

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 158/NO. 10/MARCH 4, 1992

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Shelton of Haywood Hills stays 30 years

Tenure of Southern Baptist pastors increasing slowly

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — Thirty years ago members of Haywood Hills Church met for worship in a small block building in a sparsely populated rural area just south of downtown Nashville. Sunday School classes were held in a nearby farmhouse.

Today, that former countryside is a crowded residential area complete with several subdivisions and apartment complexes. The church campus includes ample education space, an 850-seat sanctuary, and a gymnasium.

But one thing has remained constant during three decades of change and growth — the pastor.

Roger Shelton was the church's first full-time pastor. He will retire this summer after more than 30 years as the congregation's spiritual leader.

"I really had no idea I would stay this long," the 62-year-old pastor said. "I just felt this is where the Lord wanted me to be and when opportunities to go somewhere else came along, I never felt the clearance from him to make the change."

Though the amount of time Southern Baptist pastors are staying at one church is slowly increasing, Shelton's long tenure at Haywood Hills is unusual. The latest statistics, garnered from the 1991 Uniform Church Letter, which asked pastors what year their current pastorate began, show the

Sticky issue

mean (or average) pastoral tenure in the SBC is 5.5 years. A 4.3-year average was reported in 1975. It rose to 4.6 years in 1980, and to 5.1 years in 1985.

But since the "average" figures include extremely long tenures such as Shelton's, denominational statistics specialist Jim Lowry of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department said a better gauge might be the "median" pastoral tenure — the middle value when half the cases are above and half are below. That number stood at 2.6 years in 1975, 2.7 years in 1980, 3.1 years in 1985, and 3.4 years in 1991.

Lowry cited three possible explanations for the increase in pastoral tenure in the SBC:

- The number of large churches in the SBC is increasing and pastors tend to remain longer at larger churches. Sunday School Board consultant Norris Smith said factors in longer tenure at larger churches include better salaries, increased visibility and influence in the denomination, and help from a multi-member church staff.

- The supply of available pastors in the SBC exceeds the demand, so pastors are less likely to leave a stable church position.

- Some pastors are more reluctant to leave their churches because of

financial reasons — they are making a good salary or they own their own home in the community.

Adding to Lowry's list of factors influencing long pastoral tenures, Smith cited:

- Educational needs. "Pastors know

when they go from one community to the next there is no automatic guarantee there will be a good school system waiting for them. Pastors are parents, too, and they have to consider their children's education," he said.

— See *Tenure of SBC pastors*, page 5

Young may join Moody, Price

DALLAS (BP) — Houston pastor H. Edwin Young is considering a request from Joel Gregory that Young permit himself to be nominated as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis June 9-11.

"I am just trying to seek the mind and will of God; that is all I am doing," said Young, who said he has no timetable for giving Gregory an answer.

Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas, told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Feb. 24, he had approached Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, to invite him to be a presidential nominee.

"If he acquiesces in that invitation, I will nominate him for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis," Gregory said.

"I feel that Edwin has demonstrated in this generation that he is one of the most creative and effective church

builders and leaders in America. He has demonstrated that leadership at Second Church, Houston, in an exemplary way, and as well at First Church, Columbia, S.C. (Young's previous pastorate).

"I feel that he is a man whose spirit in an exemplary way can bring us together."

Gregory said the decision to nominate Young was his alone, but added he and "some of the fellows have talked together" about it in informal conversation over "a period of some months."

In recent years, the conservative element of the SBC has come forward with one nominee and has successfully elected the president of the convention since 1979.

Asked about being identified as the "fundamentalist" nominee, Young said he would fight the term and believes "all labels we put on Baptists are pejorative. I don't identify with any of them. I am a Southern Baptist, theologically a thorough-going conservative who believes in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement. I am not for theological pluralism. I am a Southern Baptist. I believe in the Cooperative Program, and I won't change.

"It is time we move on" beyond the politics of the last dozen years; he said. "If we spend any more time with all our labeling and divisiveness, we are making a serious mistake."

His agenda, whether it be as pastor of Second Church or as president of the SBC, should he permit his nomination, he said, "is strictly two things — mis-

— See *Young may*, page 5

Church donors' giving report lacks support

WASHINGTON (BP) — The White House has withdrawn support for a proposal requiring churches to file reports with the Internal Revenue Service on contributors giving more than \$500 annually. Vice President Dan Quayle said.

Quayle, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press" Feb. 23, called the reporting requirement a "nonsense regulation" neither President George Bush nor he was aware of in the budget.

"I can assure you that I didn't know it was in (the budget), the president didn't know it was in there and, unfortunately, sometimes these things get in there, and when it's brought up to us and brought to our attention, we do what is right," Quayle said. "And what is right is to say that that piece of legislation is not going to have our support.

"Now, Congress can go ahead and pass it if they want to, but it's not going to have our support."

The administration is "backing off" the measure, a White House source confirmed Feb. 24.

It appears unlikely the proposal will go anywhere in Congress. On Feb. 20, the Democrats, who control Congress, introduced an alternative tax package without the reporting requirement. President Bush's tax package, which includes the requirement, was reported to the House of Representatives without recommendation by the Ways and Means Committee Feb. 12.

The reporting requirement, included in the president's recently introduced fiscal 1993 budget, would force churches, religious organizations, and other charitable groups to report to the IRS 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 Taxpayer Identification Number usually is the person's Social Security number.

Evangelical and religious liberty groups in particular protested requiring churches to be participants in the government's tax-enforcement process

and burdening many churches with unnecessary work.

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 Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department.

CP increases for second straight month

For the first time in many months, Tennessee Baptist Convention churches' Cooperative Program budget gifts had a second consecutive month with receipts above last year.

February CP receipts of \$1,940,092.88 were \$101,634.29 better than February 1991, according to D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer.

Coupled with January's receipts, which established a TBC record for one month, the two months are "very good," Lowrie said.

"We are tremendously impressed that we have had two good months back to back," he said. "It hasn't happened in many months.

"This is a positive sign from our churches and we are very appreciative of their generosity to the Cooperative Program," he said.

The two months' receipts enabled Cooperative Program figures to inch upward slightly toward budget needs. At this time in the budget year, TBC budget receipts are \$366,099.90 above giving totals for 1991-92. That gain over last year amounts to 4.56 percent.

Budget income since the beginning of the year in November is \$9,430,320. However, that is 11.1 percent under budget needs, or \$1,037,232. Lowrie expressed optimism for the CP budget.

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Historical Commission, 880
Nash: 900-00410-0127

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Editorials**Southern Baptists must keep sending undimmed Gospel**

Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board and R. Keith Parks need every kind of support — visible and invisible — not for personal position or glory, but for the wellbeing of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The convention itself may survive as a skeleton operation, but the people and churches may not flourish as a viable mission force for a lost and doomed world.

One of the most important FMB meetings is scheduled March 19-20 in Dallas. Trustees will meet with Parks and discuss his management of Southern Baptists' global mission strategy on foreign fields. He asks them to give him opportunity to complete his global strategy or to find a replacement.

Whether a majority of trustees want Parks to remain at the helm for a few more years, or whether they want to replace him, probably will be decided at that meeting. It will be behind closed doors — no visitors or media representatives will be present.

Parks has said he wants to know if he will have the option of "exerting positive leadership and trying to fulfill the vision I believe God gave me until 1995." By doing so, he would direct the initial phases of his ten-point vision for global evangelization now being studied by a trustee subcommittee.

Some have accused Parks of playing "hard ball" with the trustees. There had been apparent agreement to support him during the implementation period, but to Parks that seemed indecisive. He asked for a tenure vote, up or down. The trustees responded by scheduling the March 19-20 session.

While the trustees and FMB leadership seem to be at odds, the problem has been building.

Some trustees want Parks replaced with a more "conservative" leader, and one with whom they share a mutual comfort. Strategies for missions already are involved to some extent.

Parks is viewed by many Southern Baptists as a missions leader cut from the same cloth as the

revered Baker J. Cauten. He wears no halo — nor did Cauten — but both carry the missions banner high, with abundant compassion for lost souls, the missions concept, and concern for other Baptist groups around the world.

Southern Baptists now support the best global missions effort in history. Not only in numbers of career, short-term, and volunteer missionaries — but in depth of planning and organization around the world, the FMB is in first place.

It is extremely unfortunate that that effort is in peril at a time when God is calling Christians to open doors and to rare opportunities in many places heretofore unreachable. A slowdown now caused by a leadership change could dim the missions light.

We must pray that out of the March meeting in

Dallas will come a resolution of the problems — and that the trustees and Parks can and will join in setting out on the road together. It is apparent that some differences are extreme and seem too knotty to solve. With God all things are possible.

Southern Baptists, rather than simply waiting on news of the meeting, should rally to call on the parties involved to keep the mission fires burning. Internal conflict can effectively douse those flames.

We believe Keith Parks is the man Southern Baptists need to lead the Foreign Mission Board during the next critical years, and in implementing global strategy he envisioned. God will surely call up new leadership when Parks retires, but we believe his hand is on Parks for the immediate future. — WFA

Two victories for decency

Two strong resounding blows were struck for decency in American life last month. It is refreshing to witness such actions against blatant immoral forces.

Early in the month the United States Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by the "dial-a-porn" industry, thus giving morality a victory over telephone pornography.

A 1989 court decision restricted dial-a-porn indecency, but sellers of the indecent phone messages continued operating until the February Supreme Court action.

Now that 1989 law will be upheld and FCC regulations will require customers to file a written request in advance for the phone service and mandates dial-a-porn companies to provide a de-scrambling device paid for in advance by the customer.

These restrictions block easy access to the phone numbers by children who have constituted

about 75 percent of the callers.

The \$2.4 billion industry thus has lost all legal arguments. Sometimes called smut merchants, the companies will now have to obtain permission from parents of the home before utilizing the phone lines.

The other victory came when John Frohnmayer resigned last week as chairman of the controversial National Endowment for the Arts. There are indications that Frohnmayer's resignation came as a result of political strategy — but whatever the reason, it is welcomed.

Frohnmayer has been patently unresponsive as Christian groups called for stricter regulations of taxpayers' money being used for very questionable "art" expressions. Grants under his leadership had been given to "artists" who portrayed a crucifix submerged in urine, homosexual film festivals in six cities, and sexually explicit, and other homosexual-oriented, sacrilegious performances. We hope decency will prevail again under new leadership of the NEA. Decent citizens deserve it. — WFA

Most Southern Baptists believe Bible is literal Word

ATLANTA (BP) — Sixty percent of Southern Baptists, compared with 32 percent of Americans in general, believe the Bible is the literal Word of God, according to a survey by the Princeton Religion Research Center.

Results of the survey were published in "Emerging Trends," the Princeton, N.J., research center's monthly publication.

"Only in the South does a plurality of 46 percent of the adult population continue to believe in the literal truth of the Bible," according to the research. "This reflects the high concentration of several groups in the South who maintain much-higher-than-average belief in Biblical literalness."

Southern Baptists were listed as one such group, with 60 percent of South-

ern Baptists who were questioned saying they believe the Bible is the actual Word of God, to be taken literally in all instances.

Survey results were based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1005 adults last November. The survey results allow for an error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The current report of 32 percent of Americans believing in a literal Bible is an all-time low. In 1963, 65 percent said they believed in the absolute truth of all the words in the Bible. In 1978, that rate had dropped to 38 percent.

Nationwide, 49 percent of the people polled said the Bible is the inspired Word of God, but it should not be interpreted as literally true in every

SEBTS seeks nominations

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is formally seeking nominations for the office of president. Trustees also invite comments from interested Southern Baptists relative to the development of a presidential profile.

Roger Ellsworth, current board chairman, will head the search committee. The administrative manual of the seminary calls upon the executive committee of the trustees to serve as the presidential search committee at the time a vacancy occurs in the office of the president.

Ellsworth asks that nominations be sent directly to him at 516 N. Main, Benton, Illinois 62812. Mail received at the seminary addressed to the Presidential Search Committee will be forwarded unopened to Ellsworth.

instance. The number of Southern Baptists who agreed with that statement was not reported.

In 1963, 18 percent of people questioned said the Bible was God's inspired but not literal word, compared to 45 percent in 1978.

Sixteen percent of the people questioned in November said the Bible is nothing more than a book of ancient fables, legends, history, and moral precepts written by man.

The report says changes in the education levels of the general population in recent years "appear to account for a large part of the variance in Biblical beliefs."

The research shows 58 percent of people who identify themselves as Biblical literalists did not complete high school.

The report said 29 percent of those who rejected the claims the Bible is the literal or inspired Word of God are college graduates.

How do I become a Christian?

Have you ever wondered what you must do to become a Christian or what you must do to be saved? The Bible has an answer that is easy to understand.

FIRST, you must understand you need to be saved. The Bible says you need to be saved because you are a sinner. Your sin has a penalty. You cannot save yourself. The Bible says, "all have sinned," and "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

SECOND, you must understand you can be saved. You can be saved because Christ died on the cross for our sins. The Bible says "God demonstrated his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

THIRD, you must understand what you need to do to be saved. The Bible explains how you can be saved. Acts 3:19 says we must repent and turn away from our sins. But repentance alone is not enough. Ephesians 2:8 says that we must place our faith in Jesus Christ to be saved.

NOW, you must act if you want to be saved. God is waiting for you to "want to" and to ask him to save you. The Bible says, "Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13). If you are ready to trust Christ as your Savior and Lord, invite Christ into your heart right now by praying to him. You may word your own prayer or use the prayer printed here. The important thing is that the prayer is sincere and personal.

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I know you died for my sins. Right now I invite you into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. I willingly turn from my sin and give my life to you. Thank you for saving me. Amen."

Welcome to God's family. You have just made the greatest decision of your life. Tell a pastor or another Christian friend about your decision as soon as possible. — *Sunday School Board, SBC, Nashville, Tenn.*

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of
Tennessee Baptist Convention
Post Office Box 728
Brentwood, Tenn. 37024
Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Baptist and Reflector, established in 1835, is published weekly except Christmas week and is the official newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing offices. (USPS 041-780). Call (615) 371-2003 for subscription information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

Baptists send flour to help Albanians survive winter

By Mike Creswell

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — A united Baptist effort sent \$100,000 worth of flour to Albania during February to help the troubled country meet an urgent food shortage this winter as it struggles to recover from years of isolation under communism.

A team of Baptist leaders who visited Albania in January also won government permission to establish an office in Tirana, the capital, to coordinate future aid and ministry in the country of 3.2 million people. They will assemble a list of needs and seek personnel and funds to meet them.

Baptist cooperation will be a key element of the plan. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will give \$50,000, and \$25,000 each will come from the Canadian Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance.

Currently emergency shipments of flour are helping the impoverished country stay just a few days ahead of running completely out of bread, a staple food in Albania. Still locked into communist-style centralized production, the country needs 2700 tons of wheat daily to produce bread.

Both decades of communist mismanagement and the revolution to regain democracy have wrecked Albania's economy. "Our country is worse than many, if not most, African countries in terms of the economy," one government official told the Baptist team.

Baptist agencies will send missionaries and volunteers to have a con-

Missions Day Camp set for Indianapolis

MEMPHIS (BP) — While parents are tending to convention business, singing, praying, listening, voting, and standing in lines at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, their children may be involved in action-packed activities at the SBC Missions Day Camp.

The SBC Missions Day Camp is sponsored by the children and youth division of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. It is for boys and girls who will have completed grades 1-6 this year and whose parents are attending the annual SBC meeting.

The day camp provides a missions education program for children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention from Tuesday, June 9, through Thursday, June 11. The cost is \$8 per day per child, which includes lunch and refreshments.

To register children for the day camp, visit the Missions Day Camp booth near the messenger registration area of the convention center on Monday, 8 a.m. through 5 p.m., or during daytime convention sessions Tuesday through Thursday.

The day camp will use the facilities of Northside Church, in Indianapolis, ten miles north of the downtown area. Transportation will be provided to and from the day camp from the convention center.

Seventh-grade and older children are eligible to serve as assistant counselors for the camp. Contact Karl Bozeman at the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, or at the Missions Day Camp registration booth on Monday before the convention.

tinuing presence in what was one of the most closed countries in Europe. The Foreign Mission Board has sought missionaries for Albania for more than two years, anticipating they could eventually serve there.

Until recently, Albanian leaders bragged they had "the world's most atheistic state." But anti-communist riots broke out in 1990, when the last statues of Lenin still standing in Eastern Europe were pulled down by mobs.

The Baptist aid package will be coordinated through Baptist Response Europe, a team representing the European Baptist Federation, the Baptist World Alliance, and the secretaries of mission organizations serving in Europe. This team has helped smooth the way for world Baptist aid to Eastern Europe.

The three-member response team that visited Albania in January returned with graphic reports of dire needs in every area of society. They also have government assurances of cooperation in coordinating future aid programs and in getting Baptist workers established in the country for ministry.

"The meetings were excellent at all levels, and they (government leaders) feel Baptists play an important role in understanding democracy and religious freedom," said one of the team members, Keith Parker, who represented both the FMB and Baptist missions secretaries serving in Europe. The other two team members are Southern Baptist missionary administrator Paul Thibodeaux and John Keith of the Canadian Baptist Convention.

"We were warmly received, and they're willing to accept not only our assistance but help us set up a Baptist office in Tirana," said Parker, who served as FMB area director for Europe before taking early retirement.

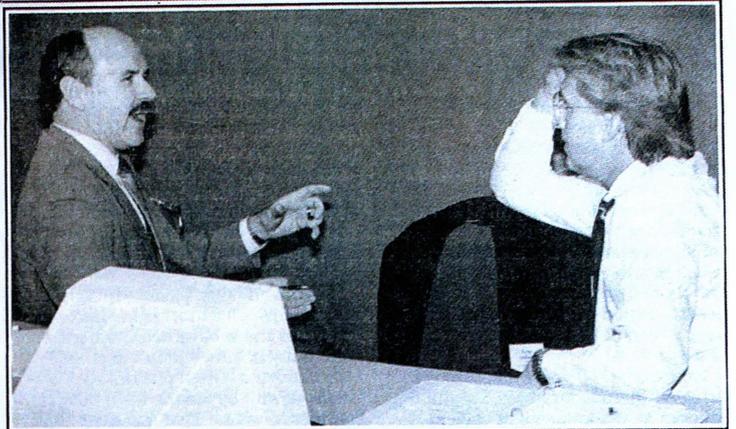
NEA's Frohnmayer resigns after stormy tenure

WASHINGTON (BP) — Evangelical leaders say the timing of John Frohnmayer's announcement of his resignation as chairman of the controversial National Endowment for the Arts is significant.

Frohnmayer announced his resignation Feb. 21, three days after President George Bush's unimpressive victory over Pat Buchanan in the Republican primary in New Hampshire. The day prior to the announcement, Buchanan cited the NEA in lashing out at the president for his unfaithfulness to conservative Republicans.

Frohnmayer served nearly two and a half years as chairman. His years were marked by criticism from some members of Congress as well as evangelical and conservative groups for funding what they considered sexually explicit and sacrilegious "art." Many organizations, including the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, repeatedly called for his dismissal as part of a reformation of the NEA.

"I believe that the Christian Life Commission and other evangelical groups softened Mr. Frohnmayer up and Pat Buchanan delivered the knockout punch in New Hampshire," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Conven-



COMPUTER TALK — David Trammel, left, sales manager for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Information System Department (CIS), talks about the use of the computer in the church with Scott Andrews, minister of music at First Church, Sevierville, during a recent workshop at the board in Nashville.

"They said they would help us work with a minimum of government interference."

Government officials urged Baptists to develop long- and short-term plans, coordinate with the government, and have built-in accountability. The new Baptist office, to be coordinated through the European Baptist Federation and the response team, will be an integral part of that coordination, Parker said.

Government leaders are concerned about parachurch groups entering the country for one-shot giveaway programs intended more for publicity in the West than with meeting Albania's needs.

"If people come without guidance, you create problems and inequities," a government official warned. "Much of the help winds up in the hands of charlatans. It wouldn't be good for people from the West to see goods for which they have sacrificed sitting in the market for sale at big prices."

Critical needs are present at every turn in Albania, team members said. Food, electricity, and fuel are in

short supply. Albanians stand in long lines for kerosene, used for cooking and heating. Hundreds of street children and unemployed people walk the streets with little hope for a bright future. About 130,000 Albanians are out of work because of a lack of raw materials.

Farmers have received small plots of land but have no seeds, fertilizer, tools, or tractors. Even the inefficient collective farming inspired by Stalin has collapsed. "Worse still," one official said, "most have forgotten how to farm privately." A major need is for help with planting spring crops.

Albania has the highest infant mortality rate in Europe. Pharmacies have almost no drugs. Oxcarts and donkeys greatly outnumber automobiles. Even owning an automobile was outlawed until about a year ago. People travel on foot, on bicycles, or on small animal-drawn carts. International telephone calls became possible only in 1990.

One government minister urged Baptists to help Albania recover its manufacturing ability.

tion's moral issues and religious liberty agency.

"I think he was fired for the same reasons he was hired — that is political reasons," said Don Wildmon, president of the American Family Association. "He was a stone around the president's neck that the president couldn't have during an election year."

"I think the decision probably had been made prior to primary that Frohnmayer had to go. He would have probably stayed on a little bit longer had the primary not turned out like it

did," Wildmon said.

While critics observed the timing appeared to be forced upon Frohnmayer by the White House, he said in a written statement the resignation was something he had planned for several months. He had told the president in October he wanted to return to private life, Frohnmayer said. The president left the timing to him, Frohnmayer said. The resignation will be effective May 1.

"This is a step in the right direction," Land said.

Philippines partnership nears conclusion

Two teams comprised of 28 people will be leaving in March to help bring the three-year Tennessee/Philippines partnership to a close.

Clarence Stewart, retired TBC Partnership Missions director and member of Long Hollow Church, Hendersonville, will lead an 18-member team March 5-17 to do evangelism work in the Mindanao/Visayas region of the Philippines.

TBC Convention Ministries Director Bill Wilson will lead ten volunteers from March 19-April 1.

Tennessee Baptists participating in the final "official" partnership venture include John E. Albright, Allons

Church, Allons; Bobby L. Buford, Oak Grove Church, Livingston; Wayne Godsey, Memorial Church, Livingston; Philip R. Kazee, First Church, Oneida; Nell Greene, First Church, Sneadville;

Margo Robbins, First Church, Byrdstown; John R. Turner, First Church, New Tazewell; Jerry and Anita Britton, First Church, McMinnville; Max H. Cooper, First Church, Tracy City; Kevin Goza, First Church, Woodbury; and Alicia Lundquist, Brentwood Church, Brentwood.

The teams also include Southern Baptists from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Maryland, South Carolina, and Virginia.

After 35 years Brighton pastor knows it was 'right choice'

By Connie Davis

Robert Frost and Pat Landrum share a preference for "a road less traveled," as penned by Frost in his poem, "The Road Not Taken." As a young seminary graduate, Landrum was serving as pastor of a church in Ada, Okla., not far from home in Texas, when two churches called him as pastor. He could serve one church and remain close to his parents and his wife's parents, all of whom were in bad health. Or he could move to West Tennessee.

After almost 35 years as pastor of Brighton Church, Brighton, he still believes he made the right choice.

Landrum became analytical, though he is a man of deep affections, about his tenure during an interview with the Baptist and Reflector. The average tenure of a Southern Baptist pastor is about three years.

Landrum proposed the size of a church affects a pastor's service, especially in today's society. He explained because Brighton Church is a medium-sized church — about 650 members — longer tenure was easier to attain in today's transient society. "Sometimes the only way people can move is from one church to another," he explained.

The church should have declined in membership — like other churches in rural areas when many Americans chose urban over rural life and families chose to have fewer children. To beat the odds, it helped to be located in

West Tennessee's fastest-growing county, Tipton County, which has grown as Memphis has expanded north, Landrum cited.

The second major reason for his tenure is a "lovely" congregation which is supportive and tolerant, said Landrum. "They were willing to accept my mistakes," he added, chuckling at himself.

He advised other pastors to fight the odds against short terms in churches. "Perhaps there have been pastors who have left when they didn't need to," said Landrum. Often pastors seek a "show down" by asking for a vote of confidence when "give and take" and discretion would have healed the relationship, he advised.

Landrum admitted he had questioned his commitment. "I've had some times when I didn't understand why the Lord didn't let me have an opportunity. . . . I think there were some positions that I could have done as well as some of my brothers who got those positions. But I don't regret my ministry," said Landrum.

Practicing joy, humor, and hard work also nurtured his long relationship with Brighton Church members, Landrum added, but he revealed his secret: Zoan.

His wife, Zoan, is unique beyond her name, which is the same as a Biblical city, Landrum explained. She holds a full-time job as a schoolteacher, leads youth and music activities at the church, and supports him, he bragged.

"Whatever success I've had I'd give 65-80 percent of the credit to her. She's had a tremendous influence in my life," said Landrum.

The church, his favorite subject besides Zoan, isn't an "ordinary" church, the pastor added. "We're Southern Baptist to the core around here. We're not going to be a part of any split of the Southern Baptist Convention. . . . I may not agree with some of these people on either side, but we're Southern Baptist and that's not going to change."

Brighton Church is not only denominationally orthodox, but it has a "missions fervor," he said. The church gives 32 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program and three percent to Big Hatchie Association, Landrum reported.

A measure of the church's generosity is its gift to the Landrums on their 25th anniversary at the church. The con-

gregation sent them to Hawaii.

"That was traumatic. It was a shock for years, for three years after," he claimed.

The members have supported his denominational work, which includes serving as second vice president, 1977 Tennessee Baptist Convention; a board member of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy and Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.; and a member of the TBC Executive Board, resolutions committee, and committee on arrangements. He also has been moderator, vice moderator, and for about 20 years Sunday School director of Big Hatchie Association.

He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

"The years are not supposed to pass as fast as they have," stated Landrum.

HMB volunteers increase in 1991

ATLANTA (BP) — The number of volunteers for home mission projects increased in 1991, but coordinators say a bad economy may keep many volunteers at home this year.

"We've got missionaries who are about at the point of panic," said Valerie Hardy, a Home Mission Board volunteer coordinator.

Fewer youth groups are volunteering for Home Mission Board projects this year, meaning more missionaries will not get enough staff for such summer projects as Vacation Bible Schools and backyard Bible clubs, she said.

The Home Mission Board counted more than 69,600 volunteers in 1991, up 9.4 percent from the 63,600 in 1990, according to a report from the board's volunteer division.

Volunteer projects range widely in

age groups and duration of service, from adults working for a year establishing a church to mission youth groups working a summer in resort ministry.

Youth groups showed the largest increase in 1991, jumping from 22,000 in 1990 to 30,500 in 1991, the report states.

While the Home Mission Board recruited more youth groups in 1991, some of the increase also came from better accounting for groups that set up their own projects without help from the HMB, said Mike Robertson, director of short-term volunteers.

But the number of volunteer youth groups likely will decrease this year, Robertson said.

"If we don't get more help here at the last minute then we will be left down," he said.

Our Readers Write

About learning

The editorial of Feb. 12, "Faith inspires learning in our Baptist colleges, seminaries" inspired me to comment.

Baptist statesmen of my beginnings nearly forty years ago used to regularly quote to us, "A little learning is a dangerous thing."

My experience over the years is that among many, too many, Baptists much learning is even more "dangerous."

Over past millenniums learning has been put down and even destroyed by religious folk claiming that faith is God given (God-El, Elohim or Yahweh?) and thereby implying that learning is not.

A new convert to Islam said to me, "Now I've got knowledge!" Would his claim come under the umbrella of the above editorial?

An example among Baptists these days might be the use of the term Jehovah used on the banners at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

A dictionary I have calls the term Jehovah an erroneous spelling for the

name of God.

Why was a "transliteration" (Webster's) used for God's name in place of the real thing? Using the "real thing" might inspire us to more than just a Sunday School version of the Bible.

E. Eugene Keele
Chaplain (USNR) retired
Box 261
Grand Junction 38039

Perception is important

"News reported fairly is preferred over reading rumors," seemed oddly disconnected from the reasons cited for a decline in Southern Baptist state paper circulation. Could it be that many feel the news is handled too gingerly by editors in fear of the ax which has been so skillfully placed on the heads of so many faithful old warriors who spoke too strongly of the wrongful use of power?

Mary Barnwell
Route 5, Box 50310
Madisonville 37354

• *Certainly some may have the attitude you described. It is also true that others may feel papers are too outspoken. The messenger has the assignment of reporting fairly, truthfully, and with integrity. The message is not always perceived that way. — Editor*

Associations need DOM

Treasure Valley and Magic Valley Baptist associations are searching for a director of missions who would serve both associations.

Interested persons should send a resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 911 South Cole Road, Boise, Idaho 83709, in care of the DOM Search Committee.

The cut-off date for resumes is March 31.

Stephen Kern
P.O. Box 1313
Boise, Idaho 83701

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on pertinent subjects are welcomed. Letters should be concise, no more than 250 words. Writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Only one letter from the same writer will be considered for publication per quarter. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published. Writers should send original copy. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Address and phone number must be included. Letters not conforming to these guidelines will be returned.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Sometimes our own pride is not sufficient for the expectations that wellwishers have for us.

I received recently a notice that I had been nominated for inclusion in a somewhat prestigious organization. I chuckled as I read the letter because the idea was almost capricious.

Often when we look over our accomplishments, some of which seem important to us, we still come to the conclusion that they may be nothing in the great scheme of things eternal.

Our society, lacking genuine heroes, finds substitutes in people that play better and sing longer, speak more and say less, maintain riches while housing uncaring hearts.

Jan Jendrynski-Rosser wasn't like that. She does not fit into any of these categories.

Jan died last month at home in Clearwater, Fla., at peace with the Father and knowing that He had given her an opportunity to do something and she had taken her best shot.

She was adopted by David and Pat Rosser when she was 15. Her parents

had died when she was younger. Jan evidently had been a rebel.

She moved in and out of foster homes, a home for runaways, and juvenile detention center.

Talking about her adoptive parents later, she said the Rossers "took me to church and told me about Jesus. I resisted all they said at first — but I watched their lives. They were so full of love and peace that I wanted what they had."

A musician, she played guitar and wrote music. She graduated from Samford University and became a mission volunteer at 22. She died after battling severe malaria while working in Mali. She taught English at the Baptist Community Center in Bamako.

Finishing her three-months stint, she went home and collapsed from extreme fatigue in late December last year. Her kidneys failed repeatedly. She had begun to improve when her kidneys failed again.

David Rosser said if given another opportunity, he would still allow his daughter to go to Mali. "She was guided by the Lord and anybody who interfered would be wrong. There is no shame in what has happened; there is shame only in dying without knowing our Lord."

Jan did know him — and because of her, others also knew him.



ALLEN

Dealing with grief across the miles

A family tragedy is always more difficult when members are separated by 1000s of miles.

Russell and Joan Sharp were at home in Dayton when they learned their grandson, Brian, 15, died Jan. 29 after a fall on a school field trip in Malaysia. Brian and his family, the Arps, live in Singapore.

Numb with grief, both families, though separated, were helped by Missionary Charles Carroll of Singapore.

After learning about Brian's death, Carroll met with Brian's parents, Dennis, and B.J., and his siblings, Jason and Amanda. Dennis Arp is employed by a U.S. parcel delivery service with a branch in Singapore.

As a team searched for the body, Carroll delayed a trip to remain near the family, explained Russell Sharp from his home in Dayton. When it was found, Carroll began helping the family make further arrangements, Sharp added.

"He visited in the home every day. He didn't know them before this happened," explained Sharp, who along with his wife, is a member of First Church, Dayton.

One day the Sharps received a phone call from Singapore. It was Missionary Carroll calling to lead a prayer with the two families. Following his direction to hold hands, Sharp explained, "We felt like we were together." Joan Sharp added, "He ... said words of comfort that will stay with us forever."

Carroll, who is a general evangelist and pastor of Community of Praise Baptist Church in Singapore, led the memorial service for Brian held at his school. It was attended by about 700 students, said Russell Sharp.

Because of the impact of Carroll on their lives, the Arps asked that all gifts in memory of Brian be given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions in care of First Church, Dayton. About \$3000 has already been given by Brian's many friends, reported Sharp. — C. Davis

Seminaries agree to restore funding plan

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — The six seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention have agreed to restore the controversial seminary funding formula in a three-step adjustment beginning with fiscal year 1993-94.

The formula, by which a Cooperative Program allocation is divided among the seminaries each year, was "frozen" beginning with the 1990-91 fiscal year primarily to help Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Wake Forest, N.C., seminary had suffered almost a 50 percent decline in student enrollment following major changes in administration, faculty, and trustees in the late 1980s.

The Seminary Funding Formula Study Committee, created by the SBC Executive Committee, met in Nashville Feb. 19 in an ongoing study of the formula which is primarily enrollment driven.

Following the meeting, Executive Committee executive vice president Ernest Mosley, who is the staff coordinator

with the funding formula group, told Baptist Press the committee had agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee the restoration of the formula in thirds, beginning with the 1993-94 fiscal year. The SBC fiscal year is from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

As a result of the decision, the complex formula adjustment will be applied in stages to help Southeastern progressively absorb the shock of reduced Cooperative Program revenue that would have resulted (from the reduced enrollment decline experienced) had the "freeze" not been applied. The formula which has been in effect since 1976 is adjusted from time to time. Seminary presidents refer to it as equally objectionable to the seminaries but a better system has yet to be developed.

The funding study group also agreed to give special attention to three items in the formula: the cost of living at each seminary location, off-campus "full-time-equivalents" (FTEs), and elimination of "tapers." The FTE is the total number of credit hours taught

at a seminary in an academic year divided by 24, according to Mosley. A taper is a scale for decreasing the value of an FTE in relation to increased size (of the seminary) to account for the greater efficiency and endowment potential of larger seminary enrollments, Mosley said.

Special attention will be focused on whether the cost of living that affects Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., should be borne by only the five other seminaries or by all the entities participating in the SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget.

The group was also looking at whether the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board could help share the cost of living burden because of Golden Gate's unique mission role in the West and the Pacific Rim. Mosley said.

The funding committee agreed it was "not necessary or practical to reinvent the wheel," Mosley said. In other words, committee members felt the enrollment driven formula is an effective base from which to operate.

Tenure of SBC pastors increasing . . .

— From page 1

Shelton agreed, adding: "One of the benefits (of my long tenure) here was that all three of my children went through the same school system from elementary school to high school. I think it provided solidarity both for my family and the church."

- Health problems. "Some pastors can't just jump up and leave because they or someone in their family is suffering from poor health and needs to be near a certain health center or hospital for treatment," Smith said.

- Jobs held by other family members. "Many pastors' wives work; some have to, to make ends meet," Smith said. "Maybe they have good insurance or are in line for a promotion. Or, for example, if the wife is a teacher and it is in the middle of a school year, she would have difficulty

finding another position until the next fall. Again, the financial dimensions are there and they have to be considered."

Although all of the above factors may encourage pastors to stay longer at one church, Smith said some congregations don't give their pastors a choice when it comes to length of service.

The most recent statistic on forced terminations — according to research conducted by the Sunday School Board in 1988 — showed 116 pastors were being fired each month by Southern Baptist congregations. In addition, a 1990 Sunday School Board survey of churches experiencing serious conflict found almost nine out of ten resolved their problems with the resignation or firing of the pastor.

"I don't see any sign of those

numbers decreasing," Smith said. "Sometimes those terminations are justified, as in cases of moral failure. But sometimes either the pastor or the church members just aren't willing to sit down and try to work things out."

Some congregations, Smith said, also have a "cultural agenda" against long pastoral tenure. "They have kind of a family situation and they are only going to let the pastor do so much (before asking him to move on). Three years is a good while for ministers to stay in those churches."

Longer pastoral tenures also provide unique challenges, Shelton said.

"The longer you stay the harder you have to work to challenge your people. You can solve problems as long as you have the 'fellowship' of your people, but once you cease to have that, your leadership is nullified."

Young may join Moody . . .

— From page 1

sions and evangelism around this world."

Young has been pastor at Second Church since 1978. Under his leadership it has been one of the fastest growing congregations in the SBC, moving from a membership of 4431 in 1978 to more than 18,000 in 1991.

The church led the SBC in baptisms in 1990 with 1007 and last year baptized 838. Gifts to the Cooperative Program in the 1990-91 church year totaled \$400,000 out of total receipts of \$12,345,655, which includes money for debt service. The church gives 2.35 percent of total receipts to the Cooperative Program, according to its Uniform Church Letter.

Second Church, which in 1984 moved into new and remodeled facilities in Houston costing \$34 million, voted recently to purchase 180 acres about 15 miles west for a second location. No date has been set for construction.

Young frequently has been mentioned as a possible nominee of "conservatives" for the SBC presidency, but heretofore has declined the opportunity. He told the Standard several years ago the office should go to older

men who have served the denomination well. Whether he now fills that description remains to be seen, he told the Baptist Standard last week. Young was a trustee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board before rotating off in 1991 and was a member of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee.

His would be the third nomination expected at the Indianapolis meeting. Jess Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Van Nuys, Calif., announced last September that a group of non-aligned pastors and others had asked for permission to nominate him. Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., current first vice president of the SBC, and identified with the "conservative" movement, announced Feb. 21 he would permit his nomination.

Gregory said he was unaware of Price's announcement.

Should Young agree to his nomination, it will be Gregory's first nomination on the SBC level. However, Gregory injected himself into SBC presidential politics in 1990 when he and several other conservative leaders endorsed Morris Chapman for the presidency.

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 9 — Continue praying for the salvation of Manuel Sanchez. (We began interceding for him last month.)

March 10 — Pray for birthday blessings for missionary Richard Poe! Richard is serving as coordinator of the Chilean "side" of our partnership. He serves with a coordinating committee to process team requests for Tennessee Baptists.

March 11 — Pray for Teresa de Herrera as she serves as the Chilean partnership prayer coordinator. Continue praying for the development of a communication resource in Chile for prayer requests.

March 12 — Remember missionary Caroline Jones as she serves as prayer coordinator for the Chile missionaries (this group is referred to as "The Mission.") Pray that she will be effective in communicating prayer needs for our partnership to the missionaries as well as to the Chilean Baptist Convention.

March 13 — Missionary Clara Brincefield said, "there are so many open doors for the Gospel in Chile; we kill ourselves trying to go through all of them!" Pray first of all for Clara and the other 91 missionaries in Chile who are rattling door knobs and going through the open doors. Then pray for yourself — are you willing to go through the doors God opens for you? Ask Him if He would open the door to Chile for you.

March 14 — A construction team leaves Tennessee tomorrow for Puerto Montt. Pray for Donald Steele, Long Hollow Church, Hendersonville; Danny Spurlock, Broadmoor Church, Memphis; and Ray and Anna Rickman, White House Temple Church, Goodlettsville. Ask the Lord's blessing to be upon their travel and their experiences.

March 15 — Today is the birthday of missionary Mark Andrews. Ask the Lord to bless him today as he serves among his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Southern Baptists begin 1027 missions in 1991

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptists started 1027 church-type missions last year, according to a report presented to a national conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Although the number of church-type missions started during 1991 was a

Gruetli-Laager Church

The congregation of Gruetli-Laager Church, Gruetli-Laager, recently welcomed new pastor Kenneth C. Webster.

The Whitwell native formerly served as minister of education and youth at First Southern Church, Pikeville.

Dewey Cantrell dies

Retired Tennessee Baptist pastor Dewey Cantrell died Feb. 24 at his home in Flintville.

Cantrell was pastor of several churches in William Carey Association — Oak Grove, Pleasant Grove, Stewart's Chapel, Kirkland, Donaldson Grove, and Lexie Crossroads.

Funeral services for Cantrell were held Feb. 26 with ministers Glenn Hester, Joe Mayberry, and Cecil Tucker officiating.

Cantrell is survived by his wife, Ruby, and three children.

slight increase over the number the previous year, it fell far short of the HMB goal of 1500 new missions per year. In 1990 Southern Baptists started 1201 church-type missions.

In 1991 Texas led the nation with 191 new congregations. Florida ranked second with 89 new missions and Califor-

calls Webster

Webster graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. He continued his education at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, where he earned a master of divinity degree.

Webster and his wife, Sharon, have three children, Scott, Michael, and Megan. He is the grandson of retired Sequatchie Valley Association Director of Missions Vernon Webster of Whitwell.

nia was a close third with 87.

Other leading states in the number of new congregations included North Carolina, 71; Georgia, 69; Virginia, 40; Tennessee, 37; Alabama, 29; Mississippi, 28; Kentucky, 26; and Oklahoma, 25.

The report was based on statistics compiled from the annual "Uniform Church Letter" filled out by Southern Baptist churches and tabulated by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

David Bunch, HMB assistant vice president for church extension, said the statistics from the Uniform Church

Letter differ from statistics compiled by state convention offices. But he noted that the variance between the two reports was not as wide this year as in years past.

Reports from state missions offices indicated there were 946 missions started last year.

According to the state missions offices, Texas reported 133 new missions; Florida, 119; and California, 112.

Bunch said the Home Mission Board is working with the research services department at the Sunday School Board to try to resolve the differences in the two reports.

For Sale

46 Murphy choir robes/stoles in rust/biege trim. Stoles monogrammed with FBC on one side only. Excellent condition. For more information, call (615) 442-4544, 8:30-4:30, EST.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-824-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

A&O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
1-(800)-523-9058
NC 1-(800)-222-7895

CHURCH FURNITURE
Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates

Plain or Padded
BAPTISTRIES,
STEEPLES, WINDOWS
"Refinishing, Upholstering,
Cushioning Your
Present Pews"

CISCO
P. O. Box 1068
Lewisburg, TN 37091

Toll Free
1-800-365-2568
615/359-3075

WOLFE BROS. & CO.
PINEY FLATS, TENN.

Manufacturers of DISTINCTIVE
CHURCH FURNITURE
Since 1888 Write for free estimate

Discover Your exciting managerial career and Ministry!
Wanted:
Baptist Book Store Managers

Must have:
*Four-Year College Degree
*Retail & Managerial Experience

Must be:
*An active Southern Baptist church member
*Be willing to relocate anywhere in United States

Contact:
Mr. Alan G. Jolly, APR
Baptist Sunday School Board, MSN 139
127 Ninth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37234-0001
Telephone: (615) 251-2043
Fax: (615) 251-3866
Equal Opportunity Employer

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 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.

VIDEO Sunday School lesson previews with reproducible outlines and tapes

Life & Work Dr. Frank Pollard Pastor, FBC, Jackson, Miss.	Bible Book Dr. Ron Phillips Pastor, Central BC, Hixson, Tenn.	Uniform Dr. David Jenkins Pastor, FBC, Gilmer, Texas	Youth Gary Maze MS Coord. Nat. Network Youth Min.
--	--	---	--

AMERICAN VIDEO
1-800-222-9344
P.O. Box 16096, Jackson, MS 39236

Try for a month **FREE**
plus special sign-up bonus

THE JESUS STORY

Your invitation to an unforgettable blessing.



This is a special invitation to you to see THE JESUS STORY presented at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. This presentation includes 24 living scrim scene dramatizations from the life of Christ and is portrayed by cast, choir, and production personnel of several hundred persons. The Biblical portrayal, live animals, exciting music, colorful costumes, beautiful scenery, special lighting and effects all combine to make this a unique and spiritually meaningful experience. It will be presented five times at Spilman Auditorium, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Saturday, April 11, 1992, at 2:15 PM, 4:30 PM, 7:30 PM and on Sunday, April 12, at 2:15 and 4:30 PM. Persons of all faiths are welcome. All tickets are free. (Offering will be taken.)

FOR TICKETS BY MAIL: Send self-addressed stamped business size envelope to THE JESUS STORY, 108 Colonial Heights Road, Kingsport, TN 37663. Include your name, address, daytime phone, specific number of tickets needed for day and time preferred (including second choice). Postage requires one .29 stamp for every ten tickets requested.

TICKET INFORMATION: CALL 1-615-239-6756

CHURCH GROUPS desiring lodging accommodations/meals call Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center at 1-704-669-8022.

FACING THE CHALLENGES OF THE NINETIES

Ministry in the Local Church

(A one-day seminar sponsored by Church-Ministers Relations Department, TBC, Belmont University, Baptist Health Care System, Nashville)

March 23 — 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Baptist Hospital, Nashville

Topics and Speakers

- "The call of God and pastoral authority" — D. L. Lowrie
- "Detecting and avoiding burnout" — Dick Waggener
- "The minister's family and church conflict" — Becky Land
- "Quality in ministry" — Larry McSwain
- "Bearing one another's burdens" — Wesley Pitts
- Also, small group conferences

The seminar, including lunch, is offered at no cost to Tennessee Baptist ministers and spouses. Reservations are needed by March 18. Call Aubrey Hay at (615) 371-2010.

— Free cholesterol screening at 8:30 a.m.

(This seminar is made possible by a grant from Ken and Alice Ross)

God's love and Israel's deceit

By Jerry Winfield, pastor; First Church, Bolivar

Using the history of Israel as an example, Hosea sought to remind the nation of God's steadfast love for them.

In spite of the Israelites' constant and perpetual rebellion, God continued to love His people and offer them forgiveness. The people of Israel stubbornly refused to repent or learn the lessons from their own



WINFIELD

history. Hosea knew firsthand the heartbreak of love rejected. Because of Israel's rejection of God's love, His heart was broken too.

God's love for His rebellious people (ch. 11:1-4)

Hosea used a common prophetic method to remind the people of what God had done for them in the past. This is the method employed by

Hosea in this passage. God is seen in these verses as the one initiating redemption. God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt, but an ungrateful people turned to idol worship. Like a loving father, God had taught them to walk in their spiritual infancy. Like a gentle herdsman, God had tenderly guided them and provided them food. God had done everything in love, yet the Israelites still rebelled.

Israel's rejection of God's love (ch. 11:5-7)

Since the children of Israel continued to rebel against God, like the loving father that He was, Jehovah had to discipline His children. This discipline came in the form of exile. This time the place of exile was not Egypt, but Assyria. In essence, the people were determined ("bent") to turn away from God. They were classic examples of the backslider. God was always calling them to repentance; they were always refusing to repent or return to

the Lord.

God's promise of restoration (ch. 11:8-11)

One indication of God's love for His people is that He allows them to make their own choices. Even though Israel deserved whatever punishment God decided to give, He was not going to act in vengeance, like man, or completely destroy the nation. God even held out the promise of the Israelites' return unto the land. Yes, Israel was wicked, but God was gracious.

The deceitfulness of Israel (ch. 11:12-14)

In spite of the many examples of God's love and faithfulness, the people of Israel and Judah continually sought political and military alliances with foreign nations instead of God. The people thought there was no substitute for God's trust.

God's judgment for following Jacob's example (ch. 12:2-14)

Even though they were separated by

hundreds of years, the children of Israel proved by their actions they were spiritual sons of Jacob. As God confronted Jacob in his sins, God was going to confront Israel's sins.

God's judgment on dishonesty (ch. 12:7-9)

The Israelites had become so much like their pagan neighbors that Hosea called them deceitful merchants (the meaning of the word "Cannanite"). Instead of feeling sorrow, the Israelites were proud of their dishonest gain. Only judgment could change their wicked hearts.

BIBLE BOOK
March 8 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Hosea 11:1-12:14

God's efforts to reclaim Israel (ch. 12:10-14)

God had spoken many times through His prophets and miraculous signs, but Israel ignored them all. They would suffer the same fate of the people of Gilead. Israel's pagan altars would become nothing more than piles of stones.

The clash of ideas

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

The beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry is the background of this lesson. His popularity grew because of His miracles and teachings, but religious leaders opposed Him because of the issues He raised. The scribes accused Jesus of blasphemy for healing and forgiving sins. The calling of Matthew, a tax collector, to discipleship increased the growing opposition. This opposition did not alter the priority of Jesus. Luke 19:10 tells us "For the Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost." Mark 2:17 continues "... I come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Jesus always focused His attention on meeting the needs of the people. Jesus cared for them.



TYDINGS

On this particular Sabbath, Jesus and His disciples were walking through

the corn fields. The disciples started to pull ears of corn because they were hungry. The Pharisees raised the question of lawfulness. The disciples were in the right by exercising an Old Testament provision regarding gleaning (Deuteronomy 23:24-25). The problem was the Sabbath law.

The Pharisees, had made these laws of the Sabbath. They were burdensome, with petty restrictions that had been added to the laws found in Exodus 20:9-11. Jesus defended His disciples' actions by referring to an event where David and his men ate old shewbread the priests had given them. The priests extended mercy rather than observing ceremonial law.

Jesus stressed human needs. He

CONVENTION UNIFORM
March 8 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Mark 2:23-3:6

prioritized human needs over burdensome religious ceremonial rules in the face of criticism, entrapment, and

political pressure.

We, too, need to get our priorities straight and focus our attention upon serving Jesus by helping those who are in need and winning the lost.

Our family planned a needed picnic outing. We had not had one for some time. Sarah and daughter, Brenda, prepared the food and placed it in containers for travel. I loaded the car and was going out the door when the telephone rang. The call was from one of our members. The member's father had suffered a cardiac arrest at his home. CPR was being administered and the ambulance was on the way. Then the member requested "Preacher, will you and Sarah come?" Of course we went and stayed with them that afternoon. The picnic was forgotten - there was a need and that need was more important than our going on a picnic.

Jesus did not question the importance of the Sabbath. He repeatedly attended the Sabbath services in the synagogues and the temple, but the true meaning and purpose had been changed from remembrance and worship of God to keeping a lot of burdensome rules and regulations. The

Pharisees followed Jesus to find fault and criticize Him. They sought to enforce their own rules for conduct, service, and worship. To them, Sabbath healing should have only been done in case of life or death. The Pharisees saw a chance to discredit Jesus.

However, they were surprised by Jesus' words and actions. Jesus saw the man with the withered hand and supplied his need. Again, "Human needs are more important than ceremonial rules and regulations of any religious system."

The result of Jesus' teaching and the miracles performed united two groups of people. They were the religiously motivated Pharisees, and the politically motivated Herodians. They saw Jesus as a threat to their power, authority, and way of life.

Today is Home Missions Day in Sunday School. I fully believe there is no better way for us to support our missionaries in work with the minorities, homeless, communities without a church, disabled, underprivileged, and parks or resort areas, than to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Little becomes much when we give together.

Forgiving others

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

Recently a late-night television program focused on a cult or religious group based in California. Although

members called themselves a church, not one word was mentioned about faith, God, fellowship, worship, love, or forgiveness. For me, this was a modern day, earthly story with a heavenly meaning as parables are sometimes described. How desolate and empty Christianity would be without the hallmarks of our faith, no matter what denomination.



HERRINGTON

Significant indicators of Christianity and of a maturing Christian are faith, discipleship, prayer, worship, love, mercy, Bible study, etc.

Of all these indicators, however, love

and mercy shown to others (John 13:35) and forgiveness of others seem to be the most obvious indications to the world of our relationship to God. We are His children. We are different from others. Our definition of love and mercy is far different from the world's definition.

Read Matthew 18:15-35 as the setting for this lesson. In verses 21-22, "Peter was looking for the minimum requirement," according to lesson writer Alan Culpepper. Jesus said we are to forgive 490 times, not just seven times - an exaggeration to express that we are to cultivate and practice unlimited forgiveness.

Author Herschel Hobbs' wisdom is priceless: "Repentance is the other person's responsibility; forgiveness is yours. Your forgiving attitude may enable the other person to repent." To reinforce His teaching of verses 15-22, Jesus told the story of the king who

forgave his servant of several thousand dollars worth of debts, a debt the servant would never be able to repay the king. In turn, the servant did not transfer the mercy of the king toward him to another lesser servant who owed him only about \$16.

LIFE AND WORK
March 8 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Matthew 18:21-35

A purpose of this parable was to show how much God has forgiven us. We could never repay God all we owe Him. What better way can we try to repay Him and show Him our gratitude than by mirroring His mercy to us toward others who owe us a debt of apology, friendship, respect, or whatever we may think the other person owes us. My interim pastor, Bob Sheffield, reminded me that we will never be called upon to forgive anyone more than Christ has already forgiven us. Examine Jesus' warning about the consequences of not forgiving in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:14-15.

Forgiving others is not one of those good works whereby we earn points with God or added forgiveness from Him. As we deeply feel remorse over our actions and gratitude for His mercy toward us, we are more likely to want to extend that mercy to others.

But let's be honest. Often we, like the servant, cannot see the inconsistency of our actions. Sweet is the "quick-fix" of forgiveness of God toward us, but we are not willing to pass on that sweetness in mercy to another. The bottom line is that we cannot forgive on our own. The Holy Spirit enables us to forgive. That's why it is so vitally important that we keep the lines of communication open and unclogged by sin (on our part) with God.

The mature forgiver does not keep the file of wrongdoings open for easy reference, but buries the wrong deep within God's loving hands. The mature forgiver may find he or she has to come back to the Father several times asking for help in forgiving that person. This reinforces that we cannot forgive on our own.

TenneScene

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

People ...

Rick Morris, who was licensed at West Haven Church, Knoxville, last year, has begun studies at Boyce Bible School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has been called as minister of education and outreach at Cedar Creek Church, Louisville.

Leadership ...

Ricky L. Scott is serving as pastor of New Hope Church, Alexandria.

Tennessee native Freda Logsdon has been appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. A graduate of William Jennings Bryan College, Dayton, and East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Logsdon will serve in Waverly, Md., in family and church service while her husband, Richard, serves as director of missions for Potomac Association.

William L. Swafford retired Dec. 31 from the active pastorate and is now

HMB appoints couple to serve in Clinton

ATLANTA — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has appointed T. D. and Pat Hooker of Chatsworth, Ga., to serve in Tennessee.

The Hookers will serve in Clinton where he will be director of church and community ministries for Clinton Association and she will work in family and church service.

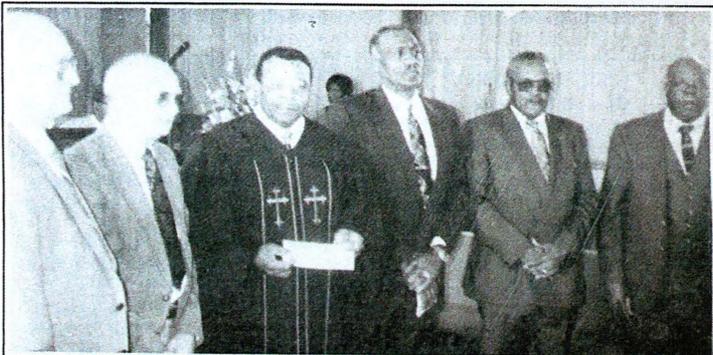
Hooker is a graduate of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He has served as pastor of churches in Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas.

As director of church and community ministries, Hooker will assist the 54 churches in the Clinton Baptist Association in planning, coordinating, and evaluating Christian social ministries.

Mrs. Hooker will support her husband's ministry through home ministry. Her volunteer service includes teaching Sunday School, leading Girls in Action, and directing Woman's Missionary Union.



HOOKERS



RACE RELATIONS — In observance of the recent Race Relations Sunday, First Church, Kenton, presented a check to representatives of St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, Kenton, to assist them in their building and renovation program. Representing First Church were Pete Mullins, left, deacon chairman, and Ralph Perryman, treasurer. Receiving the gift were St. Paul Pastor W. L. Pounds, center, and deacons, from left, Charlie White, L. M. Bardwell, and O. W. Lovelace.

interim pastor at East LaFollette Church, LaFollette. He has been pastor of Magna View Church, Talbot; First Church, Elizabethton; Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville; First Church, Lawrenceburg; and First Church, Hohenwald.

Stuart Park Church, Cleveland, called Bill Wheeler as interim pastor.

Tina Collina is serving as interim music director at Sharon Church, Knoxville.

Luckey Steel has joined the staff of West Knoxville Church, Knoxville, as youth/education director. Steel recently completed an internship at Calvary Church, Knoxville.

John E. Wade has been called to Pleasant Hill Church, Jackson, as minister of youth.

Fredonia Church, Crossville, called Dennie Moore as pastor.

Revivals ...

Hal Curtis will lead spring revival March 29-April 1 at Pleasant Hill Church, Jackson. Tommy Price will lead music.

Revival will be held March 15-21 at Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis. Jack May, interim pastor, will lead the services.

Gary Stallings, Tishomingo, Okla., will speak at revival March 8-13 at First Church, Mt. Pleasant. He will speak about problems such as teen suicide and pregnancy, drugs, and alcohol, which are affecting families today. Services begin at 7 p.m. nightly.

Revival will be led by Joseph Rosas, pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis, March 15-18 at First Church, Jackson. Mike Bundon, minister of music at Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, will lead music.

Ten laymen from Good Hope Church, Adamsville, led revival in their church Feb. 16-19. Worship leaders were Barry Metzger, Thomas McCormick, Larry Murray, Dudley Clark, Darrell Rankin, Ed Martin, Steve Miller, Eldon McDaniel, Lloyd Watkins, and Steve Killingsworth. Several people made decisions for and commitments

to God at each service. Billy Joe Stewart is pastor.

Fayette Association reported the following churches will hold revival during the coming weeks: Liberty Church, Somerville, March 8-11, Jesse Newton, evangelist; Williston Church, Williston, March 22-27, Paul Mathenia, evangelist; First Church, Oakland, April 12-16, Parks McKittrick; Morris Memorial Church, Moscow, April 26-29, Rob Finley, evangelist.

Churches ...

Squire Parsons will be in concert at 7 p.m. March 7 at Hillcrest Church, Lebanon. Parsons is known for being a baritone singer in the Kingsmen Quartet. He was named "Favorite Southern Gospel Male Singer" in 1988 by readers of Singing News. In 1990 he was given the Marvin Norcross Award for devotion to family, service to the church, involvement in community affairs, and contributions to the Gospel music industry. There is no admission charge, but a love offering will be taken.

A new educational building at Smyrna Church, Chapel Hill, is nearing completion. It will include six classrooms, a nursery, restrooms, a fellowship hall, and kitchen. In addition, a ramp was built to connect the auditorium to the new building and the parking lot has been paved. Forty-four people have been added to the church since Tim McGehee became pastor in the spring of 1991.

The Acteens, GA members, and their leaders at Hillcrest Church, Clarksville, recently worked together to make 85 comfort dolls and 50 coloring books to give to the children in Memorial Hospital and the Safe House of Clarksville. The presentation of the dolls and coloring books was made by Kelly Ritchey, Amanda Hunley, Jennifer Mann, Jennifer Fatheree, Cindy Porter, and Ashley Fatheree.

Jerry Heflin, associate pastor of First Church, Goodlettsville, reported the church has begun an outreach effort focused on "baby boomers." According to Heflin, 48 percent of the population of Goodlettsville falls into this category.

Members of Broadway Church, Maryville, celebrated the church's 50th anniversary March 1. Former Pastor Joe Wren delivered the morning message, which was followed by a

Westhaven Church welcomes McNairy

Christopher McNairy was installed as pastor of Westhaven Church, Memphis, March 1.

McNairy, a native of Forrest City, Ark., was minister of administration at the church. He earned a master's degree in public policy and law at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1985 while in graduate school.

Westhaven Church, a member of Shelby Association, is the largest African American Southern Baptist congregation in Shelby County with more than 250 members.

fellowship dinner. A musical slide presentation of the history of the church was presented in the evening service.

Calvary Church, Knoxville, will host a one-day seminar March 24 on "Keys to Growing in Discipling." The seminar will be conducted by Howard Ball, president of Churches Alive. He will speak on the philosophy, concepts, and procedures necessary to build a strong local church. Churches Alive workers minister to churches throughout North America and overseas, and is represented in more than 45 denominations and independent Christian groups.

Members of Eastland Church, Ripley, recently began an outreach ministry focused on state prisons, local jails, hospitals, and nursing homes. In the first three weeks of the ministry, 102 professions of faith were made. Danny Hutcherson is pastor.

Ordinations ...

Mike Spencer was recently ordained to the Gospel ministry of Eastland Church, Ripley.

Missions ...

Tennessee native Gary D. Fulton and his wife, Susan, were among 17 people recently appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The Fultons will serve in Guatemala. Fulton was born in Memphis, but considers Lepanto, Ark., his hometown.

Five volunteers left Feb. 27 to do church construction in Osorno, Chile, under the direction of missionary James Parks. Helping to put up walls and the roof of a new church in Osorno are Kenneth S. Hall, First Church, Philadelphia; Frank E. Jones, Calvary Church, Knoxville; Carl Lord, First Church, Lenoir City; Charles A. Sampson, Trenton Street Church, Harriman; and Arnold Estes, Friendship Church, Lenoir City. The team will return March 13.

Marvin and Jean Fitts, missionaries to Peru and Mexico, have retired from active missionary service. They served in Mexico City, Mexico, where Fitts was a professor at the seminary, since 1986. Their service in Peru lasted from 1959-1981. Mrs. Fitts is a native of Lucy. They may be addressed at 6335 Hawks Call Lane, Bartlett, 38135.

Harley Fite honored

Former Carson-Newman College president Harley Fite was honored on his 90th birthday Feb. 23 with a reception at First Church, Jefferson City.

A native of Wilson County, Fite's career in education spanned 46 years, including 20 years as president of Carson-Newman College (1948-68).

After his retirement from C-N, Fite was vice president of a Morristown bank until 1980.

Fite, who has authored three books, now resides in Jefferson City.



FITE