

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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CLC speakers encourage Baptist focus on government

By Lonnie Wilkey and Louis Moore
WASHINGTON (BP) — Religion and politics can mix, Southern Baptists were told during a national seminar in the nation's capital.

A wide range of speakers, which included two U.S. senators, a theologian, a national syndicated newspaper columnist, and several Southern Baptist leaders, called on Christians to put their own houses in order while simultaneously working to impact governments and society with Biblical ethics and morality.

The speakers made the comments March 2-4 during the 25th annual Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission seminar in Washington. More than 310 people from at least 27 states registered for the event. The meeting's theme was "Citizen Christians: Their Rights and Responsibilities."

CLC Executive Director Richard Land said in his theme orientation the seminar was purposely named "Citizen Christians" instead of "Christian Citizens" to emphasize the fact Christians are first believers, with their secular citizenship being a modifier.

"We have responsibilities and we have rights, and those responsibilities and those rights are in both realms," he said. "As citizens of Heaven, which is what we are called in Philippians 3:20, we as believers are commanded to be obedient unto the Lord Jesus.

"The Apostle Paul instructs us that as Christians we have the responsibility to be good citizens for conscience

sake, because God has ordained government to punish and restrict evildoers and to reward and protect moral behavior," he said.

Southern Baptist law professor Lynn Buzzard told seminary participants the reverence with which some religious leaders today treat "the premiere slogan, 'the wall of separation,'" tends to leave the erroneous impression that nothing, including morality and religious values, should pass from the churches to society or culture or government.

Buzzard, professor of law and director of church-state studies at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., said such an attitude distorts the Constitution and the meaning the founding fathers intended for the First Amendment.

He pointed out the First Amendment does not use the phrase "separation of church and state." The First Amendment says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

"It (the phrase 'separation of church and state') is almost an invocation that is given at any conference on church and state today, a sort of constitutional chant, or if you will, a sound byte, which for many people is supposed to silence all further discussions," he said.

Dysfunctional churches
Syndicated newspaper columnist Cal Thomas said dysfunctional churches must become functional again, so that government can stop being dysfunctional. — CLC speakers, page 5

Tennesseans emphasize staff cooperation

By Terri Lackey
NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas (BP) — Pastors who see themselves as chief executive officers and operate their churches like large corporations seem to have forgotten they were called by God to be servants, according to a Tennessee pastor.

"My theory is many pastors take on the business world concept that they are CEOs," said Richard Emmert, pastor of Manley Church, Morristown. "They take the biggest offices, the nicest furniture, and all the great phone equipment."

Members of their staff then get smaller offices with less expensive furniture and "you go on down the line from there," Emmert said during an address to a group attending a Rec (church recreation) Lab seminar on staff relationships.

"Our problem in churches is that we inherit how the world does it," Emmert said. "But what we should be looking at is how Christ does it."

"Christ was a servant. If we could see ourselves as servants first to God and then to each other, it would make a tremendous difference in how we treat each other."

Emmert said churches would be better served if the pastor and the rest of the staff saw themselves as a team, believing that "when one does well we all do well."

Because the pastor is the leader servant of the church, Emmert said he is responsible for relaying and carrying out this message. As the "player coach," he said the pastor is responsible for making sure "everybody on the team receives support and encouragement."

Naturally, church staffers will have differences of opinion, Emmert said. "But it is important to deal honestly and Biblically with these differences."

Ideally, members of a church staff should feel like a close-knit family, Emmert said. "We should value each other, do things together, and relax with each other."

Emmert and Rec Lab participants suggested retreats, praying together, regular staff meetings, and informal get-togethers as ways to feel closer to each other.

Phyllis Gamble, minister of ac-

tivities at First Church of Lufkin, Texas, said she sends birthday cards and staff anniversary cards to every employee of the church, including housekeeping.

Ed Jenkins, minister of activities at Central Church, Fountain City near Knoxville said staff members at his church become involved with each others' ministries or programs. "I teach a Sunday School class and get involved in choir," he said. "Some of the other staff members participate in what I do." This fosters a feeling of team participation, making everyone interested in the success of the others' programs, he said.

Informal conversations at church over coffee can help create better relationships among staff members, one participant suggested. Another cited periodic social gatherings of church staff members and spouses.

"I had been at my job for just a short time when the pastor came in and brought two cups of coffee and just sat down and started talking," said Terry Fleming, recreation minister at First United Methodist Church in Athens, Texas. "I kept wondering when he was going to lower the boom but after about 45 minutes he just got up and left."

Intimate relationships between staff members take time, Emmert said. "It can be hard to build intimacy among staff members, but with work, it can be done."

SBC giving down in February

NASHVILLE (BP) — The SBC Cooperative Program total for February dropped more than 12 percent but designated gifts received by the Executive Committee rose nearly eight percent, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer.

CP total for February was \$11,988,817 compared to the same month in 1991 of \$13,682,655 or a 12.38 percent decrease. For the SBC fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the Cooperative Program was

down slightly, 0.63 percent, at \$57,954,409 compared to \$58,323,609 for the comparable year-to-date.

"I am concerned that the CP year-to-date gifts are down slightly compared to a year ago," Bennett said. "However, I still believe Southern Baptists believe in our world missions program and the need to support world missions through our Cooperative Program."

The drop in February receipts followed a huge, 20.99 percent, increase in CP gifts in January. The 1991-92 monthly basic operating budget requirement for the SBC is \$11,725,856.

Designated gifts were up \$2,916,909 for February, 7.69 percent, for a total of \$40,831,809 for the month compared to \$37,914,890 a year ago. Designated gifts for the year-to-date were up 11.80 percent at \$66,213,413 compared to a year ago at \$59,225,459.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, world hunger, and other special gifts.

There is no R. H. 2493

Have you signed the petition against a move to halt religious programming, that old favorite R. H. 2493?

Don't do it. It is that same irresponsible ploy that for 17 years has fooled unsuspecting and sometimes gullible Christians.

Read about it on page two, this issue, editorials.



FAREWELL — TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie, right, recently bade farewell to Pat Porter, center, and her husband, Lee, during a retirement reception at the Baptist Center. Porter served on the TBC staff for 18 years and was TBC registration secretary for almost eight years. They are moving to Panama City, Fla., where her husband has taken a staff position at St. Andrew Church. Porter was honored at the retirement reception along with fellow retiree Katy Reeves, who retired after five years at the TBC.

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.

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Editorials

Misplaced Christian zeal enables rumor to stay alive

If Christians were to apply evangelistic zeal with force equivalent to the energy and time spent in chasing a false cause, there would be reason to rejoice.

However, Baptists and others continue to spend thousands upon thousands of dollars and countless time in distributing and signing petitions to counteract a very irresponsible rumor.

Don't sign a petition or ask someone else to sign it unless you can verify the accuracy of it! If in doubt, check with your pastor — the pastor or other church leaders would know or could get the answer.

There is no validity in the charge that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has petitioned the courts to halt religious broadcasting. This "chain letter" petition surfaced in 1975.

The phony petition generates about 83,000 letters a month to the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC now has received nearly 25 million pieces of mail on the issue since 1975.

Bonsai Baptists: no growth, no commitment, no action

A bonsai is a potted plant, dwarfed in size by a special method of culture.

For example, a small pine seedling grown in such a manner can be called a bonsai pine. Many kinds of plants can be bonsai — dwarfed, yet with the same characteristics it would have in natural growth.

We recently saw a bonsai yellow jasmine — beautiful, but tiny and helpless looking.

We could apply the "bonsai" term to several areas of Christian life.

Bonsai growth: This means the Christian stopped growing after receiving salvation, and became a "mini" Christian. Fed only with limited food, the person shuns growth products and is content to remain as a baby.

Bonsai attitudes: Here we have those who ac-

cept small ideas and deal only in dwarfed dreams. The attitude is limited to what the person wants from another. Since he is small, he tends to think others are that way — and there is little need to develop grand attitudes.

Bonsai goals: Content to remain at "sea level," the person with bonsai goals is content to float on today's attainments and drift along with the tide's ebb and flow. No need, then, to look to the future, because bonsai vision ends at arm's length.

Bonsai commitment: The believer in bonsai commitment expects only a limited spiritual or tangible "reward." Instead of mimicking the little engine who "could," it's better to live in the cocoon — never committing to any person or thing larger than self.

Bonsai actions: Taking the short route, unwill-

ing to go the way of the road less traveled by, this kind of person makes only defensive gestures toward success. Afraid of mistakes and ignoring "Lo, I am always with you," the person acts only on the behalf of self, and is content to guard the door of opportunity lest it open too wide.

Bonsai Baptists: Lord, never let us be bonsai Baptists. Our times need unfettered and boundless ideas and energies, unbridled commitment, strenuous and selfless attitudes and goals.

Let us be more like the redwoods, the sequoias. Let us be sturdy oaks, brave and courageous dogwoods flowering full and free. Let us be what you first thought us to be, limited only by your grace and power. And prevent us from trying to make bonsai people of others. Our age has no place for bonsai Baptists. — WFA

Let us be grateful for the pastors and laypeople who call us to verify the validity of petitions. Maybe we are gaining on the problem.

Mark this down: there is no real "R. H. 2493" about removing religious broadcasting from the air. There never has been. If there should ever be such an effort — our Baptist agencies, such as the Christian Life Commission, will make us all aware with proper concern and due haste. — WFA

'I'm praying for you, really praying . . . , the leaders all say

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP) — Even weeks after Valentine's Day, valentines from Southern Baptist girls are streaming into Iowa.

Thousands of valentines have been mailed to Southern Baptist home missionary couples in four Iowa towns.

The valentines, from across the country, are from Girls in Action groups, the Woman's Missionary Union organization for girls ages 6-11. Iowa was the featured missions study in the February edition of the GA magazine, Discovery, and the GAs were encouraged to pray for and send valentines to four home missions couples in the state.

"Most of the girls just stated, 'I am praying for you and I love you,'" recounted Jean Hulse, one of the valentine recipients and director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship's Woman's Missionary Union. "What wonderful good that does for a home missionary's heart." Her husband, Lonney, is pastor of Calvary Church in Glenwood, Iowa.

"I'm praying for you. I mean I'm really praying for you," wrote one girl to Bob Pinkerton, HMB-sponsored pastor of Lincoln Street Church in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and his wife, Betty.

The Pinkertons estimate they have received 3000 valentines, while the Hulseys' estimate stands at 4000-plus from 43 states and even from Korea and Portugal. Jong Koo Lee, pastor of the Korean Church in Iowa City, and his wife, Ok Soon, say they have received "hundreds and hundreds" of greetings.

Missionaries to Burundi feeling 'optimistic'

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP) — Despite recent rebel attacks on the Burundian capital of Bujumbura, Southern Baptist missionaries in the central African country say they are more optimistic than ever about their work.

Burundi has a long history of ethnic conflict but the response of the government to the most recent fighting demonstrates a new day has arrived, they feel.

President Pierre Buyoya is forging ahead with plans to introduce multi-party democracy in the small African nation situated on the northeast side of Lake Tanganyika. Missionaries believe the democratization process will enhance their current positive situation.

"Since the installation of the Third Republic (in 1987), the freedom of the church has been greatly restored," said Jeff Polglase of Arizona, chairman of the Baptist Mission of Burundi. "We've gone from being required to leave the country by leaders of the Second Republic to a situation in which we have great freedom to preach the Gospel."

Southern Baptists missionaries, who first entered Burundi in 1978, actually left in 1986 because of government restrictions. They re-entered the country in late 1988. They work alongside missionaries from the Danish Baptist Union, which started the work in 1928.

Polglase said the Baptist mission has helped eight churches "put up roofs" in the past year, many of them for new congregations. "That's good growth when you consider it took 63 years to

start the first 72 Baptist churches in this country," he explained. "Burundian pastors are taking the initiative in organizing churches."

He pointed out the Baptist mission is taking advantage of the current openness to take big strides in evangelism and training. "We're sending missionaries places where there has never been a Baptist missionary," he said.

"By the end of April our mission will increase from two to five families," he said. "We plan to open a new area in southern Burundi with an agricultural center operated by Dennis and Margaret McCall, of Mississippi and Georgia, respectively."

"Another agricultural couple, Dave and Cathy Brandon of Kentucky, will

open another new area in Burundi's second largest town, Gitega. His skills in entomology and soils will fit right into local agricultural needs. We want to link our human needs ministries with evangelism and thus bring about opportunities to witness about Christ."

Steve and Tara Smith of Texas arrive in the next few months to implement a youth program.

The mission also has started construction of two residences and a pastor's training center in the northern city of Kayanza. The Union of Baptist Churches of Burundi has never had an ongoing pastoral training center, Polglase said, "so they see this as one of the biggest steps in the history of the development of their convention."

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Annuity Board votes increase for annuitants July 1

DALLAS (BP) — Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention voted a five percent increase in benefits for 22,000 annuitants effective July 1, 1992. Both Plan A and defined contribution plan participants will receive the raise. Annuitants will see the increase in checks at the end of July.

William A. Willis of Little Rock, Ark., was elected chairman of the board, succeeding B. J. Martin of Pasadena, Texas, who served four one-year terms. S. A. Adkins of Forest, Miss., was elected vice chairman.

Willis retired last year as general manager of the Little Rock agency of the Prudential Insurance Company of America. He has been a trustee since 1986.

The trustee insurance committee reported improvement in the financial

condition of the church comprehensive medical plan — including a less-than-predicted rate increase July 1. Trustees also heard about lower-cost options planned for Jan. 1, 1993. The group comprehensive medical plan, however, did not fare as well in 1991. Its \$2.4 million loss resulted in large increases for groups with bad claims experience. Some agencies' rates more than doubled.

The property and casualty department reported significant growth with its new carrier, Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company. Doug Day, vice president for property and casualty, reported that the gross premium of about \$1 million written in the first two months of 1992 exceeded all of 1991.

Leading the list of reports and actions was the annuitants' benefit increase. Unlike the ten percent increase

of Jan. 1, 1992, for Plan A participants only, the July 1 raise also will apply to benefits received through the board's defined contribution plans. The increase will not apply to variable annuities which are already reviewed each year, with benefits adjusted based on the prior year's experience.

Plan A, which was closed to contributions Jan. 1, 1988, pays a defined benefit based on a formula involving the member's salary and years of service, with a maximum of \$4000 per year for the salary part of the formula.

Defined contribution plans result in individual accumulations based on varying contributions. At retirement, the accumulations are used to purchase an annuity under any of several benefit options.

"We are absolutely delighted to give this increase to all our defined benefits

and purchased annuity retirees and those still active with deferred vested benefits," said Paul W. Powell, Annuity Board president.

"Those who retired with purchased annuities have suffered the same erosion of their benefits by inflation as Plan A members. Now we can give some adjustment," Powell said.

"Unlike for-profit businesses," he continued, "when we have good experience, we say it belongs to the members. We don't have stockholders who must be paid; just ministers, missionaries, teachers, secretaries, doctors, nurses, administrators, widows, and children who need the money."

A key to the mid-year increase was a move by trustees that combined, for investment purposes, the assets of the defined benefit plan with those of the annuitant fund. From now on, any year in which earnings create a margin (surplus) beyond actuarial requirements for benefits and contingencies, a general increase will be considered.

Actuary Terry Wade explained that the defined benefit fund backed obligations under Plan A (non-retired) and pooled annuities (those in pay status). The annuitant fund backed obligations under the purchased annuities.

Over the years, significant surpluses have occurred in the defined benefit fund and have been used for members through "13th checks," good experience credits, and permanent increases. Until now, however, the funding status of the annuitant fund has not allowed meaningful increases to purchased annuities.

In 1991 the defined benefit fund experienced an investment yield of 20.5 percent and the annuitant fund had a yield of 18.3 percent. The results of the fourth quarter recovered much of the excess margin in the defined benefit fund that was used to grant the ten percent Plan A increase Jan. 1.

High school young men respond to needs

GATLINBURG (BP) — High School Baptist Young Men responded generously to a call to assist Project Brotherhood, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's emergency food distribution effort set to begin March 28 in the former Soviet Union.

Meeting in Gatlinburg for the fifth annual High School Baptist Young Men's Rally Feb. 28-March 1, nearly 500 young men from 14 states gave \$605 to a special offering to help support efforts in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Project Brotherhood will focus initially on the delivery and distribution of 570 tons of USDA surplus food. An estimated 40,000 Russian families will benefit from the project.

The theme of the rally was "God's

Man Today." James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, quoted from Luke and urged the young men and adult advisers to have "deep water faith" in matters directed by God.

"Being God's man today means moving from the safety of the seen to the risks of the unseen," Williams said. "Nothing significant occurred in the shallows. He (Jesus) specifically led them (the disciples) out into the deep water and out where somebody could touch God. It was not until they were down and in the deep water that he commanded them to let down their nets."

The two-day rally featured home and foreign missions speakers and numerous conferences covering topics

ranging from "My School is a Mission Field" to "Understanding Your Parents." The rally featured a special concert by multiple Grammy award nominee Eddie DeGarmo.

Home missionary Ron Climer of Fresno, Calif., said his ministry includes counseling, chaplaincy, Bible teaching, and help for churches wanting to develop Christian social ministry programs.

"The reason I do the different kinds of things I do is this: If what we have to say about Jesus Christ is going to be heard by anybody, it's only because we take the time to become involved with people at the point of their need. I build relationships and in the process of that, share Christ," Climer said.

Don Sewell of the Foreign Mission Board explored numerous cultural differences between Americans and other world cultures in the conference. "It's a Different World."

SSB cancels Bible convocation

NASHVILLE (BP) — The nation's economy was cited by officials of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as a primary factor in a decision to cancel the National Convocation on the Bible planned for April 21-23 in Nashville.

"It has become clear to us that many Southern Baptists who had hoped to attend cannot participate because of the impact of the economic downturn affecting our nation," Harry Piland, director of the Sunday school division, said in a prepared statement announcing the decision.

Registration totals by early March remained well below the 8000 goal planners had for the three-day event which was to include a riverfront

Gospel singing, Bible preaching and teaching, more than 125 seminars, and teacher recognition.

Some elements of the April meeting will continue, Piland said.

A commissioning service for Southern Baptist home missions appointees will continue as planned on Wednesday, April 22. That service will be conducted cooperatively by the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and Woman's Missionary Union.

A Bible that is being read in each state convention which was to be presented during the convocation will continue to be read as scheduled in remaining states and will be used in the commissioning service, Piland said.

A musical, "Break the Glory Free," which was to premiere at the convocation instead will be presented during each of the Sunday School leadership conferences, church music leadership conferences, and Jericho missions festivals at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers this summer.

Sunday School teachers who have been nominated for the teacher's wall of fame to be displayed during the convocation will receive a certificate as previously planned. Other plans to display the wall of fame are being explored, Piland said.

About 1850 teachers were nominated for the recognition. "Unfortunately very few of those were able to register to attend," Piland said.

Fees from those who have registered for the convocation will be refunded, officials said.

Texas Baptists plan new publication

DALLAS (BP) — Citing their desire to provide a "balanced and objective" news source for Southern Baptists in Texas, leaders of the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship plan to launch the first issue of a statewide newsletter within the next week.

The Texas Baptist Conservative Newsletter will be published "monthly officially, but unofficially we aspire to publish twice a month," said Perry Ellis, executive editor of the newsletter and executive director of the conservative fellowship.

Sample copies of the newsletter are being reviewed by the executive committee of the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship, and the first issue was to have been mailed to all Southern Baptist pastors in Texas during the week of March 8.

Ellis, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil and now a member of First Church, Dallas, emphasized the publication is needed to give Texas Baptists "balanced and objective" information. However, he stopped short of saying the newsletter is in direct competition with the Baptist Standard, weekly newjournal of Texas Baptists.

"I don't know that it's intended to be an alternative to anybody's magazine. It's just that nobody can take all the magazines, and we want to let folks know what is happening in the Southern Baptist Convention and the Texas

convention in a balanced way," he said.

Future issues of the publication will encourage "conservative" Texas Baptists to "be good stewards of their messenger representation to the Baptist General Convention of Texas," Nov. 9-10 in Corpus Christi, Ellis said.

While the newsletter will be mailed free to all Texas Baptist pastors, paid subscriptions will be solicited, with bulk quantities of the publication being made available to the subscribers, Ellis noted.

The fellowship was formed in January by an ad hoc committee of 14 Texas pastors, a number of whom were active in the Baylor Restoration Committee, a group formed prior to the 1991 BGCT meeting in Waco in an effort to return Baylor University to "Texas Baptist ownership and control." At the time, Ellis expressed the desire to form a larger executive committee of 200-300 pastors and laymen from all of the state's 112 associations.

Members of the ad hoc group were: Jack Graham, Dallas; John Bisagno, Houston; Edwin Young, Houston; Joel Gregory, Dallas; Damon Shook, Houston; John Morgan, Houston; Stan Coffee, Amarillo; Bill Sutton, McAllen; Rick Scarborough, Pearland; John Hatch, Lake Jackson; Forrest Lowry, Spring; Miles Seaborn, Fort Worth; Terry Fox, Corpus Christi; and Bill Tisdale, Henderson.

Robert Craig dies

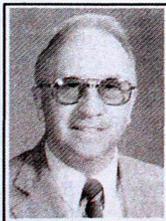
Robert E. Craig, former president of Union University, died March 4 of a heart attack in Marshall, Texas.

Craig was president of Union University from 1967-

1986. He left Union in 1986 to go to East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, as president. He had recently announced retirement effective July 1.

A scholarship in his memory has been established at Union University.

Craig led Union during the construction of its present campus in the mid-1970s.



CRAIG

Our Readers Write

Support for leader

In view of the crucial meeting of the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board on March 19-20, it occurs to me that there are those who, like me, would like to express support for Dr. Keith Parks. Right and wrong can never be determined by taking a poll; but surely any comment concerning the service of this highly gifted and dedicated man would be welcomed by Foreign Mission Board trustees. Changes in the world situation contribute greatly to the fact that so much now in our mission opportunity hangs in the balance. I do not believe this is a coincidence.

Following are the addresses of the chairman, one of the vice chairmen, and Dr. Parks:

The chairman of the Foreign Mission Board trustees is William L. (Bill) Hancock, pastor, Highview Church, 7711 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40228. The second vice chairman of the Foreign Mission Board trustees is layman Dr. Bonnie B. Westbrook Jr., 5920 Longwood Lane, Beaumont, Texas 77707. Keith Parks can be addressed at P.O. Box 6767, 2386 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230.

It probably would be well to make the letter brief and concise.

Faye Robbins
500 Plantation Court V-2
Nashville 37221

Budgets and salaries

I belong to a small church and helped to urge our church to increase our giving to the Cooperative Program. After reading of salaries for some of our executives, I won't ask them to raise it anymore.

I am sure Morris Chapman and Harold Bennett are men of God, but my pastor is a man of God, too. He knocks on doors for a pittance compared to the figures shown here. In the same article, the budget for 1992 recommended a 4.67 percent increase in the SBC operating budget. I would like to see present funds used more wisely before asking for more.

I would also be interested in knowing the dollar value of the other benefits.

Clarence H. Allison
100 Mimosa Drive
Springfield 37172

Questions salaries

It appears that our Southern Baptist Convention is growing more like big business in the way the Executive Committee is passing out lavish compensation and perks for the leaders of our convention. I have reference to the story in the Baptist and Reflector of Feb. 26, about the election of Morris Chapman as its president and treasurer at a salary of \$120,000 a year plus other benefits, and that Bennett, whom he is replacing, is

making even more.

I am appalled at the monetary contract with Barry McCarty to serve as chief parliamentarian at the forthcoming Southern Baptist Convention.

It might be of interest if salaries of our SBC executives were made known to Cooperative Program givers.

S. T. Benton
2404 Globe Drive
Knoxville 37912

Salutes Craig

Christian education lost a great champion with the passing of Dr. Robert Craig. He leaves a legacy of outstanding leadership at three Baptist colleges, but even more importantly, a testimony of total commitment and Christian witness.

It was my privilege to know Dr. Craig in different settings — as my college president, as my first employer, and as my friend and colleague.

Dr. Craig taught us all many lessons in the way he led and lived. He embodied patience, persistence, and humility. His sense of the Lordship of Jesus Christ found him constantly seeking God's direction.

We thank God for his leadership, his life, and the lessons he leaves us.

William E. Troutt, president
Belmont University
Nashville 37212

Importance of economics

As another election year is upon us, I am shocked at what most Christians today think of as important in a candidate. From my own "straw poll" of Christian voters, economics seems to be first in most minds. We all agree that we do live in tough times economically.

However, the question we Christians must ask is this, "Where do we turn in time of trouble?" It seems that many are turning to politicians to solve their economic woes. Shouldn't a born-again child of the King turn to his Word for

Brotherhood to coordinate food distribution in Moscow

MEMPHIS (BP) — An emergency food distribution project initiated by the Baptist World Alliance and coordinated by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission will begin March 28 in Moscow, according to James D. Williams, president of the commission, a Memphis-based agency.

Brotherhood Commission officials were in Moscow recently to confirm logistical details for the project. Called Project Brotherhood, the effort will focus initially on the delivery and distribution of 570 tons of USDA surplus food now on the way to Moscow. The food was secured on behalf of BWA through a grant to Brothers Brother, Inc., a nonprofit

answers? How should a Christian vote? What characteristics should he or she look for in a candidate?

Matthew 6:25-34 gives us clear insight into the problem we face today. We are not to worry about material things. According to verse 33, we are to "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness . . ." This means in "everything" we do, including our vote. Economics should not even be on the list of requirements for a Christian's vote for a candidate. Have we sold our vote for money? God help us if we do.

Dale Ledbetter, pastor
Sylvia Church
2985 Sylvia Rd.
Dickson 37055

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.

Problems of churches, society

In the Commercial Appeal of Memphis on March 3 I read three items that sound an alarm to all Christians.

(1) High court derails ban on indecent broadcasts. If Madalyn O'Hair with atheistic influence can get prayer banned from schools, does God not have someone who can use his Christian influence to ban indecent broadcasts? Doesn't God have someone to stand in the gap? See

Ezekiel 22:30-31.

(2) Church to bless homosexual union. Do the Raleigh, N. C., pastor and members not understand what God says in Romans 1:24-32? It is crystal clear.

(3) Putting condoms on banana okay in Tennessee ruling. Young teenagers are being taught this. Can Christians do something about this and other curriculum now being taught in our public schools? Yes. Many of our churches have adequate space for a true Christian school. Such schools could accommodate children of the membership — with real sacrificial giving.

Are churches becoming social clubs? Contemporary songs with rock music, very loud and much screaming, are becoming the norm in our churches. We don't need gimmicks or the spectacular to bring people to Jesus. He said that if He is lifted up, He will draw all men unto himself.

E. E. Armstrong
4033 Reenie
Memphis 38128

Pastors need books

I am associational missionary for the Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association in West Virginia. We have eight churches and one mission.

We need books for pastors in the pioneer mission field. Most of our pastors have not been to seminary nor received any pastoral education. They have not accumulated large libraries. Some retiring pastors or pastors and churches that periodically clean books from their libraries might help us. It could be a good mission project to send those volumes to our association for pastors who need them.

These books could be shipped UPS to the association office located in my home. We will distribute them. The UPS address below is sufficient.

Richard Harris, DOM
Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Assoc.
RD. 1, Box 125
Triadelphia, W.V. 26059

of effectiveness in providing humanitarian relief and coordinating disaster response. "The Brotherhood Commission is known and appreciated by Russian Baptists," Montacute told a meeting of commission officials.

Southern Baptists who wish to volunteer to participate should apply through their state Brotherhood departments, Williams said.

People who want to financially support the project may send contributions to Project Brotherhood, Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis 38104, or to Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Va. 22101. All contributions should be clearly designated "For Project Brotherhood."

Volunteers donate \$67 million in time

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist volunteer mission workers donated more than \$67 million worth of time in 1991, according to reports by the Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board.

Volunteer coordinators from those two groups and the Foreign Mission Board released reports Feb. 18 on volunteer activity last year.

The Home Mission Board reported 9.4 percent more volunteers in 1991 than 1990. Some of the increase was due to better accounting of groups that organize projects without help from the HMB, HMB director of short-term

volunteers Mike Robertson said.

The HMB identified 56,948 volunteers last year who worked for a year or less on projects ranging from church construction to backyard Bible clubs.

Using \$88 per day volunteered, the value of HMB short-term volunteers totaled about \$51 million, according to the HMB report.

HMB volunteers also reported more than 7000 conversions, 4000 rededications and 300 decisions to enter church-related service, the report states.

Robertson noted, however, 30 percent of the requests from field missionaries remain unfilled.

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.

16 — Belvia Perez, a Chilean nurse serving as director of the Baptist well-baby clinic in Antofagasta.

17 — Traveling mercies for missionaries.

18 — Members of First Baptist Church, Pucon, that they will have an evangelistic vision, and for their church leadership.

19 — Openness to the Gospel as Christians minister in Los Pinares.

20 — Chileans will be effective in establishing new ministries among deaf persons.

21 — The women in Temuco Association will become more evangelistic.

22 — New believers in Chile, and that churches will provide strong discipleship programs for their growth in the Lord.



CLC speakers encourage Baptist focus on . . .

— Continued from page 1
tional.

Thomas told participants opinion polls show people's satisfaction with government is at one of the lowest points in history. The reason for this dissatisfaction and frustration, Thomas said, is "government no longer is fulfilling the function for which it was created."

The Washington-based journalist said the function of government as stated in the Declaration of Independence is to secure the rights God has endowed.

The founders of the United States understood men and women were flawed and were sinners and if they would not be "constrained from within by the power of God they would have to be restrained from without by the power of the state acting as God's agent," Thomas said.

Southern Baptist theologian Carl F. H. Henry called upon all evangelical Christians to champion religious freedom for the entirety of humankind.

The end to communism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union does not eliminate all the restraints imposed on religious freedom worldwide, he said.

During the seminar in Washington, Land presented Henry with the agency's Distinguished Service Award for his work over several decades on behalf of Christian ethics. Henry was founding editor of Christianity Today.

Salt and light

Roy Edgemon, director of the Discipleship Training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School

Rooms still available for SBC

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — More than 6000 rooms have been reserved for the 1992 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in Indianapolis but rooms are still available, according to the convention manager.

"We have been assured by the Indianapolis people that there are plenty of rooms still available for the convention," Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., said. Rosenbaum is vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee. More than 5000 requests for rooms were received on Oct. 1, 1991, Rosenbaum said, and processing of those requests was not completed until Christmas time.

Rosenbaum also announced a shuttle bus system for convention-goers.

Christian Travelers of Des Plaines,

Reeves accepts call

Members of Harmony Church, Whiteville, recently called David Reeves as pastor, a position he had filled on an interim basis since July 1991.

Reeves, who is assistant principal at Fayetteville-Ware High School, has been in the ministry since 1981 when he was ordained at Rossville Church, Rossville. He has served as staff evangelist at First Church, Somerville, and pastor at Williston Church, Williston.

The Somerville native is a graduate of Liberty University Institute of Biblical Studies, Lynchburg, Va., where he also studied health and physical education. He earned a master's degree in education administration from Trevecca Nazarene College, Nashville.



TENNESSEANS IN D. C. — Several Tennessee Baptists attended the 25th annual seminar of the Christian Life Commission held March 2-4 in Washington. From left, Keith Hayworth, Fairfield Church, Morristown; Frank Blevins, First Church, Bluff City; Mike Womack, Calvary Church, Erwin; Carlos Peterson, First Church, Athens; Tom Savage, Pinecrest Church, Johnson City; David Carr, Tusculum Church, Greeneville; and Tal Thompson, director of missions, Holston Association.

Board, told seminar participants citizen Christians today must be willing to be the "salt and light" at every level of government and politics if society is to reflect positive values.

Edgemon said the mission of Christians is to "save and change the world."

"If we cease to perform that mission or fail to live up to that mission, our purpose is gone, our direction is aimless, and our identity is blurred," he said.

Unfortunately, Edgemon said, it appears at times "the salt has lost its savor and the light has been hidden."

Ill., will offer an hourly shuttle service to and from the Hoosier Dome, site of the annual meeting, to outlying hotels beginning Sunday through Thursday. The company, operated by Charles Cooper, an Illinois bivocational pastor, also will offer a service from the Indianapolis airport to the messenger's hotel, Rosenbaum said.

People having made early reservations for hotels in Indianapolis should be receiving their confirmations now from the convention bureau, Rosenbaum said.

Rosenbaum said about 400 people are on waiting lists, some asking to stay longer than the regular convention time of Sunday through Thursday. Some may have to take hotels/motels in a perimeter area but none of the hotels are more than 45 minutes from the downtown area, he said.

One problem with housing in Indianapolis, Rosenbaum explained, is the largest hotel, the new Westin across the street from the convention center, is not available for the SBC meeting. It was inadvertently booked for another convention by the hotel's national office while in the construction stage.

"We are trying our best to be objective and fair to the greatest number of Southern Baptists regarding housing for the annual meeting," Rosenbaum said. "Unfortunately, because of the limited number of rooms in Indianapolis, some people may not be happy with their reservation."

Rosenbaum said the Hoosier dome is by far the best facility "we've been in, in terms of arena seating, exhibit space, support services and food concessions."

Christian activist Beverly LaHaye, president of Concerned Women for America, reminded conference participants that despite what "secular humanists and atheists" say, religion and politics have mixed since the birth of the United States.

"It's a good thing early American Christians believed in having an influence on society," she said. "Had they not, there may not be an America today — certainly not the same America you and I are privileged to live in."

LaHaye cited five action steps for Christians to make an impact — vote, communicate with elected officials, volunteer to work on campaigns, run for political office, and pray."

Prayer needed

Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman called on the 15.2 million Southern Baptists in this country to bathe their efforts in dealing with moral issues and concerns in prayer.

He said government and politicians do not have the ultimate answers for morality, the economy, and ethics.

"The answer comes by faith," he said. "We need to pray for the leaders of our land that the Spirit of God would stir us and them for his glory."

Former Secretary of Education William Bennett told seminar participants only the right values, not larger governmental programs, will turn American society in the correct direction.

Tennesseans give to fellowship plan

The alternate giving plan of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has received monies from 30 churches and 75 individuals since November 1991, the beginning of the Tennessee Baptist Convention fiscal year. The convention has 2931 churches.

The alternate plan, promoted by the "moderate" Southern Baptist organization as an alternative to the convention's Cooperative Program, has received a total of \$236,000 from Tennesseans over the four months, reported Sandra Davey, office manager for the Atlanta, Ga.-based fellowship. From that total, \$50,000 was forwarded to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Gifts from churches using an alternate plan constitute about three percent of the TBC budget, reported Martha Grove, director, TBC Accounting Office. The state convention

"It is much more important what ideas, what values are out and abroad in the mainstream than anything any government can do," Bennett said. "Government, for all the good that they may do, they cannot undo" wrong ideas.

Senators speak

United States Senators Albert Gore, D-Tenn., and Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Senate Chaplain Richard C. Halverson all urged Southern Baptists attending a Congressional Breakfast to continue to make their voices heard in the nation's capitol.

Gore urged Southern Baptists to continue to be active in the areas of health labels on alcohol beverage advertising and the environment.

Lott emphasized the need for Christians to express themselves through the ballot box in the election of Bible-believing Christians to public posts. He also called for more Southern Baptists to step forward and run for public office.

Conference participants also attended a White House briefing. Speakers included Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp and Surgeon General Antonia Novello.

Other speakers included Southern Baptist evangelist Jay Strack of Dallas, Washington attorney Robert Showers, and Houston pastor Ed Young, who gave three theme interpretations. Showers and Strack are CLC commissioners.

Tennesseans respond

Approximately 26 Tennessee Baptists registered for the three-day seminar in Washington.

Steve Nelson, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, called it "an excellent conference." He said he "has gained an appreciation for what's going on to promote traditional family values. I feel challenged to do more of what I know I already need to be doing," he said.

Marian Gibbins of Kingwood Church, Chattanooga, said it's been "a wonderful experience to see we have so many real Christians in our federal government."

Morristown pastor Keith Hayworth of Fairfield Church also was challenged by the meeting.

"My prayer is that God would restore the commitment on the part of Christians to be the salt and light in our culture." — Tom Strode also contributed to this story.

receives offerings from churches and then distributes them as directed. If received for the Cooperative Program, the Tennessee convention keeps 62.5 percent and forwards 37.5 percent to national programs as determined by the SBC Executive Committee. Funds are distributed monthly, as is the practice of all other convention offices, Grove said.

Those giving through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship choose from three plans. One plan nearly parallels the Cooperative Program plan except it denies funds to the Christian Life Commission and Executive Committee, instead contributing to Associated Baptist Press, Baptist Joint Committee, and fellowship operations (1.65 percent). The other plans include funding for seminaries at Richmond and Baylor and new missions ventures

Former Soviets adjust to life as Belmont students

By David Johnson

NASHVILLE — It is one thing to leave your country for a few months and then return to the same neighborhood and the same house. But it is quite another to leave your country and return to find that it no longer exists.

That experience is not far from reality for some former Soviets, including Utkirbek Muidinov and Jahongir Abdurasulov. Utkirbek and Jahongir are students from Uzbekistan, a central-Asian republic of the former Soviet Union. A third such student is Alia Dzhiembaeva of Kazakhstan.

Sent by the Uzbek government to study international business and market economy, Utkirbek and Jahongir are at Belmont University through the Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC).

CSIEC was created in 1987 by leaders of 26 Baptist institutions to offer their resources to primarily communist countries who were asking for help. CSIEC allows small Baptist colleges to participate in exchange programs in which larger schools are already participating. Belmont is one of now 36 Baptist institutions currently participating in CSIEC.

Last summer, several economists went to Uzbek State Economical University to teach a three-month program to 75 students. Utkirbek and Jahongir were two of the top 15 students in that group who were recommended to be sent to the United States to study.

Before coming to Belmont in August they spent one month at Ouachita Bap-



BELMONT STUDENTS — Students of the former Soviet Union study international relations at Belmont University in Nashville. From left, Utkirbek Muidinov, Alia Dzhiembaeva, and Jahongir Abdurasulov.

tist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., learning about American culture. They will study at Belmont for one semester before returning to Uzbekistan.

Their goal according to Utkirbek, is to "work as dealers in stock exchange at school in Uzbekistan and deal with products and American companies." Eventually, the two would like to be presidents of their own companies in Uzbekistan.

To achieve this goal, they are taking several business classes under the instruction of economics professor Howard Cochran. Among these classes are small business management, microeconomics, international business, and management seminars.

Arrival to the United States was not too much of a shock to Utkirbek and Jahongir. They have found the students to be "friendly and funny. It (United States) was not like we saw it in the movies," maintains Jahongir.

Their adjustment to Belmont has been equally smooth. When they are not studying international business, they like to fill their days with working out, playing a round of ping-pong, and learning new words. Utkirbek and Jahongir have made many new friends here, both through Belmont's International Student program, which they say is "very good," and through living in the dorms.

Although they are getting along well

with American culture, there are still a few things they miss.

"My friends and my family," says Utkirbek.

"Our meals," says Jahongir.

What they like best about America are learning English, the freedom to choose, and the friends that they have made here. Asked what they would like to take home with them, they both agreed, "knowledge and education."

Alia Dzhiembaeva came to Belmont to study international journalism. She arrived at the beginning of the 1991 fall semester and plans to continue her studies here for one more year.

Alia's classes include broadcast advertising and communication law. With the new political developments in the former Soviet Union, Alia sees the possibility for more television and commercial production opening up in the near future.

She has found that with the exception of language, the people here are the same as those back home. Things she likes best here are her friends, the good international program, and the freedoms that Americans enjoy.

But there is one cultural difference she finds in some of the people. "It's very interesting," says Alia. "So many college students know much less general knowledge. It's hard to find someone who can talk about culture and literature."

Things are going well so far for her. When she returns home, though, she has admitted that she would like to take a microwave with her.

• David Johnson is a communication arts major at Belmont University.

B MDF president demonstrates commitment to missions

By Marv Knox

WHITLEY CITY, Ky. — Kentucky doctor M. A. Winchester takes the medicine he prescribes.

Not antibiotics or pain pills. Not antihistamines or beta blockers.

Winchester thinks Baptists ought to support missions, and he has committed a major portion of his life to doing just that.

Winchester is a physician from Whitley City, located in south central Kentucky, and a member of First Church, Stearns. He's also the national president of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, a 1200-member organization of doctors and dentists committed to Baptist mission work.

Winchester was a charter member of the fellowship when it was formed in the late 1970s.

"We're a group of physicians and dentists that have bonded together for a unique purpose," he explained. "We have a tremendous interest in missions.

"Some of us feel a deep calling to go to mission fields. Others, because of family, work, or health, still feel a calling to support the work in many ways. The fellowship is for physicians and dentists, no matter where they are in their seasons of life."

Winchester is among the group's members who sense God's leadership to work on mission fields. He has been to Kenya three times, and also to Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. He's been to Brazil twice and plans to go again soon as part of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Brazilian

Baptists.

"Our fellowship has been the standard for volunteer missions" in the Southern Baptist Convention, he noted. "We started 14 or 15 years ago, before it was popular. Last year, over 650 health care volunteers went out.

"We go to strengthen the churches, open the doors of the churches, and give our missionaries credibility," he added, saying churches and missionaries gain standing in their communities by providing medical services to people who cannot afford them.

The fellowship started because physicians and dentists realized Southern Baptist medical missionaries had unique needs the convention's Foreign Mission Board could not meet, Winchester reported. They included relicensing, providing continuing medical education, and helping doctors and dentists keep up with advances in science and medicine.

For example, the fellowship pays expenses for missionaries who attend medical seminars sponsored by the Christian Medical Society. In addition, volunteer doctors and dentists go to the mission fields and fill in for the missionaries while they are away at the conferences.

The fellowship also:

- Provides funds for furloughing missionaries to buy medical books and receive continuing education.
- Helps some medical students bound for the mission field to pay medical school tuition.
- Works with Baptist Student Unions to make contact with pre-medical and medical students.

- Coordinates a prayer ministry on behalf of missionaries.

- Works with the FMB to help seek replacements for missionaries, fill vacancies on the field, and provide medical equipment.

- Raises money for an endowment to finance medical-missions projects.

- Conducts medical seminars at the "Jericho" missions festivals each summer at Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C.

- Meets for fellowship and spiritual refreshment.

The fellowship's 1992 annual meeting will be Nov. 12-15 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

"Sometimes pastors fear members being involved in another organization," he noted. "They're afraid the organizations will draw resources from the churches. But I can assure pastors that our members will come back as better members of local churches, totally involved at every level."

Dresden church calls Worley as pastor

David Worley has been called to Oak Grove Church, Dresden, as pastor.

Before taking the Dresden post, Worley was pastor of Sardis Church, Sardis for two years. Before entering the pastorate, Worley was assistant to the pastor at Leewood Church, Memphis, where he was ordained in 1989.

The Hornsby native graduated from University of Tennessee, Martin, with a bachelor's degree, and from Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, with a master of divinity degree.

Student conference scheduled in Lebanon

"Reaching Up ... Reaching Out" is the theme for the State Student Spring Conference which will be held at Immanuel Church in Lebanon, April 3-5. Bible studies, seminars, and worship will emphasize student evangelism and discipleship.

Leading Bible studies at the major sessions will be Hulitt Gloer, professor of New Testament studies at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and Herb Brisbane, church starter strategist, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Ron Alley, Christian musician from Nashville, will lead in worship at each session. Paul and Nicole Johnson of Smyrna will interpret the theme through drama.

Seminars dealing with Christian leadership, witness, and personal discipleship will be led by Baptist Student Union directors and program guests. Topics include "Becoming a Great Commission Christian," "Finding Sabbath," "Transforming Bible Study," and "Making Friends for Jesus."

On Saturday evening, 38 Tennessee students who will serve in missions this summer will be recognized and commissioned.

Information on the program, registration, and housing may be secured from a local Baptist Student Union or call the Student Ministries Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, at (615) 371-2056.

Ben Mitchell

Tennessee pastor moves to ethicist role at CLC

By Lonnie Wilkey

WASHINGTON — "My pulpit has been expanded," says former Tennessee Baptist pastor C. Ben Mitchell.

Instead of preaching every Sunday as he once did, Mitchell is now adjusting to his new role as a Southern Baptist ethicist which involves education and research.

Mitchell joined the staff of the SBC Christian Life Commission in January as director of biomedical ethics and life concerns.

Ethical issues and applied Christianity have long interested the Florida native, he said in an interview with the Baptist and Reflector during the CLC's 25th annual seminar in Washington.

After serving as pastor for some years and dealing with ethical issues in

counseling situations, Mitchell notes he became especially interested in medical ethics.

The former pastor of Middle Valley Church, Hixson, was elected as a commissioner of the CLC in 1986. Serving as a trustee for Southern Baptists' moral concerns and ethics agency further sparked his interest in that field, he says.

After attending a bioethics consultation in 1986, Mitchell began investigating schools with doctoral programs in medical ethics. He discovered the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, offered such a program. On his day off at Middle Valley he commuted to Knoxville and took an orientation to medical ethics course and "became hooked."

"I realized it was the Lord's will for me to pursue doctoral work in that area," he recalls.

One year later he resigned the pastorate at Middle Valley, where he had served for five years, to move to Knoxville and attend school full time. While in Knoxville he also served as interim pastor of Immanuel Church for 11 months.

Mitchell has completed his course work and needs only to finish his dissertation to earn a Ph.D. in philosophy with a concentration in medical ethics. He also holds degrees from Mississippi State University, Starkville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The CLC's newest staffer has set some goals. "I hope to update our pamphlets and produce new materials which will address some of the cutting edge issues we have not addressed," he says.

He says the CLC will not be a "one-horse" commission. "Our very assignment and the emphasis Sundays Southern Baptists have assigned us to observe prevent us from being a one-issue agency," he says, adding that "God also has mandated us not to be concerned about just one issue of human suffering."

An issue that Mitchell expects to be "the issue of the decade" is genetic engineering.

Already underway is a 15-year project that began about two years ago. It is called the Human Genome Project and is sponsored by the National Institute of Health and the Department of Energy. The project is based in

Washington, D.C.

A genome is all the genetic material which makes up one human being, Mitchell explains.

The goal of the effort is to map the entire human genetic structure, Mitchell says, adding that it has implications for practically every area of life.

While the project could raise some sticky ethical problems, it also can do good such as finding treatments for human diseases with genetic causes, Mitchell observes.

He sees his function as a provider of information so Southern Baptists can be aware of the project and also as an encourager of the project's useful functions while at the same time cautioning researchers about potential dilemmas.

"Because it is a relatively new endeavor, we can help raise awareness before technology outstrips the ability to think carefully about the issue, he says.

Mitchell also has responsibility on the CLC staff for issues such as alcohol and drug abuse prevention, race relations, and world hunger.

He already has begun planning a national seminar in Nashville for March 1-3, 1993 on "Life at Risk: Crises in Medical Ethics." The conference will apply Biblical principles to euthanasia, living wills, AIDS, "safe sex," genetic engineering, surrogate motherhood, abortion, and other difficult controversial issues, Mitchell says.

The former TBC pastor admits he misses the "regular preaching of the Word. But, I also enjoy speaking about those issues that I find to be crucial for society and that Southern Baptists should be examining."



NEW ROLE — Former TBC pastor Ben Mitchell, right, now director of biomedical ethics and life concerns for the SBC Christian Life Commission, visits with Steve Nelson, pastor, First Church, Lafayette, during the CLC's annual seminar.

Melting pot concept not true today, says Terry Sharp

"The melting pot concept is not holding true in America," said Terry Sharp, associate, Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department. People from other countries, who now live in every Baptist association in Tennessee, wish to retain their culture, he noted.

The growing numbers of internationals offer multiple opportunities to

HMB appoints Tennesseans

ATLANTA — Memphis natives John and Frances Draper were appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in February.

A graduate of Mid-South Bible College in Memphis and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Draper will serve as a missions program director for language church extension for Shelby County Association in Memphis. Draper has served as pastor in Kentucky, Indiana, and Naples, Italy.

Mrs. Draper is a graduate of Memphis State University. She served as a US-2 missionary in Goshen, Ind., from 1980 to 1982. She will work in family and church service, and is currently a substitute teacher for Shelby County schools.

The Drapers have a son, Stephen.



DRAPERS

Christians, Sharp said. "The purpose of language work is not segregation, not in any way, but it's sharing with them in their heart language the good news of Jesus Christ.

"We (Christians) plan to go to Brazil or Africa but yet we overlook the thousands of other people who need to hear there's a God. ... We need to do both."

To reach those internationals who are "next door or down the street," Sharp is leading Tennessee's response to the national Evangelistic Language Scripture Distribution. Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the project supports Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan to share the Gospel with every individual by A.D. 2000.

Any person or group can participate by locating internationals and giving them the Bible in their own language. The program's guidebook includes information on ordering Bibles in 17 languages and evangelistic tracts in five languages. It also gives direction for conducting a community survey and reporting the results of the distribution.

Sunday School classes, Acts, Royal Ambassadors, and other Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood groups, as well as entire churches, should elect to participate, added Sharp.

For the free guidebook and more information, people should contact Sharp at P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 or (615) 371-2032. — *Connie Davis*

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

It was late in the year 1700.

Tsar Peter the Great of Russia led his untried army against Sweden, one of the military powers of Europe.

He was trying to establish a port on the Baltic Sea — where the Neva River spills into the frigid waters. It used to belong to us, he reasoned, and it should be ours again.

For years the young leader had employed "outsiders" to help him build an army. And the best naval men had built for him ships of all sizes to provide Russia with its first navy.

His fledgling forces struck against the Swedish fortress of Narva — and were hurled back in a devastating loss. The Russians fled. The army was almost entirely wiped out. The Swedes under King Charles boasted of how futile and feeble the Russians appeared, "And now look at how they run!" they said.

News of the Russian loss brought ridicule in every quarter. An invasion of Russia by Sweden seemed imminent.

And Peter, how did he respond to such scathing sarcasm? Did he hang his head in defeat, gloom, and despair?

From his diary: "Our army was vanquished by the Swedes — that is in-

contestable. But one should remember what sort of army it was." He wrote that his men were not ready for such a well-prepared foe. He remembered the famine of earlier months and the shortage of supplies for the troops.

"The victory was a sad and severe blow for us," he said. "But now, when we think of it rightly, we ascribe it rather to the goodness of God than to his anger; for if we had conquered then, when we knew as little of war as of government, this piece of luck might have had unfortunate circumstances ..."

It was said of Peter that "when confronted with disaster he did not despair. Failure only spurred him forward; obstacles served as challenges to stimulate new effort ... He kept his composure and vowed to continue."

He wrote to his favorite general, Boris Sheremetev, "We must not lose our heads in misfortune."

When bludgeoned by defeat and despair, how do we as Christians react? Do we mutter and whine about the losses? Do we blame the events on others?

"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary," Paul wrote to the Galatians. To the Thessalonians, he said, "But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good."

It is difficult to grow weary when Someone else bears our burdens

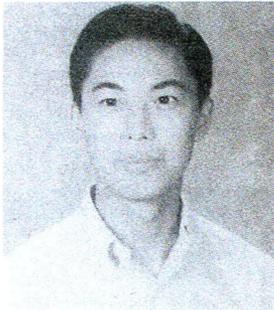


ALLEN

IT IS HAPPENING TODAY!...in 1992 —

WORLD WIDE MISSION ACTION in and through CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION at HARRISON-CHILHOWEE BAPTIST ACADEMY in SEYMOUR, TENNESSEE

Tennessee Baptist Convention's continuing educational ministry to today's high school young people . . . tomorrow's world-wide Christian leaders.



Peter Lok — Kowloon, Hong Kong
"I have accepted Jesus into my heart this year because a teacher showed me from the Bible the plan of salvation. I am thankful to be baptized into the church. I am thankful for all the friends here and the opportunity to play sports."



Pastor Rich Liner, First Baptist Church, Sevierville, TN, baptizes Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy students Peter Lok (left), native of Kowloon, Hong Kong, and Tamamo Yamagishi (right), from Nagano, Japan.



Tamamo Yamagishi — Nagano, Japan
"I became a Christian at Harrison-Chilhowee just a month after coming to United States, and when Pastor Liner baptized me and I came out of the water, I cried. I am the first Christian in my family but when I went home at Christmas I gave them Bibles for gifts."



Doris Grimes — Liberia, Africa
"I have become a Christian this year at Chilhowee. I have learned there is an answer for everything we face in the Bible."

The Academy is Tennessee Baptist Convention's private . . . residential . . . coed . . . fully accredited . . . college preparatory high school. Chilhowee's Christian faculty and staff, Bible-centered academic discipline, and serene Smoky Mountain foothills setting provide an atmosphere for learning which extends beyond academic excellence.

Today's high school student is making choices and finding choices available that past generations would not have dreamed existed! Thanks to Tennessee Baptists, young people from the four corners of the globe . . . who, today, have the financial resources . . . still have a choice for the best preparation for the future: Christian Education at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy!



Etushi Tokuda — Saitama, Japan
"I have been at Chilhowee two years and I've learned a lot about Jesus from the teachers. I've learned how to study academics and I have a great time with my friends."



Keiko Ueda — Kyoto, Japan
"I enjoy playing volleyball here and being with my friends. The teachers are all very helpful to me. The English as a Second Language course is very helpful also."



Akiko Ueda — Kyoto, Japan
"I like being here in America yet being able to go to a Japanese speaking church. I like to play volleyball for H.C.B.A. and love the music the most."

TenneScene

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

People ...

First Church, Whiteville, recently recognized and honored 22 people who have been church members for more than 50 years, reported Pastor Mark Mangrum. A special honor was given to Jewel Moore, who has been an active member of First Church continuously since 1911. She still attends church services regularly.



MOORE

Churches ...

The congregation of Stoney Creek Church, Elizabethton, celebrated the church's 170th anniversary March 8. Wayne Huff is pastor.

Members of New Life Church, Bluff City, attended the first service held in the new building New Year's Eve. Allen Brummett is pastor.

Deaf Tennessee Baptists worked together Feb. 28-29 to develop the first Baptist deaf congregation in the Nashville area. About 30 members of the deaf congregations of First Church, Memphis, and First Church, Knoxville, traveled to Nashville to assist the Brentwood Church, Brentwood, group. A visitation blitz was conducted to prepare for a March 13-15 revival. More than 100 visits were made, reported Betty Stirsman, coordinator of the Brentwood Church ministry.

First Church, Dyersburg, dedicated its new pipe organ on Feb. 16 with a recital by Albert Travis, professor of organ at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. The organ has 48 ranks of pipes totaling 2720. Raymond A. Boston is pastor.

Missions ...

First Church, Hendersonville, will commission seven members as volunteer missionaries before they leave for a construction trip to Hawaii March 23-April 2. The volunteers will work on the Baptist Assembly building at Puu Kahea on the island of Oahu. Those going on the trip will be Charles

C-N studies church growth

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College will offer a church growth seminar April 30 at First Church, Jefferson City.

The seminar, sponsored by the college's Norton Institute, will be held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the East Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

The seminar will give tips on creating a growth mindset in the church, identifying church growth areas, beginning a process that results in growth, and leading the church to perform its mission.

Featured speakers include Ken Hemphill, pastor, First Church, Norfolk, Va., and James L. Hill, pastor, South County Church, St. Louis, Mo.

Messages also will be delivered by TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie

and Ann Grayland, Bill Young, Andy Lee, Steve Cawthon, Rob Tichenor, and Phil Jones. Pastor Glenn Weekley led revival for the State Evangelism Conference on Oahu in January. While in Hawaii, he volunteered his church members for mission projects.

A volunteer mission team from First Church, Clarksville, will travel to Mexico March 21-28 on a construction trip.

Ordinations ...

Jerry Foster and Allen Outlaw were ordained as deacons at Zion Church, Brownsville.

Dodson's Branch Church, Cookeville, ordained Earl Bean March 1.

Oak Street Church, Elizabethton, ordained Bruce Hendrich to the Gospel ministry Feb. 23.

Todd Manning was ordained as deacon Feb. 16 at Fairview Church, Watauga.

Jeff Brown, pastor of Elter Church, Byrdstown, was ordained to the Gospel ministry Feb. 23 at First Church, Albany, Ky.

First Church, Dyer, ordained David Hatfield Feb. 23.

College Heights Church, Gallatin, recently added four men to the deacon ministry. Duane Devault and William Butler were ordained and William Hall and Ken Louallen were installed as deacons.

Joel Pigg and Wade Reeves were recently ordained as deacons at First Church, Milan.

Mary M. Wrye was ordained to the Gospel ministry by Prescott Memorial Church, Memphis, on Feb. 9. She is minister of youth at Prescott Memorial and previously was minister of education at First Church, Whitesburg, Ky.

Leadership ...

Bob Reed was recently called as interim pastor at Beck Mountain Church, Elizabethton.

Andrew Johnson has joined the staff of Happy Valley Church, Elizabethton, as youth director.



HEMPHILL



HILL

and Jerry King, state evangelism director.

Growth conferences on a variety of topics will be offered.

The seminar is provided at no cost to Tennessee Baptists and lunch will be served. Reservations are needed for the lunch. For additional information and to make reservations, contact Tom Madden, associate director, Norton Institute, at (615) 471-3245.

Lloyd Holt has been called as music director at Eastwood Church, Cookeville.

David Ozburn has joined the staff of Allen Church, Brownsville, as minister of youth/children. The Illinois native is a student at Union University, Jackson.

Members of Lakeview Church, Selmer, recently welcomed Robert McCullar as minister of education.

Randall Runions will conclude his pastorate at Mt. Horeb Church, Ethridge, April 4 to accept the chaplaincy of the South Central Correctional Facility Medium Security Prison in Clifton.

Jackie Bryant began duties Feb. 17 as minister of education and administration at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory. The son of former Southern Baptist missionaries to Chile, Bryant comes to the post from First Church, Theodore, Ala., where he served as minister of education. He and his wife, Sandy, have two children.



BRYANT

Revivals ...

Revival will be held March 22-25 at College Heights Church, Gallatin. Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism, Home Mission Board, will be evangelist. The Jim Bob Griffin Family, Rusk, Texas, will provide special music.

Gerald Stow, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, will be evangelist at revival March 15-18 at Zion Church, Brownsville. John Norvell, minister of music at First Church, Bemis, will lead music.

Revival will be March 22-25 at Park Grove Church, Lawrenceburg. Vann Kissell will be evangelist.

Bob Hamblin will lead revival March 15-18 at First Church, Selmer.

Judson Church, Nashville, Pastor Raymond Langlois, will lead revival March 22-25 at First Church, Clinton. Greg Stahl, minister of music at Southland Church, San Angelo, Texas, will be music director.

Dyer Association reported the following churches will hold revival in late March: First Church, Halls, March 15-20, Barry Creamer; Lenox Church, Dyersburg, March 15-20, Jack Wilhite; Mary's Chapel, Ripley, March 15-20, Roy Newcomb; and First Church, Newbern, March 29-April 1, Jack May.

Westwood Church, Nashville, will host revival March 22-25. David Royalty of First Church, Joelton, will be evangelist, and Ronnie Hammons, Bartlett, will lead music.

Benny Jackson will lead the spring crusade at Park Avenue Church, Nashville, March 21-25.



ALUMNI PRESIDENTS — Frank Hawkins, left, pastor of First Church, Kingsport, was welcomed recently to the annual meeting of the alumni advisory council at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., by national Alumni Association President Emmanuel L. McCall. Hawkins is Southern Seminary's 1991-93 Tennessee alumni president.

Mt. Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, will hold revival April 12-17 with evangelist Don Franks.

Phil Mitchell will lead spring revival March 22-24 at Pine Grove Church, Wildersville.

The following churches in Gibson County Association will hold revivals during March: Avondale Church, Humboldt, March 15-20, Jerry Milam; China Grove Church, Rutherford, March 15-18, Tollie Cunningham, Johnny Witherspoon; Immanuel Church, Trenton, March 22, Floyd Lammersfeld; First Church, Milan, March 22-26, Sid Nichols, Jimmy Veazey; New Hope Church, Dyer, March 22-27, John Bramlett and church laymen, Oakwood Church, Milan, March 15-18, Wendal Walker; Poplar Springs Church, Milan, March 22-27, Jim Yarbrough; and First Church, Rutherford, March 22-27, Randy Wheeler, David Elkins.

Associations ...

The Big Emory Association Evangelism Conference at Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield, will be March 16 beginning with a 9:20 a.m. session and concluding with a 7 p.m. gathering. Speakers include Ron Herrod, pastor of Central Church, Oak Ridge, and Jack Stanton, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

To make reservations for the noon meal, call (615) 882-6446 or 435-6167.

Mars Hill Church calls Pastor Mickey Bracken

Members of Mars Hill Church, Lawrenceburg, recently welcomed their new pastor, Mickey Bracken.

Bracken came to Tennessee from Alabama, where he was pastor of Vestavia Hills Church, Decatur, for six years. He has also served as pastor of First Church, Amber, Okla.

In 1979 Bracken was ordained at First Church, Town Creek, Ala. He is a graduate of University of Northern Alabama in Florence and earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, Cindy, have two children, Arleigh and Daniel.

Raleigh church endorses union of homosexuals

By Art Toalston

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — The "same-gender union" of two homosexuals has been approved by members of Pullen Memorial Church here.

The congregation's secret ballot vote was announced March 1 at the conclusion of worship. Of 750 ballots mailed to Pullen Memorial members, 531 were returned, with 64 percent approving the same-gender union, and 94 percent favoring full church membership for homosexuals.

Deliberations by Pullen Memorial — and by Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill, N.C., over licensing a homosexual to the Gospel ministry — prompted the Southern Baptist Executive Committee Feb. 18 to adopt a resolution against homosexuality and against such congregational actions.

The Executive Committee also initiated efforts to change the Southern Baptist Convention's constitution and bylaws to bar any church "affirming, approving, or endorsing in any way the

active practice of homosexuality," according to one proposal.

The committee will meet prior to the SBC's June 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis to formulate any specific proposals to be presented to messengers representing Southern Baptist churches across the country.

The Southern Baptist Convention has adopted six resolutions against homosexuality since 1976, the latest during last year's meeting in Atlanta.

The Executive Committee's initiative, however, "could reverse more than 140 years of precedent by adding a church's stand on a social issue, homosexuality, as a requirement for participation in the SBC," according to an article in the Feb. 27 issue of *Word and Way*, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

"Everybody (at Pullen Memorial) has struggled deeply with what it means to be church in our day," the pastor, Mahan Siler, told Baptist Press March 2.

The church has learned about "the

particular struggle of homosexuals in our culture," Siler said, "(and) how to be a community that values individual expression and differences of opinion." The church began its deliberations last fall after a church member asked Siler to perform a marriage-like ceremony for him and his homosexual companion.

Pullen Memorial's actions will be discussed during a March 28 dialogue sponsored by the Raleigh Association's mutual care commission. The meeting will be open to the pastor and a lay representative of each of the association's 70 churches, said Siler, a member of the commission. It will be "a Baptist family meeting," he said, not to take a stand for or against the church's actions "but to foster understanding and dialogue around a subject that all churches are facing or will face."

Beyond its SBC ties, Pullen Memorial also is affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Southern Baptist Alliance.

Roy J. Smith, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, issued a written statement in response to Pullen's actions.

Smith stated: "... although I affirm the autonomy of the local church and the worth of every individual, my personal understanding of the New Testament compels me to reject the homosexual lifestyle based on several passages of Scripture. Although I have no authority as executive director of

the state convention to speak for any Baptist except myself, I nevertheless must state my position clearly. I do not affirm, approve, nor condone such lifestyle which I believe stands clearly outside the teachings of the New Testament."

Smith's statement noted, however, the constitutions of the SBC and North Carolina Baptists share identical wording that neither body claims "any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or conventions."

C-N sponsors heritage lectures

The Center for Baptist Studies at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, will hold its third annual T. B. Maston Lectures on Baptist Heritage March 23-24.

Walter Shurden, Callaway Professor of Christianity and chair of the Christianity department at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., will be guest lecturer for the series.

A graduate and former professor at C-N, Shurden will discuss the contemporary meaning of the church as defined by historical roots.

For a schedule of the lectures and additional information, call the college at (615) 471-3245.

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Bob Dixon and Wallace Williams have one thing in common. They have an uncommon commitment to prayer. After this you will discover that they are very different.

Wallace is a sophisticated Easterner now. He serves as the executive director for the Pennsylvania-New Jersey Baptist Convention. He is a capable communicator of God's truth.



LOWRIE

Bob is executive director of the Texas Baptist men. Bob served some Tennessee churches years ago as a minister of recreation. He is able to communicate with lay people like few people I know.

Both men will be with us in our sec-

ond annual Baptist Prayer Retreat, March 27-28 in the Baptist Center in Brentwood. The program will include some extended times of prayer.

We have received many testimonies from those involved in the first prayer retreat. We invite you to be a part of this one.

If you would like more information, call the Brotherhood Department at (615) 373-2255.

I plan to be present. Many good things in my life had their beginning in a prayer meeting. I want to be open to the Lord for something new and fresh in my life. I invite you to enjoy this experience with us.

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God's offer of salvation

By Jerry Winfield, pastor; First Church, Bolivar

The entire book of Hosea presents the sad picture of Israel's rejection of Jehovah's love. Even though the nation as a whole was doomed to destruction, those individuals within the nation who returned to God still had hope. In chapters 13-14 we see such a word of hope extended to the people during the years just before Israel fell to the Assyrians.

The destructiveness of idol worship
(ch. 13:1-3)

The words of verse 1 are a kind of obituary for the nation. The Israelites had been presented with two contrasting choices. They could either trust in Jehovah or trust in the pagan gods of their neighbors. They chose wrong and became useless in God's kingdom and brought about their own destruction.

The rejected Lord becomes Israel's destroyer (ch. 13:4-11)

Once again the prophet reached into Israel's past to remind the people what God had done to save them. One would think such reminders would have an effect on the people. But instead of depending upon God alone, they chose to be like their pagan neighbors and demanded a king. By this time in their history the kingship had deteriorated to the point that God was going to have to take him away. Their lack of trust in God continued to cost them dearly.

Israel's destruction described
(ch. 13:12-16)

The people of Ephraim (Israel) thought God had forgotten their sins. However, God does not forget! The nation's suffering was as inevitable as the pain of childbirth. God Himself held the power of death and the grave and these were instruments of His judgment too. Like an unfruitful, dried-up spring, Israel became useless.

A call for repentance (ch. 14:1-3)
Much of Hosea deals with Israel's sin and God's judgment of that sin. However, as he closed his prophecy, Hosea presented the possibility of repentance. God pled with His people to return to Him and allow Him to remake them in accordance with His will and purpose for them. This is a significant section and an important part of the prophet's message. Even though they would soon appear as spiritual orphans (fatherless), the truth was God still loved them and wanted them to return to Him.

This message continues to be a needed message for people today. Yes, God hates and judges sin, but He still loves sinners and pleads with them to repent.

The Lord's promise of hope for those who repent (ch. 14:4-8)
The idea of covenant involved

responsibilities by both parties involved. In these verses, God told the Israelites what He would do for them if they would repent. He would restore them to a right relationship and they would become a blessing to the nations. Israel's responsibility was to put away their idols and once again put their trust in God.

BIBLE BOOK
March 15 Lesson
Basic Passage: Hosea 13:1-14:9

A concluding word of wisdom
(ch. 14:9)

Hosea concluded with a brief warning. He said those who are wise will listen to the Lord; those who are given to sin will not. It was that way in the days of Noah, and it is still that way today.

Without honor in His own country

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

Nestled in a small basin in the lower Galilean mountains was the small town of Nazareth, Jesus' home and place of income for about 28 years. Many thought Nazareth unimportant, yet, this quiet little town was ideal for a special person to be reared.

After the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took Him to Egypt to escape Herod's baby slaughter. They returned to Nazareth after two years, and Jesus was educated by his parents and teachers at the synagogue schools. Jesus then left Nazareth and traveled to the Jordan River to be baptized by John and start His public ministry.

Jesus and the disciples later returned to Nazareth to visit Jesus' family, friends, and familiar places. Jesus attended the Sabbath services as He had always done. The worship leaders recognized Jesus and allowed Him to read the Scriptures and expound on them. This was an honor given to "known and proven males" in the synagogue.

Those attending the services were Jesus, the disciples, the worship leaders, and others. In all probability, His mother Mary, His half-brothers

and sisters, neighbors, and kinspeople were there. Instead of a joyful and happy "homecoming" for Jesus, it was a time of rejection. Those who heard were not ready to accept His words.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
March 15 Lesson
Basic Passage: Mark 6:1-13

Verse 3 reads, "Is not this the carpenter, the Son of Mary . . . ?" Those at the synagogue were astounded by the manner and power of Jesus' words. What they heard troubled them. "Had He not grown up in their midst! Where did He receive this knowledge? Who has been His teacher? Where did He get His training? How did this ex-carpenter do these great and mighty works?" All these questions ran like a roaring river among those attending that day. Those once loving and understanding kinsmen and friends were offended by Jesus' words.

Jesus' response included "His own kin," and "His own house." Verse 4 tells us, "A prophet is not without honor, but in His own country and

among His own kin and family." God's messengers have always been rejected by people, and especially by those to whom they were sent. Jesus was no different. His ministry in Nazareth was limited because of the closed minds of His own people. The sad thing is that the people of Nazareth needed Jesus. Their lame, deaf, blind, and diseased needed healing, which would not come because of their unbelief. However, Jesus did heal a few sick people on His way out of Nazareth.

I am reminded of a ministerial friend of mine who was invited to return to his hometown to hold a revival in the church he attended as a youth. All during the week of this revival, people said, "You can't be the boy who . . ." The actions of this minister before he was saved were remembered more than his actions after salvation. The revival turned out to be just a series of meetings.

Verse 7 is a transition verse. Jesus was starting a new phase of His ministry. Before, Jesus had preached and taught while instructing the disciples by word and deed, but it was time for the disciples to have "field

training." He sent them out by two's to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel," the Jews (Matthew 10:6). Therefore, the witness of two established truth and gave spiritual support.

The mission and its message was to be brief, but urgent. They were to take no personal provisions or "small change." Jesus wanted the disciples to learn to depend on God for all their needs.

Rejection was sure to be theirs, just as Jesus was rejected in Nazareth. Jesus told them that when they were rejected, they must shake the dust off their feet and depart. The disciples were not to be the objects of the rejection. Rather, the rejection was against Jesus and the message. (John 1:11). The shaking of the dust was a warning of judgment to come upon the rejectors. Rejection of God's message or His messengers is a grievous sin.

The disciples became extensions of their Lord Jesus Christ's ministry because they preached repentance, cast out demons, and healed the sick. This pattern of ministry has set the pattern of missionary service today. What do you do when your efforts to witness and minister to someone are rejected? Do you give up, or, start again?

Evaluating our service

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

Evaluation — assessing a situation with the goal of improving it — is vital to individual as well as corporate growth. Marketing specialists constantly evaluate business procedures and consumer trends. Churches evaluate programs for effectiveness, and educators use evaluation methods extensively to say the least.

Christians too must evaluate their motives of service and faithfulness. Jesus' parable located in Matthew 20:1-4, 8-16 was prompted by the rich young ruler's coming to Jesus (ch. 19:16-22) and Peter's concern over the disciples' reward for forsaking all to follow Jesus.

Jesus addressed the two situations by relating the story of a vineyard owner who hired laborers to work in his vineyard. At sunrise the vineyard owner hired men desperate for work to support their families. He agreed to pay the workers one day's wages for

one day's work (ch. 20:1-2). This agreement is a key element in the story.

About 9 a.m., the vineyard owner hired other men to work his vineyard, but did not negotiate wages, only promising to pay what was right. Again at 12 noon, 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. the vineyard owner hired idle men to come work the vineyard with no mention of pay.

The story culminates with the vineyard owner's foreman paying the hired workers around 6 p.m. Those hired at 5 p.m. were the first to receive their remuneration. Jesus' words in Matthew 19:30 and Matthew 20:16 are related to the foreman's paying the 5 p.m. workers first. Thus, the 6 a.m. laborers were the last to be paid, although they had worked all day and the 5 p.m. workers had labored only one hour.

Naturally the 6 a.m. laborers ex-

pected more pay, but the negotiation between labor and management only called for one denarius (Matthew 20:2). They were upset that the 5 p.m. shift received the same compensation they did.

LIFE AND WORK
March 15 Lesson
Basic Passage: Matthew 19:16-20:28

On the surface, we too would agree with the 6 a.m. workers, but let's search out the meanings of Jesus' parable:

1. All the workers were paid according to the vineyard owner's graciousness, not on their merit.
2. In verse 15, God (the vineyard owner) disperses His graciousness as He sees fitting.
3. C. Roy Angell said, "Grace means God gives us what we need, not what

we deserve."

4. The rich young ruler (the first prompting of Jesus' parable) was first in material possessions, but last in spiritual things.

5. In Peter's concern over the disciples' length of service as followers (the second prompting of Jesus' parable), Jesus alluded to a bonus of rewards (see Matthew 19:28-29).

6. The denarius can be equated with eternal life. No matter how long they labored in the vineyard, all received a denarius (eternal life).

Herschel Hobbs, in his commentary on Matthew, concludes, "He gave to the first what He promised. And He gives to all what He wills. For eternal life is His to bestow as He wills according to His Grace. He does not bestow it indiscriminately, but upon all who enter into His vineyard."

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Renovations begin on seminary village

LOUISVILLE — An estimated \$7.7 million renovation project is under way on a 251-unit apartment complex that has served Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's married students since its acquisition 39 years ago. Seminary Village will "look like a new complex" when work is completed on the 55-year-old buildings, said T. J. McGlothlin, vice president for business services at the Louisville, Ky., school.

In addition to cosmetic improvements, the village will receive electrical and plumbing upgrades, central heating and air conditioning, mechanical ventilation systems, new roofs and gutters, new bathroom fixtures, and new appliances. The village grounds will also benefit from landscaping renovations, new sidewalks and curbs, drainage improvements, and better lighting. Renovations are expected to be completed within 18 months.

The project will be financed with First National Bank of Louisville at no cost to the seminary. Affiliates of the bank and the seminary have formed a partnership which is now the owner of the village. The partnership will qualify for affordable housing and historic preservation federal tax credits.

The seminary will manage the village for the partnership. It also has an option to repurchase the village from the partnership. Although the bank's affiliate will receive tax benefits for its role in the project, the village will receive no direct government assistance, emphasized seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt.

Homosexuals, Bush campaign meet; SBC leaders protest

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Bush/Quayle campaign recently hosted a meeting with homosexual rights activists, and two Southern Baptist Convention leaders have challenged the President to take strong personal action against the meeting or forfeit any hope of regaining the trust of evangelical Christians on the issue.

The meeting is not a sign of outreach to the homosexual community, a White House spokesperson said, but Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said, "Actions speak louder than words."

Robert Mosbacher, the President's campaign chairman and former Secretary of Commerce, met Feb. 13 with three staff members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and a representative of the AIDS Action Council. It is the first time representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force have met with the campaign staff of a major presidential candidate, said Robert Bray, the task force's public relations director, in a telephone interview. Bray told *The Washington Times* the meeting was "historic," saying, "1988 was a very different year. Our phone calls weren't returned even by the Democrats."

In a Feb. 19 letter, Morris Chapman, SBC president, and Land called on President Bush to "disavow any support or sympathy for the homosexual civil rights agenda. Having the highest ranking member of your reelection campaign meet with the homosexual lobby is a direct contradiction to your attempts to portray your administration as pro-family," they said in the letter.

Black church growth to match white by 2000, director predicts

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Black Southern Baptist churches will grow at a pace of one a day by the year 2000, matching white church growth, a Southern Baptist leader predicted. "Blacks will be at the forefront of Southern Baptist (church growth) by the turn of the century," said Willie McPherson, who became director of black church extension for the Home Mission Board in January.

The Southern Baptist Convention currently has 1300 black churches. A new black SBC church or mission is established about every four and a half days, McPherson said during a HMB leadership conference.

McPherson said he wants strong black SBC churches to get involved in starting churches and supporting weaker congregations. "We should be doing a lot more church planting," he said.

Literacy missions growing, more volunteers needed

ATLANTA — About 12 percent of Southern Baptist churches are involved in literacy missions, but more volunteers are needed to meet the demand, state workers said recently. According to a survey by the Home Mission Board, 4758 of the convention's 38,221 churches offer at least one of three literacy programs: conversational English, adult reading and writing, or children's tutoring.

"We are seeing across the country an increased interest in this and I believe it is going to continue to do nothing but grow," said Kendale Moore, Home Mission Board literacy missions director. Moore said he hopes 15 to 20 percent of SBC churches will be involved in literacy missions by 1997. "One of any of the three forms of literacy ministries could be taking place in any church in our convention," he said.

Statewide coordinators of literacy missions who met recently in Atlanta said they constantly need more volunteers for literacy ministry work. "My need is much greater than even I have been able to convince churches and associations of," said June Tate, a literacy coordinator in California. "There's not a church in California that could not have this ministry."

Sunday School training provided for New Guinea Baptists

NASHVILLE — Communications and curriculum training for Baptists in Papua New Guinea provided by representatives of the Baptist World Alliance and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board could pave the way for a new publication and curriculum materials for Baptists in the South Pacific nation.

Richard Barnes, youth curriculum editor from the Sunday School Board, and other Baptist World Alliance representatives provided curriculum development training for about 25 Baptists from throughout Papua New Guinea. Another 30 Baptists from the region participated in publication and photography training.

In curriculum development, participants followed a model established in 1989

when SSB representatives, at the request of the BWA, provided curriculum training in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, for Baptist leaders from 16 countries. A notebook, "Ten Steps to Producing Bible Study Materials," which was produced by the SSB for the Ruschlikon conference, also was used for the training in Papua New Guinea Feb. 10-13. The notebook was used in a similar effort to train Evangelical Christians-Baptists from the former Soviet Union in July 1991.

"I don't know what will come from this. There is a high level of interest," Barnes said. Unlike Baptists who have participated in previous curriculum training sessions, Papua New Guinea Baptists currently do not have curriculum materials. There are more than 700 languages throughout the nation. While there are no Southern Baptist missionaries in the country, Australian Baptist missionaries serve in some areas, Barnes said.

State newspaper editors meet in Charleston

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Meeting in this historic South Carolina port city for their annual session, members of the Southern Baptist Press Association heard presentations on Southern Baptists and foreign missions, noteworthy moments in SBC history, and religious liberty.

Editors of state Baptist papers met at the same time as state executive directors, Feb. 12-14. Elected president of the SBPA for the 1992-93 term was Jack Brymer, editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness*. He succeeded Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor of *Tennessee's Baptist and Reflector*. Quentin Lockwood Jr., *New York Baptist* editor, was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the body. Named as president-elect was John Hopkins, editor of the *Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Digest*.

Davis Saunders, retired Foreign Mission Board vice president for Africa, now living in nearby Walterboro, gave the editors an overview of the growth and changes in foreign missions during his 40-year career with the FMB. He discussed the need for state papers to accurately report needs of missionaries and to express ways for mission involvement.

Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, discussed current religious freedom and First Amendment rights matters now before the U.S. Congress, including the possibility of a second class postage hike. R. G. Puckett, editor of the *North Carolina Biblical Recorder*, dealt with Baptist issues such as missions and anti-missions movements, formation of the SBC, Campbellite and Landmark movements, the Whitsett controversy, fundamentalist versus modernist conflict of the 1920s, the Ralph Elliott controversy, and recent events.

Three retiring editors were honored with plaques: Julian Pentecost, *Religious Herald*, Virginia; Louise Winningham, *Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist*; and J. Everett Sneed, *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. The editors also honored John Roberts and Hudson Baggett for having served as editors for the *South Carolina* and *Alabama* papers, respectively, for 25 years and Polly McNabb for her 43 years as associate editor of the *California Southern Baptist*.

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 First 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 representative 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.

Committee OKs lifting fetal-tissue moratorium

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee has approved legislation lifting a White House-supported ban on federal funding of transplantation research using fetal tissue from induced abortions.

The Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., voted, 13-4, Feb. 5 in favor of a National Institutes of Health reauthorization bill permitting federal funding of experimental fetal-tissue transplantation and establishing government guidelines for such research.

The bill also prevents the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from blocking funding for human sexuality surveys unless an advisory board agrees. In July, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan canceled a graphic, \$18 million sexuality survey of junior- and senior-high students.

The bill (H.R. 2507) passed the House of Representatives in July. President George Bush has threatened to veto legislation lifting the ban. The committee rejected, also by a 13-4 margin, an amendment by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, which would have had the effect of maintaining the moratorium. Hatch's amendment also would have established a feasibility study into creating a physician registry and fetal-tissue bank using tissue from noncontroversial sources exempted from the ban.

"We are distressed that the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has taken this action," said James A. Smith, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission director of government relations.