

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 158/NO. 16/APRIL 15, 1992

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

CLC joins Catholic group in action against abortions

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission took an apparently unprecedented action April 6 by joining the United States Catholic Conference in a friend-of-the-court brief asking the Supreme Court to reverse its 1973 decision legalizing abortion.

The National Association of Evangelicals also signed onto the brief in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which concerns a Pennsylvania abortion-restriction law. Oral arguments before the Supreme Court are scheduled April 22.

"To my knowledge, it is the first time that the Southern Baptist Convention has joined with the United States Catholic Conference in any brief, and I believe it's certainly the first time that we have filed together in an abortion brief," James A. Smith, the CLC's

director of government relations, said in an April 6 news conference.

"I am delighted that we were able to file a friend-of-the-court brief in cooperation with the United States Catholic Conference and the National Association of Evangelicals in this particular case," Richard D. Land, the CLC's executive director, said.

The Catholic Church, the largest religious body in the United States, has about 59 million members. The SBC is the largest non-Catholic denomination in the country with 15.2 million members. NAE serves about 15 million evangelical Christians.

The Pennsylvania law provides for informed consent for women considering abortion, a 24-hour waiting period before one could be performed, parental consent for minors, a prohibition on sex-selection abortions, and a ban on abortions after the 24th week of

pregnancy except for severe health problems in the mother. The Third Circuit of Appeals upheld these provisions but struck down a requirement women notify their husbands before the abortion.

The brief filed by the CLC, USCC, and NAE contends the Pennsylvania law is a legitimate exercise of a state's authority to regulate the medical profession and should be upheld in its entirety. The groups ask the Court to revisit and reverse *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision resulting in the legalization of abortion on demand throughout pregnancy. In *Roe*, the Court erred in including abortion as a constitutionally protected privacy right, the brief argues.

"Having been promised 'freedom of choice' by abortion's supporters, pregnant women find themselves poorly served by the abortion industry's contrived 'autonomy,'" says the brief, written by USCC lawyers. "The result of isolating expectant mothers from the aid and support they need has been to expose them to victimization by an abortion industry that masquerades as operating in their best interests, while in fact it seeks to avoid legitimate state regulation aimed at protecting health and safety."

"This Court can help begin the turn from a society that condones abortion while ignoring its insidious consequences, to one that protects the health of its citizens, and respects the lives of their offspring. Restoring the traditional authority of Pennsylvania and other states to regulate the medical profession in order to achieve these goals is an important first step."

When it agreed in January to accept the case, the Supreme Court seemed to indicate it may not reconsider *Roe*.

"We do not believe... the Court is poised to overturn *Roe* in this case," the USCC's Helen Alvare said at the news conference. "We hope that they will use the case as another stepping-stone to weaken *Roe v. Wade*. We argue for them to go even further."

"I am particularly pleased that we were able to argue for a reversal of the 1986 Thornburgh decision, which is perhaps the worst decision the Court has made in this area since *Roe*," the CLC's Land said of the brief.

"I know overwhelming numbers of Southern Baptists will join me in praying for the justices in their deliberations and that not only would the provisions of *Casey* be upheld but that the Court would use the occasion to overturn the infamous *Roe* decision."

Tennessee Senate acts on bills on liquor, constitution changes

Tennessee senators last week approved a bill which could make it easier to buy liquor by the drink in Tennessee and passed on first reading an amendment to the state constitution that would allow a state income tax and a lottery.

The bill on liquor by the drink passed by the Senate was approved by the House of Representatives in March. It will become law unless

vetoed by Governor Ned McWherter.

The new law will allow counties, depending on size, to have a referendum which if passed would allow the sale of liquor by the drink, even if package liquor stores were not allowed in the county. The previous law required a referendum approval on package liquor stores before a referendum could be held on liquor by the drink.

United Tennessee League Director Waymon Jones expressed disapproval of the bill. "I'm very much concerned that this law will allow the proliferation of on-premises drinking which will lead to more cases of driving under the influence on our Tennessee highways," he said.

Jones pledged the United Tennessee League would work with communities to fight such referendums when they occur.

The amendment regarding the state income tax and lottery passed by a 19-13 margin on the first of 13 votes needed before it becomes law. The resolution was sponsored by Steve Cohen, D-Memphis.

The resolution would allow a statewide referendum in 1994 on whether the legislature should have the power to pass an income tax and a lottery.

The resolution must pass the Senate and House three times this session and three times by each body next year before it would go to the public.

Tennessee Baptists opposed to liquor by the drink or lottery should contact their local senator and representative. — Lonnie Wilkey

Subcommittee holds 3 abortion bills

A Tennessee House of Representatives subcommittee headed by Rep. Lois DeBerry, Memphis, has before it three abortion reform bills.

One bill would require parental consent for a minor to obtain an abortion. Another bill would require abortion providers to inform girls and women about fetal development and the physical and psychological consequences of an abortion.

The third bill would restore legal protection to unborn children, allowing abortions only to save the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest.

Tennessee Baptists interested in these bills may call their local state representatives and request that these bills be called out of subcommittee to the Health and Human Resources Committee or to the House of Representatives floor for action. The current legislative session is scheduled to adjourn April 23.



HE AROSE! — The Easter season, which for Christians commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, can mean different things to other people. Tennessee Baptist churches on April 19 will be filled with worshippers of the risen Lord. Sunday School teacher Pam Shepherd leads four- and five-year-old girls at Gladeville Church to worship in prayer. — Photo by Jim Veneman.

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Editorials**Easter — are not our hearts burning within us?**

We always have uplifting thoughts and insight about Easter. It certainly is the time of rejoicing, for Jesus the Christ has burst from the bonds of death and claimed a most astounding victory.

Death vainly had tried to keep an appointment with this Nazarene, but the struggle in the tomb lasted only days — not eons. Our Lord is the winner, qualifying as victor forever over the blight and stench of evil.

What an announcement to make to a world beset with wearying challenges of Satan and the belligerent buffoonery of his friends! He is alive.

The call of the two men at the tomb was just as climactic and astonishing as the angels that spoke from Bethlehem's skies some thirty years before.

"Do not be afraid," that angel said, "for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

And then a choral group, a multitude of the heavenly host joined in proclaiming, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!"

Listen now as Luke, who told of the Bethlehem declaration, tells again of something miraculous. Jesus has been "tried" and sentenced, brutally crucified and buried.

At early dawn on the first day of the week, he writes, the women who have followed Jesus from Galilee, saw the tomb and his body, prepared spices and perfumes — were ready to anoint his body.

Approaching the tomb that morning, they found the stone rolled away and did not see the body of Jesus there. "While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel.

"Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee."

They remembered! And now they hurried to share the great glad tidings to the eleven "and to all the rest."

Well, this was incredulous. Surely they had heard him say that such a thing would happen — but, well, was it true? Some of them hastened to the tomb, to see for themselves. Luke says that two of them were on their way walking to Emmaus when Christ joined them on the road.

They didn't recognize the Master until they reached their destination. "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" Yes, the Lord and the Scriptures have a way of burning into the heart.

The wild claims of the One whose touch could heal, whose words could calm a raging sea and a troubled heart — were not hollow at all. They set the pattern for audacious truth. Whatever He said, the words were not wasted. Whatever He did, the

acts were compassionate and amazing.

But let us examine briefly the other way we celebrate Easter. Most of the rest of the days each year, we turn cold glances on those who speak tenderly and caringly. Many are the times when we refuse to walk beside or touch a fellow traveler. Often are we locked in bitter dispute and scandalous behavior while trying to portray ourselves as honorable and peaceful.

Which are our most joyful times, our most gleeful moments — the way to death of self and resurrection as one "made new," or the path to man made heights as we walk over those who have fallen?

When He calls us with his "Follow me," let us do it with burning hearts. Easter is a time for praising and worship, and putting aside forever our pettiness. — WFA

Tempering bad news with honesty

Most news we report in the *Baptist and Reflector* is good news, and some is important though it might not be classified as good news.

Occasionally we report events we would rather leave unreported, but these usually are reported widely by secular media. If we did not report them, they would not be less true. When we report such information, Baptists become aware of the urgency of prayer, reconciliation, and forgiveness — and are less likely to depend on rumors.

Two current news items are in this category. The pastors and people of the churches, the persons involved directly and their families — are all deserving of Christian compassion and support.

Donald C. McCary, former staff member at Central Church, Hixson, was convicted April 1 by a Hamilton County jury of 13 counts of raping and sexually abusing four teenagers. His sentencing is scheduled May 1.

McCary had served the church for 17 years before his indictment. Ron Phillips, Tennessee Bap-

tist Convention president, is pastor at Central.

In the other case, Lee Edward Jump, former Southern Baptist missionary to Venezuela, was convicted in Nashville April 3 of fondling a woman at a Nashville carwash. He had resigned from the FMB several months ago and was employed by TVA and had served East Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, as interim pastor. Both cases have been reported by statewide news media.

Jump was sentenced to a two-year suspended prison term on the condition that he serve ten days in jail, do 40 hours of public service work per month for six months, and undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Christian groups often are accused of trying to overlook or to hide such facts about "family." However, hiding them certainly diminishes our credibility and integrity. Honest reporting builds that integrity.

In both cases, we urge prayer and redemptive concern for God's healing grace. — WFA

Graham visits North Korea, discusses religion

HONG KONG (BP) — Billy Graham has stormed one of the last bastions of communism — and had a friendly lunch with its general.

The famed evangelist visited still-isolated North Korea March 31-April 4, discussed religion with President Kim Il Sung — the nation's absolute ruler for nearly half a century — and spoke about Christianity to leading scholars as well as the nation's tiny Christian community. The visit got front-page coverage in the North Korean press, Graham's organization reported.

Graham, 73, was invited to the officially atheist nation by the Korean Christians Federation, the government-sanctioned organization for Christian believers.

"I don't know why I was invited but I'm often invited to countries where I don't know why I was invited," he told reporters in Hong Kong April 6.

Graham personally delivered messages to Kim from President George Bush and Pope John Paul II. He would not detail what the messages said but indicated Bush's message was a greeting.

"I am non-political. I do not take sides in politics," he said.

The White House also denied Bush sent any "official" communication to Kim through Graham. The United States and North Korea do not have diplomatic relations.

Graham and Kim discussed religion and philosophy during a private meeting and later over lunch. The evangelist called the elderly Kim "a vigorous and magnetic leader."

North Korea's policy on religion has "undergone some developments in recent years," Graham said. "It is well-known that North Korea is one of the few remaining communist-oriented nations in the world and therefore is a society which is based on a philosophy which includes atheism as part of its foundation. The door has been slightly opened as others may follow in the months and years ahead."

Actually, Graham himself followed several foreign Christian delegations that have made less-publicized visits to North Korea in the last few years. But he claimed he was the first foreign evangelist allowed to preach the Gospel there since World War II.

What is now North Korea was once the heart of Korean Christianity and one of the most vibrant Christian centers in Asia. Pyongyang, now the North Korean capital, was called "the Jerusalem of the East." Graham's wife, Ruth, spent three years in school there in the 1930s when her parents were missionaries in China.

But Christianity was suppressed in the north after Korea was divided and

communists led by Kim Il Sung took over. Many believers fled south, died under persecution, or were killed during the Korean War.

Graham preached in Pyongyang at the two officially sanctioned churches — one Protestant and one Catholic — and addressed pastors, seminarians, and other church leaders who gathered from other parts of the country. Preaching from John 3:16, he stressed the reality of God's love for every human being and urged his audience to follow Christ in their daily lives.

The two churches were built with government assistance. "They are the first buildings to be set aside and used for Christian worship in several

decades. Bibles and hymn books for the use of believers also had been published with governmental assistance," Graham said.

Other church buildings are under construction or planned, he said. But he acknowledged Christian believers still make up only a tiny — and strictly regulated — minority of the country's 22 million people.

"They live in a society which does not encourage religion and where it is not advantageous to be a Christian," he said. "They have much to teach those of us from other parts of the world about dedication and what it means to follow Jesus Christ regardless of the cost."

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

Printed on
Recycled Paper

Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor
Lonnie Wilkey, Associate Editor
Connie Davis, Assistant Editor
Connie Umstead, News Assistant/Church Pages Coordinator

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Susie Edwards, Administrative Secretary
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Baptist and Reflector is published weekly except Christmas week by the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027. Subscription prices: \$7.50 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$7.25; church budget plan, \$6.50 when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780).

Space forbids printing of resolutions, obituaries, and poetry. Advertising rates on request.
Baptist and Reflector holds membership with Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Telephone: (615) 371-2003.

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

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Pastors' group seeks to sever ties with Furman

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — Thirty-four South Carolina Baptist pastors, "representing the diversity of theological beliefs found among South Carolina Baptists," have called for a special state convention meeting to sever legal and financial ties with Furman University.

The pastors held a news conference April 6 in West Columbia to announce their recommendation. It comes following the failed attempt between a special South Carolina Baptist Convention committee and Furman University officials to reach a settlement over the dispute regarding who has the right to elect Furman trustees.

The dispute began in October 1990 when Furman trustees amended the school's charter to give trustees the sole power to elect their successors. Messengers to the annual state convention meetings have elected trustees for the college since 1826.

Led by four pastors, each with differing theological perspectives, the 34 ministers said their call for severing ties with Furman was the best possible solution short of an expected lawsuit. The lawsuit would be long and costly, could drag on for years, and may lead to additional legal entanglements, said the pastors.

"We are especially concerned that any litigation effort would detract from the new direction emphasizing church growth which we have committed

ourselves to for the next ten years," said a statement released by the pastors. "As a group of leaders among South Carolina Baptists, we have come together to state that if the South Carolina Baptist Convention pursues legal action against Furman University, we all lose.

"It is not our intention that the severing of legal and financial ties prohibit the South Carolina Baptist Convention and Furman University from finding ways to work together for the benefit of both parties in the future."

the statement said.

"We call upon the executive committee of the general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention to call a special meeting of the board to ask our president to call a special convention of the South Carolina Baptist Convention at the earliest possible date for the purpose of severing the legal and financial ties between South Carolina Baptist Convention and Furman University."

The severing of ties would please Furman's president, John E. Johns, he

said.

"Under the circumstances, I think the proposal ... is a good one. I am especially pleased that this action will eliminate the possibility of a long and costly lawsuit," Johns said.

The pastors were led by: Michael S. Hamlet, pastor of North Spartanburg Church, Spartanburg; John R. Lincoln, pastor of Shandon Church, Columbia; Edward M. Carney, pastor of Riverland Hills Church, Columbia; and Jim King, pastor of First Church, Aiken.

MBTS trustees adopt abortion resolution

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a strongly-worded resolution on abortion and voted to increase their involvement in the process of selecting adjunct faculty during their annual meeting, April 6-7.

The board approved a resolution opposing abortion on demand recommended by the trustees' instruction committee. In the 17-paragraph resolution, they said abortion on demand is "immoral, unethical, and unBiblical."

The resolution added: "... this board respectfully requests the administration and employees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary who may not share this understanding of Scripture to refrain

from publicly espousing the right of a woman to have an abortion on demand."

Before voting on the resolution, trustees allowed W. Hulitt Gloer, professor of New Testament studies and chairman of the seminary's faculty affairs committee, to address the board. Faculty members received copies of the proposed resolution April 2 and, after a discussion, asked Gloer to share their concerns about the resolution with trustees.

Among the faculty, response to the resolution could be characterized as "a deep sense of hurt," Gloer told the board.

On behalf of the faculty, Gloer asked trustees to delay adoption of the resolution until faculty and trustees

could discuss the implications of the resolution.

Although the faculty report was discussed at length during the board's instruction committee meeting, trustees made no response to the faculty's request for dialogue during the full board meeting. They adopted the resolution by a 17-9 vote.

During the meeting trustees also approved adding a statement to seminary policy documents to increase their involvement in selecting adjunct teachers, who teach courses on short-term assignments.

The new policy statement calls for the seminary president and dean of the faculty to share the name and background of each prospective adjunct teacher with the board's instruction committee 30 days before appointment "for their information and input."

In other business concerning faculty, trustees elected Robert E. Johnson of Fort Worth, Texas, by a 20-6 margin to the position of associate professor of church history. Expressions of support for his election were voiced by several instruction committee members.

Trustee Jerry Davenport, a self-employed rancher from Sheffield, Texas, presented a motion to allow students to tape record classroom lectures and chapel services at Midwestern.

Asked to explain seminary policy on taping lectures, President Milton Ferguson said, "We currently do not have a policy prohibiting the taping of classroom lectures or chapel services. It's done all the time." He noted the taping of lectures is left to the discretion of the professor.

Trustees voted to refer the motion to the instruction committee for consideration.

N.C. church approves homosexual for ministry

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (BP) — Members of Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church approved the licensing of a homosexual man to the ministry by a 57-42 percentage vote April 5.

The Chapel Hill church is believed to be the first Southern Baptist congregation to open the ministry to homosexuals. The vote to license John Elevelins, 24, a Duke University divinity student, was taken during a Sunday night meeting open only to church members.

The church adopted a seven-paragraph statement that concluded: "The Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church, when it calls persons to provide pastoral leadership and when it considers requests of members for licensure or ordination to the Christian ministry, shall disregard the sexual orientation of those under consideration. It shall expect that, while all humans are weak and prone to sinfulness, members and ordained leaders alike will strive for behavior which

conforms to the Gospel of Love."

Reaction to Binkley's vote may come April 7 when the executive committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina meets at Wake Forest University.

Top leaders of the state convention drafted a recommendation in March to disqualify churches publicly approving homosexuality and refuse their funds. The recommendation is to be presented during the May 19 meeting of the convention's general board, which acts in behalf of the convention between its annual meetings.

In February, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee initiated efforts to change the SBC constitution and bylaws to bar any church "affirming, approving, or endorsing in any way the active practice of homosexuality," according to one proposal targeting Binkley and Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh, which has approved a marriage-like ceremony for two

homosexual men.

The Executive 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 committee also adopted a resolution in February stating, "Unrepentant homosexuality is repeatedly condemned in Scripture."

Binkley Memorial is not a member of a local Baptist association.

Binkley "has been committed in its history to inclusiveness," Linda Jordan, the church's pastor since May 1990, told Baptist Press, "and so this is not as foreign as it may look." The church was heavily involved in the civil rights movement, she said, and has been part of "the struggle for women to hold places of leadership in the church."

BJC offers to extend deadline

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist Joint Committee's general counsel has recommended that the religious liberty agency consider extending its April 17 deadline offering Christian conciliation to settle a dispute over \$300,000 on deposit at the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Oliver S. Thomas made the recommendation after James P. Guenther, attorney for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, indicated the Executive Committee could not respond to the conciliation offer by the deadline, because it does not meet again until June 8.

In an April 9 letter, Thomas told Guenther he would contact him as soon as BJC's executive committee reaches an official decision affirming a deadline extension.

Although the possibility of compromise in the dispute has been aired in an exchange between Thomas and Guenther, Thomas said in an interview, "What we have put on the table is this conciliation offer." He said the BJC is not prepared to propose any monetary compromise. Guenther likewise has not proposed a monetary compromise.

The foundation recently sent the Baptist Joint Committee a check for the approximately \$81,000 the account's principle had appreciated but has declined the BJC's request for the \$300,000 principal in the account, which in 1964 was approved by SBC messengers for capital needs. The funds were allocated in 1967 and 1968 and placed on deposit at the foundation.



NEW CHURCH — Pastor Wade Darby extends the invitation as people join to become charter members of Trinity Church in Hendersonville, following a constitution service on April 12. About 106 people joined the church which was started in the fall of 1991 when 48 people met for the first time in the home of Gus Freudenthal. The church plans to apply for membership in Nashville Association. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

Our Readers Write

Trustee's statement

As a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board for four years I address Tennessee Baptists concerning the announced retirement of Keith Parks.

The meeting, March 19-20, was a time used of the Lord to bring the Foreign Mission Board and Dr. Parks together in a spirit of unity. We met for prayer and to address concerns.

Following prayer, 14 trustees expressed positive remarks to Dr. Parks. This was followed by confession and prayer begun by our chairman. This was a very moving experience.

After apologizing for any offense he may have committed, Dr. Parks thanked Bill Hancock for keeping the spiritual emphasis central in the retreat. He indicated that during the afternoon prayer time, as we were seeking the Lord's direction, the Lord indicated to him he should retire in October. He said that it wasn't a matter of personal reconciliation as he had no personal problem with anyone present. He expressed he sensed a peace that this was God's will. Several trustees urged Dr. Parks to reconsider. Joel Gregory made an impassioned plea, of which I have seldom heard.

The Associated Press release of March 20 states that the trustees "had delayed a vote of confidence on Dr. Parks in February." This statement is not true. We voted unanimously that we "affirmed willingness to be led by our president in accomplishing the board's 'Bold Mission Thrust' goals and strengthening support for foreign mission staff and missionaries."

What the trustees did not do, was to enter into contractual agreement that assured tenure until 1995.

I believe the sense of the body would have said that Dr. Parks should continue to lead us until 1995.

The Foreign Mission Board does not, nor has it tried, to exclude any qualified person from serving their Lord as a missionary. As a member of the mission personnel committee for four years, I can testify the charge is without basis. A year and a half ago, a study was undertaken to determine how often the personnel committee disagrees with a staff recommendation as to the appointment of a missionary. It was determined this has happened about three times per decade over the past four decades. With the number of appointments we deal

with, that represents less than one per 1000, where trustees and staff disagree. I do not know, in four years, of anyone appointed or refused appointment on the basis of political agenda or agreement with any SBC group or groups, and neither does Dr. Parks.

There are nearly 4000 missionaries faithfully telling the story of Jesus to unsaved peoples. I trust Southern Baptists will continue to support our missionaries through prayer, finances, and personal encouragement.

Let us lead our people to focus on the main issue, which is a lost world before us waiting for us to get the Gospel to them.

Jack C. Parrott, pastor
Sunnyside Church
406 Cooks Valley Rd.
Kingsport 37664

• *Because of the subject matter discussed, this statement from a Tennessee FMB trustee was allowed to exceed the guideline for length. — Editor*

Great conference

I am writing concerning the Baptist Doctrine Conference at Camp Carson last month, on the "Doctrine of the Bible."

Without a doubt this was one of the best planned, best led, most interesting, and beneficial conferences I have ever attended.

I want to commend Johnnie Hall and the staff of the Discipleship Training

Belmont, Southwestern sign 'covenant'

NASHVILLE — The School of Religion at Belmont University has signed an agreement with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, that allows students to earn advanced standing in seminary studies. Called a Covenant of Correlation, the agreement was signed by Belmont President William E. Troutt; Steven Simpler, dean of the School of Religion; Tommy Brisco, Southwestern's director of advanced standing; and Bruce Corley, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern.

"This agreement provides a significant advantage for Belmont's religion majors. Their work here with us will pay dividends when they do graduate level studies," says Simpler.

Department for the excellent job of putting this together for us. I also want to commend Bill Stephens for the excellent job he did in leading this study.

Roy Davis
Director of Missions
Cumberland Plateau Association
P.O. Box 2508
Crossville 38557

Book questioned

This is in reply to the letter of John Rushing, pastor of Northside Church, Columbia, published in the April 1 issue. He recommends the book, *Deadly Deception*. On the front cover of the book is the statement "The 33rd Degree initiation ceremony revealed for the first time in history!"

This book is based on the statement of James Dayton Shaw, born Nov. 27, 1911, in Indianapolis. Beginning on page 99 Mr. Shaw makes the statement that he was made a 33rd Degree Mason. This is totally false. I'm familiar with this man's record. He was never made a 33rd Degree Mason.

I have been a Christian since 1936. a Mason since 1942, affiliated with the Baptist church in 1947 and made a 33rd Degree Mason in 1957. I assure you that Freemasonry is not a religion, even though a very small minority of men have made it their religion.

Freemasonry uses allegorical drama to teach ethics, moral and spiritual standards, basic religious philosophy (yes), and the American system of government.

It is not a religion but encourages religious faith among its members without supporting any particular denomination. It does not enter into partisan political matters nor denominational religious questions.

Masons do not solicit membership from the general public; however if a person is favorably impressed with the organization and the individuals who belong, he may apply for membership.

Fred W. McPeake
P.O. Box 708
Knoxville 37901

• *The writer is secretary of the Southern Jurisdiction, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Knoxville. — Editor*

Descendants sought

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 1992-93.

We would like to contact descendants of William and Nannie Pettie Preston Lunsford. Dr. Lunsford, our first chief executive officer, was pastor of Edgefield Church, Nashville, 1909-1918.

We would appreciate correspondence identifying living descendants and their addresses. The children of Dr. and Mrs. Lunsford were W. Bruce, Charles Julian, Preston, Gordon, Campbell, and Julia.

Thomas E. Miller Jr.
Annuity Board, SBC
P.O. Box 2190
Dallas, Texas 75221

gram, advanced standing can allow a student to complete the degree in two years of additional studies after graduation from Belmont. If Greek and Hebrew are part of the student's undergraduate curriculum, reduction in seminary work will be greater. "The advanced standing program also gives a student greater flexibility in selecting courses needed to earn his or her master's degree," said Simpler.

A student must have a 3.0 average in the religion major and a 2.75 overall average in undergraduate work in order to apply for the Advanced Standing Degree Program.

Explaining that Belmont's School of Religion will provide prospectuses for the religion courses used by students to qualify for the Advanced Standing Degree, Brisco says the seminary is able to tailor its program to build on what the student garnered from baccalaureate studies. The agreement allows the seminary and university to "operate under a cooperating spirit," said Brisco.

The agreement allows a qualified religion major the opportunity to apply 18 hours of course work toward a master of divinity degree. While the master of divinity is a three-year pro-

Newsletter help provided on SBC Net

NASHVILLE (BP) — Help for church staff members with responsibilities for newsletters will be available April 30 on SBCNet, the Southern Baptist computer network operated by the Sunday School Board on CompuServe worldwide computer service.

The Facts and Trends Information Service will include news briefs and general-interest fillers for newsletters, bulletins, or bulletin boards. The material will be adapted from Facts and Trends, a monthly newsletter for church, associational, state convention, and SBC leaders published by the board's office of communications.

Items in the May edition of the information service will include support for dated church emphases such as Christian Home Emphasis and Senior Adult Day along with information about new resources and fillers of church-related statistics and quotes from SBC leaders. The May edition will be posted on SBCNet on Thursday, April 30.

The Facts and Trends Information Service will be available to any SBCNet subscriber. For information about SBCNet, call David Haywood, SBCNet system operator at the board at (615) 251-2895. Questions about the

information service should be directed to Linda Lawson, manager of the news and information section, at (615) 251-2798.

Tennessee pastor Ted Wood dies

Longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor Theodore "Ted" Wood died March 23 in a Dalton, Ga., hospital.

Wood was pastor of High Point Church, Ooltewah, prior to his death. He was 79 years old.

A native of Knoxville, Wood founded Westside Church, Madisonville. He also was pastor of Benton Station Church, Benton, and New Friendship Church, Cleveland.

Three of his children are pastors — Joel, First Church, Hixson; Barry, Birmingham, Ala.; and Edward, Havana, Fla. Two grandsons also are pastors — John Wood, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and David Wood, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

In addition to his sons, Wood is survived by his wife, Mary Pauline, and two daughters — Mary Hicks, Madisonville, and Martha Henderson, Cohutta, Ga.

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — April

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

16 — Mabel Pena Sepulveda, who becomes a teenager today at the Baptist Children's Home in Temuco.

17 — Jarvis Hearn, director, and Fonda Johnson, secretary, in the TBC Partnership Missions Office, as he coordinates and she prepares the documentation for our partnership. Also, Doris Haynes, who assists in this process.

18 — Tennessee Baptists who can fulfill volunteer responsibilities in Chile. Pray that the necessary monies will be made available for volunteers.

19 — Chilean Baptist brothers and sisters as they celebrate Easter and worship the risen Christ today, and that today will be the day of salvation for many.

20 — National WMU President Anna Lara De Pozo as she leads four days of WMU committee meetings.

21 — Missionaries who are on furlough.

22 — Christians in Talca and other towns involved in the recent Evangelistic Project that they will continue to be inspired and motivated to seek the lost and disciple new believers.

23 — Tom Vassar and James Cecil, Foreign Mission Board representatives responsible for coordinating the Chile/Tennessee Partnership. Also pray for Richard Poe, missionary and partnership coordinator in Chile.



FMB trustees act to begin search for Parks' successor

CLEMSON, S.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees elected John Jackson trustee chairman and Joel Gregory chairman of a 15-member committee to find a successor for retiring President R. Keith Parks.

Parks, who said in March he would retire, made it official in an April 8 letter, setting Oct. 30 as his departure date and noting one of the reasons for retiring is his leadership has continued to cause division among trustees.

The previous evening Parks drew a standing ovation from about 11,000 people gathered at Littlejohn Coliseum at Clemson University April 7 for the appointment of 38 new foreign missionaries. After Parks gave a challenge to the missionaries and issued an invitation to the audience, 199 people made spiritual decisions, including 77 who committed to various types of foreign mission service.

The appointments bring the total foreign mission force to 3955 missionaries assigned to 125 countries. Outgoing trustee chairman Bill Hancock told the crowd the board had achieved the 125-country figure eight years ahead of the 2000 A.D. target date in the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust effort to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world.

Jackson, a pastor from Fairfield, Calif., won the trustee chairmanship by a vote of 48-35 over John P. Greene, a business corporation president from West Palm Beach, Fla. Jackson was nominated by trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas and Greene by trustee Hoyt Savage of Las Vegas, Nev. Jackson previously was first vice chairman and is former state president of California Southern Baptists.

Named to the search committee were Gregory, Leon Hyatt, vice chairman, from Pineville, La.; Bob Oxford of Lakewood, Colo.; Phyllis Randall of Blacksburg, Va.; Karol Wise of Harrisburg, Pa.; John Simms of Salem, Va.; Bruce Romoser of Ellicott, Md.; Terry Williams of Batesville, Miss.; Ted Moody of Warner Robins, Ga.; Reed Lynn of Shawnee, Okla.; Carol Gilbreath of Florence, Ala.; Terry Horton of Colleyville, Texas; Mike Goodwin, Festus, Mo.; Hoyt Savage; and John Greene.

Asked if it is essential to follow the past pattern of naming a person with missionary experience as president, Jackson said the trustees' opinion is divided. "About half the board feels it's mandatory to have missionary experience," he said. "Another large bloc is looking for the man and his ability to lead and his missions heart."

Trustee L. H. McCollough, from Bastrop, La., moved the trustees vote to support Parks as president and commit to his leadership through 1995.

However, during discussion of the motion, pointed questions were directed to Parks about views attributed to him in a Baptist Press story on an address he made to FMB staff after his return from the spiritual retreat.

Trustee Bill Blanchard, from Soddy Daisy, read two paragraphs of the article which he said "caused me tremendous concern." The paragraphs said:

- "Parks also noted concern about a trend toward considering individuals qualified for denominational and missionary service only if their theology and politics are 'right.'"

- "There are many people whose theology would be very conservative, even more conservative than some who are in control, but they aren't ac-

ceptable because they haven't endorsed the political activity within the denomination."

Blanchard asked Parks if the article quoted him correctly and for him to name "just one person" who has been ruled out for political reasons. "I don't know of any like this," Blanchard said.

Parks said the quotes were correct but then Hancock ruled both the motion by McCollough and the discussion out of order because he felt it was inappropriate in a public forum and because trustees have expressed affirmation of Parks. Trustees sustained his ruling by an overwhelming majority.

Parks said he would have liked to answer the question but would honor the decision of the group. But he did comment before proceeding with his presidential address: "The operative word there (in the quote) was 'trend' and I think it's true."

"I disagree with Dr. Parks," Jackson told reporters later. "I don't see the trends he sees." He said he doesn't know of anyone rejected for missionary service and trustees have followed staff recommendations.

"We're not going to bring the creedal approach," Jackson said. "I hope my chairmanship is similar to Bill Hancock's, which has been fair and

spiritual. I think my role (as chairman) is to be very objective and fair-minded and have the ability to foresee future problems."

Commenting on philosophical differences with trustees Parks has expressed, Jackson said: "We will never find anyone who is in full philosophical agreement with all trustees. You've got 88 different opinions. That will depend on the leader and how he can serve. I hope his resignation is not because of philosophical differences. He said it was because God had led him to do so."

Parks has said his retirement came as a result of God's leadership at the spiritual retreat in Dallas-Fort Worth but that leadership came in the context of differences in the Southern Baptist controversy which made his role as president impractical.

In a matter related to the board's news policy, Greene, chairman of the communications committee, announced a seven-member subcommittee of trustees and staff to develop guidelines for handling press conferences and sensitive news releases. The action stemmed from trustee criticism of news coverage.

The subcommittee will meet May 4-5 in Richmond.

Baptists in 200 nations plan church starts before 2000 A.D.

SWANWICK, England (BP) — Each of the 141,667 Baptist churches in the 200-plus countries represented in the Baptist World Alliance have been invited to start or help start another church by the year 2000 "so that more and more people gain the opportunity of hearing the Good News of God in Jesus Christ."

The challenge to establish new churches, called the "Derbyshire Declaration," was issued by 250 Baptists from 45 nations at the March 23-27 "Baptist International Conference on Establishing New Churches" convened by BWA's evangelism and education division.

"We believe," the delegates said, "that a powerful means for growth at the disposal of the Christian church and a most effective means to fulfill the Great Commission is the establishing of new congregations."

Pledging their personal recommitment to evangelism through new church starts, delegates asked Baptist leaders and pastors to involve lay people in planting new churches "that would enable the character and teaching of Jesus Christ to become in-

carne within particular communities."

"This is a great statement and I endorse it," said Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Lewis led a Bible study at the conference.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

My strongest instincts are crying out for spring.

You know, spring: the season between March equinox and the June solstice. Spring: warm days and cool nights, the first opening of windows, and blue skies disdaining snow clouds.

Spring, with its tinges of color blooming into brilliance.

But I feel this way at the ending of each season — as another writer said in reference to an entirely different subject, "The Lord God made them all."

Jackie and Arlene Cooper, missionary friends who serve in Panama, can easily point to one wonderful thing about furlough time — they get to see the seasons change. Not so, along the equator — rain at least once a day, scorching sunshine, and trees and vegetation that never stop growing.

Amazing things, however, happen when it's fall's turn on the calendar. Let me mention just one. From Maine to Mississippi — and all states in between; indeed, every state where there is sufficient cold weather, there is fall. And fall means colorful foliage.

Strange to talk about fall and its bright colors when spring is being

ushered in. Something I read the other day reminded me of a unique happening in fall. The leaves bud out and lengthen in spring, they hold on tightly to the trees in summer — and in winter most of them flutter to the ground.

Fall has its way of dancing in a slow waltz. Greens gradually fade away and reds and yellows, with all their shades, replace them.

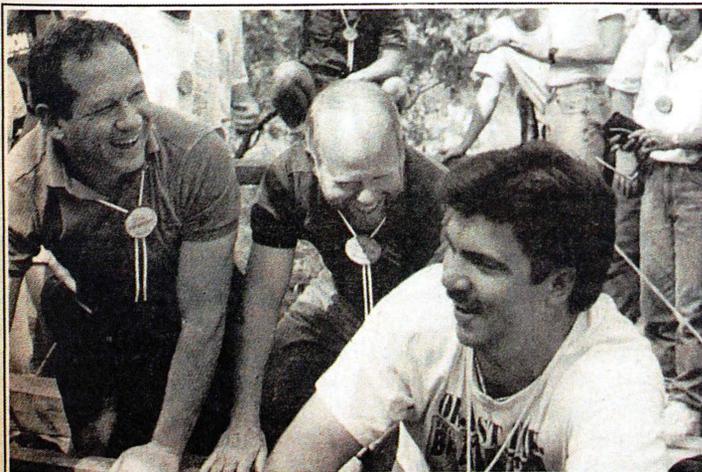
How does that happen? As temperatures drop when days shorten, chlorophyll in the leaves receive less sunlight. Thus the amount of food decreases. The trees begin a dormant stage — there is a seal blocking the connection between the wood and leaf stem. The food supply is cut off and the chlorophyll cells are useless.

Those other pigments already present in the leaves — previously overpowered by the chlorophyll for months, come forth. The reds and yellows and golds and purples brighten the deciduous trees — sometimes setting entire hillsides and valleys aflame.

There is a comparison here between leaves and Christian living. When we allow anything in our attitudes or actions, our thoughts and emotions, surpass our love for Christ — we cannot show forth in blazing glory the credentials of a loving, compassionate servant of the Lord. Just like the leaves, we need to allow his love, which we sometimes allow to lie dormant, be the prevalent "color" in our lives.



ALLEN



TENNESSEANS IN TEXAS — Don Mattingly and Joe Palmer, from left, of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department, and Gary Stinnett, minister to students at Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville, recently participated in an adventure recreation exercise during Rec Lab held in New Braunfels, Texas. Values of adventure recreation include cooperation, trust, and participation. — Photo by Terri Lackey

100 years old — Wartburg members celebrate

WARTBURG — The members of First Church, Wartburg, led by Pastor Tom Mooty, celebrated "a century of service" April 5.

Several former pastors participated in the morning worship service, bringing greetings, reflecting on the past, and challenging for the future.

James Robertson, now pastor of Sharon Church, Knoxville, said he could not remember much about business or deacons' meetings, but he could remember people and their lives.

It's good to remember the past, Robertson said, adding that it also is good to see "the church continue to

live and be the people of God."

Other pastors participating were Leo Jenkins, Gerald Bland, and Homer Hooks. Mary Stafford spoke on behalf of her deceased husband, J. L. Stafford, who served from 1945-49.

Mooty closed the series of brief messages by noting he believes the second coming of Jesus is very near. He reminded the congregation that should the Lord delay his return, today's children and youth will lead First Church during the next 100 years.

"We will continue on here until Jesus comes," he said.

During the service, J. W. Bargiol,

director of missions for Big Emory Association, presented the church a plaque commemorating its centennial from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.

First Church, Wartburg, was organized April 4, 1892, following a revival conducted by R. C. Medaris, an evangelist who organized many churches in several states during his lifetime.

Oral tradition holds that the church, during its first ten years, met in an old log school house on Dagley Street at Church Street. In 1902 the church negotiated a contract with Mt. Tabor Lodge No. 252 I.O.O.F. to use a portion of the lodge building for 25 years with the stipulation the church would do some remodeling and upkeep of the building.

In 1923 the church bought property and built its own worship center which the church used until 1960 when the present building was constructed.

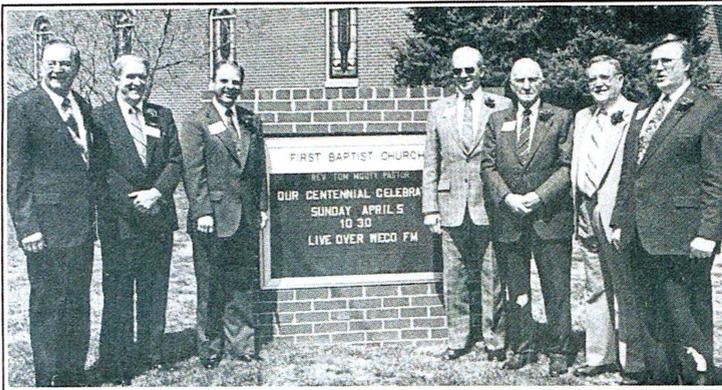
Recently the church has undergone some remodeling and renovation. Stained glass windows have been added and a new media center

established. The church also has added a new heating and air conditioning system as well as carpet and a radio broadcasting and sound studio. The church's morning worship service is broadcast over a local radio station.

The church's centennial committee, comprised of Don Todd, chairman, Ethel Freytag, Mildred Dillon, Marcella Darnell, Ray Schubert, Floyd Freytag, and Edna Sanderson, worked toward having a centennial history of the church available for members.

In the foreword to the booklet the committee wrote: "Sometimes history can be dates, numbers, statistics, and faceless names: but, when all is said and done, history is life itself... simply how each generation lives their lives."

The committee also acknowledged, "With each service, the Lord Jesus Christ is watching us as we write our history." — *Lonnie Wilkey*



CELEBRATING HERITAGE — Participating in the centennial celebration at First Church, Wartburg, were former pastors, from left, Leo Jenkins, Glenn Patton, James Robertson, Big Emory Association Director of Missions J. W. Bargiol, Homer Hooks, Gerald Bland, and Pastor Tom Mooty.

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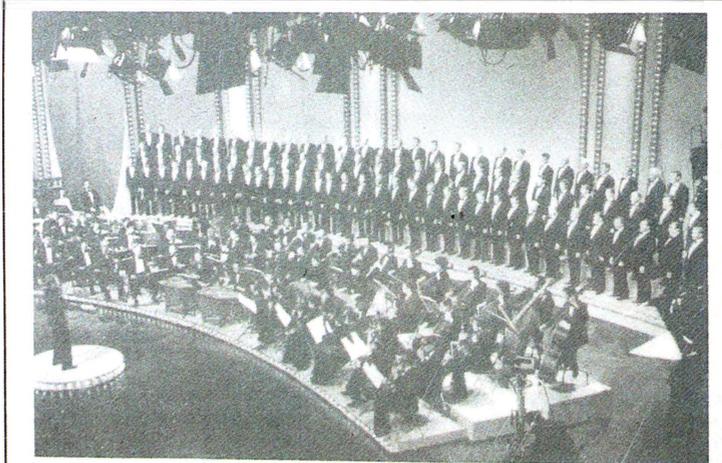
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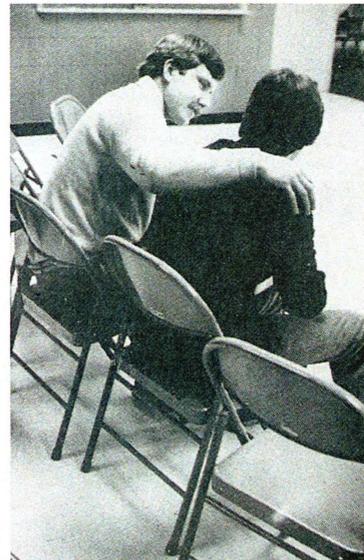
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Encountering the risen Lord

By Jerry L. Glisson, pastor emeritus; Leewood Church, Memphis

Most of us have had the joy of discovering the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Some of us have had the privilege of finding Him to be near and intimate. How great it is to experience Jesus along life's way. Mary Magdalene experienced such on that first Easter morning. What a morning! And what a discovery! Mary was from Magdala, a town known for its wickedness; another Sodom and Gomorrah. Mary possessed seven demons until Jesus cast them out of her (Luke 8). Despite such a background, Mary was the first one to see the empty tomb and the resurrected Lord. Although she may have been the least qualified, she was the most available. God honored her above all others at what was possibly the most important moment of history. What do we find in Mary's discovery?

Triumph, not tragedy (ch. 20:1-4)

If the death of Jesus had been a tragedy, then the empty tomb would have been a continuation of that

tragedy. However, His death was not a tragedy and neither was the empty tomb. The empty tomb did not reverse an apparent tragedy. Even though the apostles acted as if His death was a tragedy, Mary had enough hope to go to the tomb.

The empty tomb confirmed a completed victory. Everything planned by Jesus and His Father was complete. His resurrection was as assured as His death was real. The empty tomb confirmed His birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection. Mary could only report the empty tomb to the apostles (v. 2).

Resurrection, not removal (ch. 20:5-10)

Such an announcement that the tomb was empty caused Peter and John to run to the tomb. John, being younger, arrived first. John wrote that he stopped, looked in, and saw the linen clothes lying in place (v. 5). Then Peter arrived on the scene and walked in without hesitation. He too saw the linen clothes (v. 6). If the body had

been removed, then the grave clothes would be gone. The clothes were left in an orderly manner (v. 7).

The resurrection was not a removal of Jesus' physical body, but a raising of His glorified body (v. 8). John walked into the tomb. And he "saw" and believed. Others might doubt, but John had heard, scrutinized, and seen Jesus with new insight that led him to believe Jesus was risen. What a revelation!

BIBLE BOOK
April 19 Lesson
Basic Passage: John 19:38-20:29

Living, not lifelessness (ch. 20:11-20)

Jesus was now risen and alive. The tomb no longer held His body. By the power of God He had come forth in His glorified body. The effulgence of the Mount of Transfiguration had broken through the physical shell in which He had dwelt for 33 years. His glory was

now in evidence. He was alive.

Jesus is not a lifeless body (vv. 11-15). Mary, having nowhere else to go, went back to the empty tomb weeping. Neither John nor Peter had taken the time to share the good news of the resurrection. Possessors of the greatest news of the century, still they failed to take time to share it with one who wanted just a ray of hope. Why not weep? And weep she did (v. 11).

Jesus is the living Lord (vv. 16-18). Watch the light of glory dawn upon Mary (v. 16). When Mary heard Jesus pronounce her name as He had done so often before, her heart lit up. The truth had arrived. Jesus was alive. He was standing in her presence. He who had been such a Savior and Friend was now her living Lord. Her faith was not in vain.

Share the resurrection news with others (v. 17). Go tell the good news. Mary obeyed. She went and simply said, "I have seen the Lord" (v. 18). That evening Jesus appeared to the disciples and their joy overflowed (vv. 19, 20). Our joy should overflow, too.

An empty tomb

By Ron Mouser, minister of education; Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville

Dreams for a glorious future had been shattered. Rome was still in control of Jerusalem. The envisioned conquering Messiah of Davidic descent had died a shameful death on a cross. One disciple had betrayed Jesus, another had denied Him, and the rest of them were returning home along the darkened road of despair. Their dashed hopes and unfulfilled expectations were shrouded in the foggy sea of doubt.

It was late Friday afternoon approaching the final hours of preparation preceding the Sabbath. Emerging from the shadowy circumstances surrounding the cross, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Sanhedrin, asked Pilate for permission

to bury the body of Jesus. Pilate ascertained from the centurion in charge of the execution that Jesus was indeed dead. Knowing Jewish custom required that even the bodies of criminals be buried before sundown, Joseph moved with haste.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
April 19 Lesson
Basic Passage: Mark 15:42-16:8

Assisted by Nicodemus (see John 19:39), these two secret disciples took linens and spices to prepare the body for burial. The burial site was a tomb hewn from stone located in a garden. Placing the body in the borrowed tomb, Joseph carefully rolled and slid

a huge, heavy rock over the entrance to seal it from animals and intruders. With Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, watching, the closing curtain dropped on this drama.

Waiting until the shops reopened following the end of the Sabbath, these two women and Salome prepared for their last expression of love — the final anointing of Jesus' body — thus providing Him a respected burial. Arising early the following morning, they hastily made their way to the garden anticipating the imminent sunrise. Amazingly, and beyond their realization, this sunrise was the most eventful occasion since the dawn of creation. This would be a "Son-Rise!"

Contemplating a way to remove the huge stone, the three were astonished to find it had been rolled away. Entering the tomb, they encountered a

young man dressed in a white robe. This messenger from God alleviated their fears by proclaiming, "He is risen!" The tomb was empty! The women were instructed "... go and tell His disciples and Peter ..." that Jesus would precede them to Galilee.

The tomb was empty, the icy finger of death lost in the encounter with God's only begotten Son. Jesus is alive! The message of resurrection reached beyond the empty grave to a living reality.

Jesus is more than a gifted teacher. He is the Word made flesh. Resurrection changes despair into joy, rejection into acceptance, death into life. Resurrection means Jesus is actively reaching out in love to offer healing to the broken-hearted. There is a balm in Gilead. There is victory in the living Jesus.

Proclaiming the triumph

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

Resurrection. What does it mean to you personally? Women. What part did women play in the Easter story? Proclamation. What is our responsibility in proclaiming the triumph that is ours through resurrection? The answers to these questions are found in our study of Matthew 27:57-28:20.

God's loving redemption for you and me is the focus of Calvary. I especially like Herschel Hobbs' use of verbs in referring to the Trinity: "God the Father proposed redemption; God the Son provided redemption; and God the Holy Spirit propagates redemption."

Resurrection takes on new meaning when we have a loved one in Heaven. Jesus' conquering death through resurrection validates our faith, God's forgiveness, everlasting life, redemption, and God's love for His children. His resurrection leads us to hope and greater faith. The resurrection's impact in changing lives cannot be negated. Look at the change Jesus' resurrection made in the sacred, disheartened disciples in Matthew 28:9.

Turning our attention to women, why did the women visit Jesus' tomb? They were the last ones to leave the tomb on

Friday evening. Their motivation probably was the same that compels us to go to the cemetery — to reminisce, to adjust to death's blow of finality, to try to absorb the impact of the absence of our loved one on future life, and to affirm that the real person is not in the cemetery. These women also came to anoint Jesus' bandages with spices to complete the embalming after the hurried burial.

Why were these women so loyal to Jesus? Experiencing life as second-class citizens and as chattel property of men with no rights of their own, women appreciated Jesus' kind and fair treatment as well as His personal risk of upsetting the social norms of the day by recognizing the value, contribution, and human dignity of women. Fred Wood reminds us in his life and work lesson commentary, "On resurrection morning God placed His stamp of approval on women and their place in the history of Christian missions." In referring to the ministry performed by women throughout time, Wood exclaims, "How poor our Christian witness and mission would be without them (women)!"

My pastor husband used to say that in any given church service women could vote to send those present to Hawaii, abolish the church, paint the building purple, or do anything they so desired because they are the majority present.

Not only were women the first to receive the resurrection news and the commission to go tell, but we also have been commissioned to "proclaim the triumph" in Matthew 28:16, 18-20.

LIFE AND WORK
April 19 Lesson
Basic Passage: Matthew 27:57-28:20

How can anyone whose hopeless plight has been changed by a healing encounter with the Lord keep quiet? Placing myself in the setting of passion week, I have faced the haunting, grim reality that I would have been in the crowd mocking Jesus in disbelief if I had not been touched personally by Him during His three-year ministry. "The Touch of the Master's Hand," as the poem is entitled, truly spells the difference in our proclaiming or remaining silent.

In my work at the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission, one of our emphases is encouraging educators to integrate their personal

faith and professional discipline. Likewise, you and I can integrate our personal faith and daily lives and professions in proclamation. Let's not leave it to the preachers! The message from a layman's perspective has more impact actually than that of ministry professionals because proclamation is expected of them. We can propagate redemption through the Holy Spirit's urging to share our faith with others, remembering Jesus' assurance, "... I am with you always ..."

Medical volunteers to work in Chile

Ten medical volunteers are slated to work in Concepcion, Chile, from April 24-May 4.

The team will be headed by William and Frances Skinner, former missionaries to Paraguay.

The volunteers will examine and treat or refer persons primarily from low income areas with limited access to medical care.

Team members include Robert Mayfield and Dr. and Mrs. W. Cranston Moses, Crossville; Mike Lett and Teresa Davis, Athens; Dr. and Mrs. Merrill Winchester, Whitley City, Ky.; and Ed Walker, Mountain City.

TenneScene

... from Cottontown, south to Coalmont,
and on to Sale Creek ...

People . . .

Lloyd Walker Mullens, Nashville, received the Rice-Judson Scholar Award at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he began ministry studies in February. He is the son of Betty Mullens, Nashville, and a 1990 graduate of Belmont University, Nashville. Mullens' home church is First Church, Donelson.



Mrs. Glen Melton, a member of New Providence Church, Loudon, has been recognized by her church for not missing Sunday School in 42 years. Obie Campbell is the pastor of the Loudon County Association church.

Ordinations . . .

Alan Ferguson and Skeets Eskridge were ordained as deacons March 22 at First Church, Loretto.

First Church, LaVergne, ordained Jim Tarpley to the deacon ministry March 1.

Steven Trent Cooper was ordained to the Gospel ministry March 15 at Immanuel Church, Maryville. He is serving there as associate pastor and minister of youth.

First Church, Clinton, ordained Roger Robinson as deacon March 29.

Johnson Church, Monterey, ordained Stanton McCloud to the deacon ministry March 22.

Larry Pritchett was ordained to the deacon ministry of Clarkrange Church, Clarkrange, March 29.

First Church, Jasper, ordained John Raulston and D. W. Ross as deacons April 5. Don Adkins, who has been ordained, was commissioned at the ordination service.

Belmont Church, Mt. Carmel, ordained Ron Grimes to the Gospel ministry. Grimes was recently called to the church as associate pastor.

Joe Greene, minister of education at Waverly Place Church, Roanoke, Va.,

was ordained to the Gospel ministry March 22 at Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton. He previously served at Thorn Grove Church, Strawberry Plains. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Byron Gabel will be ordained as a deacon May 3 at South Gate Church, Antioch.

Leadership . . .

Berclair Church, Memphis, has called Eric Mitchell as youth minister. Mitchell, formerly youth director at Noonday Church, Atlanta, Ga., is a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

David Hardy, former minister of youth and children at Leclair Church in Memphis, has accepted the call of South Fulton Church, South Fulton, to serve as minister of education and youth.

Paul Medley has assumed the duties of pastor of First Church, Jasper, in Sequatchie Valley Association. Medley moved to Jasper from Atlanta, Ga., where he served for seven years as pastor of Sentell Church.

The Louisiana native is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned a master of divinity degree.

Members of First Church, Morristown, recently welcomed William Palmer as interim pastor. Another Morristown church, Cherokee Hills Church, also called an interim pastor, Martin Klinghard.

Jerry Summers is serving as pastor of First Church, Sharon. He was most recently pastor of Mount Pleasant Church, Bradford, where he served for 13 years. Summers recently participated in a partnership mission effort to lead revivals in France. He is a member of the committee on arrangements of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Raymond White is the new pastor of Clarkrange Church, Clarkrange. He served the church as interim pastor for three months before becoming full-time pastor.

The Knoxville native was pastor of Eastwood Church, Cookeville, for 15 years. He also served as pastor of other Knoxville-area churches, and was ordained in 1954 at Holston Church, Strawberry Plains.

White graduated in 1966 with a degree in religious education from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky.



First Church, Carthage, recently called David Thompson as pastor. He began serving March 1.

Thompson has served as minister of education and youth at Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel, and at other

churches in Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky. In addition, he has traveled to Honduras and Venezuela as a volunteer missionary.

The Old Hickory native is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned a master's degree in Christian education.

First Church, Celina, called Terry Crabtree as interim mission pastor.

Tim Walker joined the staff of Mack's Grove Church, Dresden, as minister of music and youth.

Thomas Cocklereece recently began his pastoral career at Shallow Ford Church, Erwin.

Cocklereece formerly served as assistant chaplain at the John Peter Smith Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas. He served in the United States Navy from 1980 to 1986.

He graduated from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., with an associates degree in medical laboratory technology; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, with a degree in health care administration; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, with a master of divinity degree.

Grace Church, Springfield, called Tim Felts, Springfield, as director of youth.

Silverdale Church, Chattanooga, recently called Charles W. Tanner as minister of education and youth. Tanner formerly served as associate pastor at Norwich Street Church, Brunswick, Ga., where he worked in the education and youth ministries.

The 33-year-old is a business administration graduate from Mercer University, Atlanta. He also earned a master's of religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



Mack Pinkelton was elected pastor emeritus March 22 at Wales Church, Pulaski.



Gary Underwood of Nashville recently received the associate of divinity degree with special emphasis in pastoral ministry from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Underwood is married to the former Susan

Davison of Atlanta, Ga. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Peach from Kingston Springs.

Churches . . .

Members of Zion Hill Church, Englewood, will hold a groundbreaking service for a new building Easter Sunday, April 19.

Park Avenue Church, Nashville, will present an Easter pageant, "Worship The Lamb," on April 16-19 at 7 p.m.

The music ministry at First Church, Goodlettsville, will present the drama and musical "Celebrate Life" April 18, 2 p.m., and April 19, 7 p.m. Ken Allman is minister of music and Lanita Stallings is drama director.

First Church, Mountain City, recently called Christina Bowers as children and youth director. She formerly served as youth director at Oak Street Church, Elizabethton.

The congregation of Rutledge Church, Rutledge, will celebrate the church's centennial anniversary April 26. Before morning worship, members will take a symbolic walk from Rutledge Presbyterian Church, where 18 charter members first met, to their present Baptist church building. Former pastor David Hanson will be the featured speaker and Wendi Roudebush, former music director, will be guest soloist. A fellowship dinner will follow morning worship.

Revivals . . .

Members of Union Hill Church, Athens, will begin revival April 20 with Eddie Rowland and Rod Miller leading the services.

Spring revival will be April 26-29 at Malesus Church, Jackson. Stan Smith, Huntingdon, will be evangelist.

Revival will be April 19-23 at First Church, Lobelville. Benny Jackson, Memphis, will be evangelist.

Glenn Hester, ALPHA Association director of missions, will lead revival April 26-29 at Tom's Creek Church, Linden.

Lucy Church, Millington, will hold revival services April 19-22 led by Phil Glisson, Memphis.

Spring revival is scheduled for April 26-29 at Piedmont Church, Dandridge. Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, will be evangelist. David Jenkins, minister of music at First Church, Dandridge, will lead music.



WELCOME — Saturn Drive Church welcomed a mission church recently as they shared Communion. The Church of Jesus, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nashville Association, and Saturn Drive, is a newly organized mission church. From left: Allen McCroskey, chairman of deacons at Saturn Drive; Mike Mayo, Saturn Drive pastor; Thomas McCord, mission pastor, and new members of the mission.