the first black Baptist to hold the position. Johnson presided during the Feb. 8 meeting of the convention's executive board.

Convention staff member Peggy Masters also was elected editor of the Penn/Jersey Baptist during the board meeting.

Johnson, pastor of Christian Mission Fellowship Church in Philadelphia, succeeded Lamar Duke, who was elected convention president last November but resigned to take a pastorate in Savannah, Ga. Johnson had been elected first vice president. The convention encompasses 35 black Baptist churches.

Johnson has preached during conferences at Baptist conference centers in Ridgecrest, N.C. and Glorieta, N.M. He also has been pastor or assistant pastor at other Philadelphia churches. A graduate of Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., he holds a master's degree in theological studies from Eastern Baptist Seminary in Philadelphia.

**Five Baptist universities top \$100 million in endowment**

WASHINGTON — Five Southern Baptist-related universities — Samford in Alabama, Mercer in Georgia, Wake Forest in North Carolina, Baylor in Texas, and Richmond in Virginia — have topped the \$100 million level of endowment holdings, placing them in rare company among the nation's 3500 accredited colleges and universities.

Wake Forest tallied \$336 million to rank 38th in the nation in 1991. Richmond, at \$297 million, was 48th, Baylor, with \$264 million, was 56th. Samford, with \$111 million, was 112th; Mercer, at \$102 million, was 123rd.

The statistics are part of a study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, appearing in the Feb. 12 issue of *Chronicle of Higher Education*, a Washington-based journal.

Samford University showed one of the largest percentage jumps in a single year, with its endowment more than doubling since the 1990 listing. The five Baptist-related universities now hold more endowment than many nationally known schools including UCLA, Michigan State, Marquette, William and Mary, Davidson, Sweet Briar, and Fordham. Their individual endowment also exceeds that of the flagship state universities of Georgia, Kentucky, Arizona, Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

**Most Americans believe Jesus Christ assures eternal life**

ATLANTA — Most Americans believe that faith in Jesus Christ is the only assurance of eternal life, according to research by the Princeton Religion Research Center. The research also shows that while most Americans believe religion is the answer for today's problems, they think religion is losing its influence on society.

In telephone surveys of 1005 adults, 59 percent agreed personal faith in Jesus Christ is the only assurance of eternal life. Seventeen percent said they "agreed somewhat" with that statement.

Regional differences were evident in the study. In the South, 75 percent of people questioned said they believed Jesus is the only way to eternal life. In the West, only 45 percent agreed with that claim.

In another telephone survey of 1012 adults, researchers found that 59 percent of those polled said religion can answer all or most of today's problems. The majority of people who expressed confidence in religion were blacks, 79 percent; Southerners, 73 percent; and women, 65 percent.

**Meacham gets unanimous vote as Nevada Baptists' new exec**

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The Nevada Baptist Convention's executive board, in a unanimous vote Feb. 6, named David F. Meacham the convention's new executive director.

Meacham, 46, will assume office no later than April 1, succeeding Ernest B. Myers, the convention's first-ever executive director who has announced his retirement effective March 15. Meacham has been director of missions for the Las Vegas area Southern Nevada Baptist Association the past ten-plus years.

"I've heard a lot of comments that changes are needed," Meacham told the 18-member executive board after his election, "but I believe we have done a lot of things right in Nevada. . . . I will evaluate before we make any changes and establish a vision for the future . . . but we must also keep on doing those things that we are doing right."