

Baptist and Reflector

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March trips close Tennessee/Philippines Partnership

270 volunteers give assistance in winning 12,350 to Christ

Two trips to the Philippines in March officially concluded Tennessee Baptists' three-year partnership missions relationship with the country.

Retired TBC Partnership Missions Director Clarence Stewart and Bill Wilson, TBC Convention Ministries Division director, led 26 volunteers March 5-17 and March 19-April 1, respectively.

The teams worked in evangelism crusades. Their combined efforts garnered 2700 professions of faith and many other decisions for Christ.

In closing out the partnership, Stewart presented a plaque of appreciation to Leo Salazar, president of the Mindanao/Visayas Conventions, and a Tennessee pictorial book to Tito Felanco, executive director of the convention.

The two Filipino leaders also presented Stewart a plaque and a letter for TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie.

Wilson met with leaders of the Luzon and Chinese Conventions in the Philippines and exchanged tokens of appreciation for the partnership.

During the three-year partnership which began April 1, 1989, 270 volunteers went to the Philippines, par-

ticipating in evangelism, health care, construction, and work in stewardship, Sunday School, and Woman's Missionary Union.

The missions effort saw 12,350 recorded professions of faith and numerous other decisions.

Stewart was pleased with the result of Tennessee Baptists' efforts in the Philippines even though the number of participants fell short of the 1306 volunteers who went to Venezuela, Tennessee Baptists' partnership country from 1986-89.

"We did not anticipate as many volunteers in the Philippines because of the distance, cost, and unrest in the country, but much more has been accomplished than anticipated when you see that more than 12,000 souls were reached for Jesus Christ," Stewart said.

And though during the three years the Philippines experienced a volcano eruption, an earthquake, floods, an attempted government coup, and other traumas, the volunteers who went felt safe and secure and developed a closeness with the Filipino people, Stewart observed.

"Many of the volunteers who went would like to go back because of their



PARTNERSHIP FAREWELL — Missions volunteer Nell Greene of First Church, Sneedville, left center, witnesses to Filipinos during Tennessee Baptists' last official trip of the three-year partnership. Greene went to the Philippines four times during the partnership and was on both teams that went in March.

marvelous experiences with the Filipinos," Stewart concluded.

Tennessee Baptists on the last partnership trip to the Philippines included:

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

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

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

Search committee recommendation

Patterson to be nominated president of Southeastern

By Herb Hollinger

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Paige Patterson, an architect of the "conservative resurgence" in the Southern Baptist Convention, is the nominee for the next president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Roger Ellsworth, Benton, Ill., pastor and chairman of the seminary's trustees, told Baptist Press April 20 that Patterson, 49, was the choice of the search committee and had accepted the committee's invitation.

Patterson told Baptist Press he would make a statement at Criswell College's morning chapel April 21 and would prefer not to make any comments until that time.

A special meeting of SEBTS board of trustees has been called May 14 at the Wake Forest campus, Ellsworth said. Patterson will meet with faculty and students of



PATTERSON

Southeastern before the trustee meeting and possibly as early as next week in keeping with trustee policy.

The announcement confirmed speculation going back before President Lewis Drummond's official retirement notice earlier this year. Many trustees, students, and alumni had urged Patterson's election as the fifth president to help the struggling seminary with financial, enrollment, and accreditation problems.

In fact, Ellsworth said Patterson fit the four considerations the search

committee felt were primary for a new president: student recruitment, faculty recruitment, financial development, and accreditation.

"Dr. Patterson's experiences in these areas are such that he will make a very fine president," Ellsworth told Baptist Press.

In recent years declining enrollment, a faculty exodus, and financial struggles have plagued the seminary which was put on probation by its regional accrediting agency, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools last year.

Tennessee legislators may act on moral issues

One major bill on a constitutional convention passed the Tennessee State Senate last week and awaits possible approval of the House of Representatives, while a measure involving track betting could be voted on by both houses this final week of sessions.

At press time Monday (April 20), it was not known whether further action would be taken this legislative term.

The Senate approved a 1993 constitu-

tional call on issues that could include a legalized lottery, county line consolidations, and action on a Tennessee state income tax.

The Tennessee Constitution for 122 years has disallowed a state lottery. If the House passes the bill this week, the public will vote in August whether to look at the lottery issue in a constitutional convention in July 1993.

Should the House vote "no" or refuse to act, the bill would not pass this year. Approval would allow Tennesseans in August to decide whether the constitution should be opened for discussion on the issues. Citizens also could decide whether to look at revision of current taxation limits, and whether to realign boundaries for any

of the state's 95 counties.

The other moral issue which could come to both legislative bodies this week is a measure to permit betting at licensed races televised from other locations, and give a tax break to developers of a horse track in Memphis.

While other states levy taxes up to 18 percent of track profits, the Tennessee bill would set a sliding scale from one to six percent, depending on the amount bet each day.

Mike Whitaker, chairman of the Tennessee Racing Commission has said that a lower tax "may encourage a group of Memphis investors to go ahead" with construction of a track for thoroughbred, quarter horse, and harness racing.

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Editorials

Think 'trees' during April 26-May 3 emphasis

Is the environment important for Christians? Is there a Biblical design that promotes Christian caretaking of God's creation?

Well, it might surprise us to consider this, but God's Word, though its main theme is salvation for the people, mentions others of His creation.

In the early pages of our Bible, we read of God's concern for us through trees, plants, fish and birds, cattle — and even the earth itself, the skies, the waters.

What a lively creation God has created and handed to us as his own caretakers!

The churches center on salvation and discipleship — missions, ministry, and evangelization of other people. We often have to be reminded to take care of the rest of God's creation.

The United States Government emphasizes April 26-May 3 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week. So does the Home Mission Board. Of special concern this year are our "treasured trees."

From childhood days, we can remember the trees that surrounded and benefited us on the farm. The oaks and pines, gums and maples — all had a part of the earth's glory — not to mention hickories, dogwoods, and others.

It does little good to bemoan the loss of millions and millions of acres of valuable woodlands through the years to rampant fires and overzealous timbermen. The trees are with us for reasons. Other than the purely aesthetic value, they provide lumber for housing and furniture, and help clean our water and air. Those of us who nurture the backyard bird sanctuaries see additional benefit of trees.

The hardwoods of the northeast and the Pacific coast's redwoods are part of an extremely vital national heritage. So is every tree in every forest. And

trees are important in the cities for parks and greenways.

The fact is that healthy forests constantly depend on our dedicated stewardship. Trees are living examples of ministries set forth in the Bible. Here is the ministry of sacrifice — the laying down of one's treasure, or even one's life, that others may live.

Trees cut down and used for food, fuel, materials, or shelter, may be seen as part of a sacrificial ministry. And trees, without being cut down, provide shade, shelter, climate modification, and aesthetic value. Both kinds of service are useful.

Forests and the trees benefit the environment, act as providers, stand ready as a sanctuary,

enhance human life (and other kinds of life), do good for the public, provide a cleaner, enjoyable future.

Working together we can give stewardship for national forests, fruit and nut trees, shade trees for the homes and cities, and trees that serve by giving up their lives. Plant a tree — when you think of reforestation as too big a project. Be a good steward of these gifts from God the Creator.

What we do now as Christian stewards will last long beyond our years so that others may enjoy the rich heritage of forest and farmland that America has enjoyed. Plant a tree, grow shrubs and flowers. Support every government effort to preserve what is left — and remind leaders of responsibilities. — WFA

Christians make a difference

Lives committed to Christ make the difference in today's world.

Sunday, April 26, is Life Commitment Day on the Baptist calendar. We should mark it on the datebook and write it on our hearts. Life Commitment Day — an opportunity to stand tall for Jesus Christ — may not be recognized as a special day. We have other "things" to recognize.

Nonetheless, Life Commitment Day will be celebrated as thousands and thousands of dedicated people serve out that commitment through the life of the church and individually all through the week.

Commitment to Christ is telling the Good News in the marketplace, in the hair styling salon, in the factories, on the highways, in the grocery stores, and at the ballparks.

Commitment to Christ is sharing our ex-

periences with those who seek the same glad joy.

But commitment to Christ also can be a different experience to people. To the new Christian, or to one who has waited for "something to do," Life Commitment Day can open a door of opportunity with guides to help lead the way.

In truth, Baptists are pretty good at evangelizing — bringing people into the churches. We aren't always that good at discipling them for service in the "real" world, strengthening them in God's Word, arming them with the power of prayer. We all need that.

Tennessee Baptist churches have opportunity April 26 to make a fresh start toward total life commitment. Here's the answer to stewardship of self, service, soul, and material possessions. — WFA

Environmental issues remain in public discussions

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — That environmental issues will remain a point of public discussion throughout the 1990s is a foregone conclusion.

The question, a Southern Baptist leader says, is whether evangelicals will take part in the debate.

At a time when almost everyone seems to be offering opinions on environmental concerns ranging from recycling to saving the Amazon rain forest, "the only ones who seem to be excluded from the debate are evangelical Christians, and too often it is a self-exclusion," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Offended by what they see as a

"New Age" philosophy of earth worship touted by many secular environmental groups, Land said some Christians are "overreacting" by turning a deaf ear to environmental concerns altogether.

"We need to remember that the earth is the Lord's. It isn't ours to do with as we please," Land explained. "He has called us to be good stewards of his creation."

The challenge for leaders in the SBC and other evangelical denominations, Land said, is providing church members with "an informed Biblical response" to environmental concerns.

With that goal in mind, the CLC devoted its 1991 annual conference to ecological themes under the title, "Christians and the Environment: Finding a Biblical Balance Between Idolatry and Irresponsibility." The papers presented at the conference, along with some new materials, are being published in book form by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press. The Earth is the Lord's: Christians and the Environment, compiled by Land and Louis Moore, CLC director of media and products, is scheduled for release in August.

"We wanted to provide a primer for what will clearly be an ongoing debate," Land said of the book. One of the unique features of the publication, he added, is that the articles included are, with one exception, written by pastors, theologians, and denominational leaders, not scientists or representatives from environmental agencies.

"We got some criticism for that but we also got some thank-you letters from scientists who said they were glad to hear from the realm of religion and ethics on these issues," Land said. "Scientists are critically important

in diagnosing the problem technically and in prescribing scientific remedies but they cannot answer the theological, moral, and ethical questions so critical to the environmental debate," he continued.

In addition to Land and Moore, contributors to the Broadman book include SBC President Morris Chapman; Millard Erickson, vice president and dean at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.; Russ Bush III, vice president for academic affairs and provost at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; Gary Leazer, director of the interfaith witness department at the Home Mission Board; David Dockery, general editor of Broadman's New American Commentary and recently elected dean of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Other contributing writers include William Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of

Texas; Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas; Robert Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; Rick Irvin, associate professor of the Louisiana State University Institute for Environmental Studies and Research; and Lamar Cooper Sr., CLC director of denominational relations.

Articles focus on a variety of themes from the Biblical theology and ethics of ecology to how a local church can begin a recycling program. Dockery, who was not a speaker at the CLC conference, included four sermon samples on the environment in his article, "The Environment, Ethics, and Exposition."

Acknowledging Southern Baptists are "only just beginning to dig into this issue," Moore said he is hopeful the book will stimulate both discussion and action in local churches. "Our whole purpose is to get the message to the grass roots," he said.

Garcia seeks help

LIMA, Peru (BP) — Peruvian Baptist Carlos Garcia, named Peru's president by the country's dissolved Congress April 9, has taken refuge in the Argentine embassy in Lima.

Garcia, a Baptist pastor and lawyer and Peru's second vice president, sought asylum April 10 in the Argentine embassy to "secure my physical integrity," he said in an Argentine radio interview quoted by United Press International.

Garcia was named president by Peruvian legislators in a secret meeting April 9 in protest of the emergency government declared by President Alberto Fujimori. The legislators decided Garcia should seek asylum for his own safety, UPI reported. Garcia reportedly was picked as president because of the absence of the first vice president, who is outside Peru.

Fujimori suspended the Peruvian constitution April 5, dismissing Congress and declaring an emergency government.

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Recent European resignations raise questions

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND (BP) — The recent resignations of 15 Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe have raised new questions among some about whether turmoil in the Foreign Mission Board's work in the region could cause still more missionary departures.

The 15 Europe resignations were among 40 recently submitted by missionaries worldwide.

Only one of the recent resignations has been directly attributed to the controversy, an FMB trustee reported.

"Some people are looking at their lives and whether they need to stay in missions or not," said Tom Warrington, FMB associate area director for Europe. "Suddenly they get word that the area director and vice president and president have resigned or retired and that makes their decision for them. That kicks them right over the edge. It won't surprise me if we get more of them. I think it will come."

Warrington referred to the early retirements of FMB Europe vice president Isam Ballenger and area director Keith Parker in protest of FMB trustee actions — particularly the defunding of the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland — and to the announced retirement of board President R. Keith Parks.

Missionaries resign for many reasons — personal illnesses, needs of their children or of families back home, frustration with difficulties living abroad, unmet expectations of missionary service, a sense of God's

leading elsewhere, and greater career mobility among the "baby boom" generation.

Missionary resignations went up and down from 1980-90, averaging 132 or 3.7 percent of the missionary force each year but rose annually from 1985-89 before dropping in 1990. The combination of fewer missionary appointments and slightly higher rates of resignations and retirements later in the decade concerned board mission planners.

However, the overall attrition rate of 3.8 percent from missionary resignations and deaths at the beginning of the '90s was still below most other missionary-sending agencies.

Missionary administrator John Deal, who himself has resigned in disagreement with trustee or board actions, said he doubts the recent spate of resignations in Europe is a direct result of the mission board's troubles.

"I think the majority of these had other reasons," he said. "I don't think any of the others I know about really decided to resign because of the controversy. Many of them were quite upset and disturbed about it but I think many of them have genuine reasons other than this."

Board trustee Steve Hardy, chairman of the trustee committee overseeing Europe, said he had "questioned the staff very carefully concerning these resignations. The Deals are the only couple who are clearly resigning because of the controversy. At least two of the couples are resigning due to

medical or personal situations that need to be resolved, and they have indicated that when those are, they would want to be reappointed to return to Europe. I'm not greatly concerned about the resignations at this time."

Of the 15 most recent Europe resignations, only Deal and his wife, Revonda, 25-year veterans of foreign mission work, publicly stated they were resigning because of disagreements. They join missionaries Charles "T" and Kathie Thomas in Romania who earlier announced their resignations for similar reasons.

"We're just tired of all that's going on" at the Foreign Mission Board and in Europe missions, said Deal, 55, of Dothan, Ala. "Good energies are being spent on other things. We feel like what we're doing is really not accomplishing what we'd like to do."

Deal manages the field office for Southern Baptist mission work in Europe, based in Thalwil, Switzerland. From 1987-91 he was the board's associate director for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, based at

FMB offices in Richmond, Va. Before that, the Deals spent nearly two decades in Singapore, Malaysia, and Jordan. Their resignations take effect Aug. 1.

"We hated to resign, but it's done," said Deal. "It really is time — time for us, anyhow. It's a difficult thing when people have to leave. It's not a thing lightly done. I just think the direction (of the board) has changed from what I would like to move in. You either stay and try to change it or honestly move on. . . . I don't know how (FMB turmoil) affects other areas: I just know what it's done here. Traditionally we've worked in a partnership way with these people over here. We feel like that's not the future."

Deal has been mentioned as a possible candidate for directing Europe mission efforts of the "moderate" Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. But he said he hasn't been contacted by the fellowship and isn't interested in the job. The Deals are interested, however, in continuing to be missionaries in Europe.



SECRETARY LEADERS — Tennessee Baptist secretaries elected leaders during the church secretaries conference sponsored by the TBC's Discipleship Training Department April 13-15 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. From left, Doris Price, Liberty Grove Church, Jackson, Executive Committee, west; Pat McGill, South Harriman Church, Harriman, Executive Committee, east; Evelyn Benson, North Etowah Church, Etowah, secretary/treasurer; Cathy Williams, Hickory Hollow Chapel, Nashville, Executive Committee, middle; Linda Parsons, Calvary Church, Covington, vice president; and Sarah Farmer, North Johnson City Church, Johnson City, president.

Tennessee native James Currin dies

NORTHBOROUGH, Mass. (BP) — James H. Currin, executive director/treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New England and a Tennessee native, died of a heart attack at his home in Shrewsbury, Mass., April 10.

Currin, 64, had been executive of the convention, which includes six New England states, since Dec. 1, 1978.

The funeral was held April 14 at Rice Memorial Church in Northborough.

Significant growth in the BCNE marked Currin's 13 years as executive director. When he arrived in New England 65 churches and missions formed what was then the Baptist General Association of New England. By 1983 the association had grown to 115 congregations and Currin led in the formation of a state convention. There are now 198 churches and missions affiliated with the BCNE.

Under Currin's leadership, the BCNE led the Southern Baptist Convention in resident membership percentage increase during the decade of the '80s. While the percentage gain for the SBC was only 8.3 percent the BCNE saw a 135 percent gain.

Currin was active in denominational life, speaking often to state convention meetings and chairing committees for national boards and agencies. Most recently he was chairman of the state convention executive directors' task team to renegotiate the Cooperative Agreement between state conventions and the Home Mission Board.

Prior to his ministry in New England, Currin, was pastor of churches in Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana. He also served as state Sunday School director and state missions director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Currin is survived by his wife Margery, a son James Stephen of Shrewsbury, a daughter Connie Minniear of Scottsdale, Ariz., and six grandchildren.

The family has requested expressions of sympathy be given to the BCNE's New England Mission Fund. The fund is used for church loans, the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry, and campus ministry.

Nashville church helps secure funds for rare transplant

A Nashville Association church is rallying to meet the needs of 19-month-old Amanda Jo "Mandy" Moore.

Moore is the daughter of Steve and Kathy Moore, members of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville.

Mandy was born six weeks early and soon developed a severe intestinal disorder called necrotizing enterocolitis. As a result, she has had most of her intestines removed and has developed a serious liver disease. She is in urgent need of a liver and small intestine transplant. Medical experts say it is a highly complex and complicated procedure. The dual organ transplant normally takes 12 to 18 hours, compared to five to ten hours for a liver transplant.



MOORE

To get on the donor list for the

rare transplant procedure, the Moores need \$600,000. Though the surgery has been performed 11 times successfully at the University of Pittsburgh (Pa.) Hospital, the Moore's insurance company will not pay for the procedure because it is still considered to be experimental.

Helping the Moores secure financing for the operation is where members of Brook Hollow Church have tried to bridge the gap, said Pastor Pierce McIntyre.

The church members have basically said "we want to help the family anyway we can," Moore said, admitting the church has abandoned traditional Southern Baptist practices.

Though fund raising in churches is normally considered taboo, church members have sponsored various fund-raising projects. "The fund-raising is not for the church; it is for the Moore family," McIntyre stressed.

McIntyre also has written a letter which will be mailed to every pastor and church in the state.

McIntyre appeals to Tennessee

Baptist pastors to help the Moores in their attempt to raise funds for the operation.

"You and your church can help by allowing individuals to financially contribute \$1 or more to help this child," McIntyre writes in the letter.

Noting the secular community has shown overwhelming support, McIntyre said he would like to see "God's people at the forefront of this endeavor."

The Nashville pastor said donations could be sent to Brook Hollow Church, designated for Mandy Moore. Donations are tax deductible, he added.

The Moores presently have about \$170,000 raised. They have also been assisted by their home church in White Plains, Ky.

McIntyre stressed time is of the essence. "Mandy's condition has worsened in the last few weeks," he said.

Individuals wishing to contribute may send their designated donations to Brook Hollow Church, 678 Brook Hollow Road, Nashville, Tenn. 37205.

— Lonnie Wilkey

Our Readers Write

Likes Tennesseans

Greetings from Temuco, Chile! What a joy it has been for our family to begin to get to know some of you who have made trips to Chile so far. We know that it will be such a blessing for us over the next few years as we work along side of you in many partnership projects.

As parents of four MKs (Missionary Kids), we are especially thankful for the special groups that have come thus far to work with our children during mission meetings. The Vacation Bible Schools, taught to them in English, are so special as it is the only formal English Bible study that they get. Even more special, however, is the love that the children receive from you.

Just the other night our six-year-old, Travis, was praying at bedtime when he opened his eyes and said, "Mommy, do you know what someone from Tennessee told me?" I asked what, and he continued, "They told me that the trees in Tennessee change colors ... do they really, Mommy!?!?"

Trees in south Chile don't get a chance to turn before it gets cold. This is just a small example of how special you are to us in Chile.

Thank you all for working with us here in Chile — for your prayer support and your physical presence too. We also promise to pray for you back in Tennessee. We appreciate you!

Mike and Annette Racey
Jeremy, Joshua, Travis, and Alicia
Casilla 50-D
Temuco, Chile

Exhibiting questioned

It has been reported in news media that several SBC agencies and institutions have been persuaded not to have exhibits at the upcoming Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Dallas.

The reports indicate such persuasion came from Morris Chapman, president-elect, SBC Executive Committee; James Draper, Sunday School Board president; and David Hankins, Executive Committee chairman.

Can I be assured they will act in fairness and openness to all Baptists — and bar Criswell College, Mid-America Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary among others from the exhibit area at the SBC meeting in Indianapolis?

Since CBF members do not "support" SBC work (check our records), or use Sunday School Board materials (check the forms), will the same rationale be applied to the competing institutions above, which could not survive if Southern Baptist dollars were not diverted to their use?

If politically "correct," a church can give 3.6 percent through the Cooperative Program and be a great convention church. A church giving four and a half

times that percentage (which ours did until a year ago), but politically "incorrect," is not a good Southern Baptist church.

How biased and unfair! Perhaps the last four years have only given a direction. Is the worst yet to come?

Howard G. Olive, pastor
Monte Vista Church
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd.
Maryville 37801

More regret

Recently I noticed in a local church bulletin that a crisis still exists in the SBC. I thought this was fairly concluded by retiring, dismissing, or replacing most of the hard core "liberal" element.

The bulletin noted the SBC in Indianapolis and acceptance of volunteer delegates who desired to attend. Much stronger emphasis was directed toward the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Fort Worth. Makes us wonder what's new in '92 with the CBF?

It's regrettable the same disturbed, disgruntled, and dissident "liberal" element does not return to the SBC democratic process rather than pursuing the course of confusing and disrupting the SBC and agencies. More regretful is damage they're doing to SBC and their own churches.

While they're bent on disrupting, demeaning, and ridiculing the SBC, the "conservative"-led churches and their leaders continue to teach, preach, energize, evangelize, baptize, and grow.

It's hard for a jealous loser to face factual reality.

W. T. Barner
3655 Rhodes #4
Memphis 38111

God's leading Spirit

I began observing the SBC movement about ten years ago when I read in the

May 1-2

TBC conference provides help for language leadership

The "event of the year" for the Tennessee Baptist Convention language work is the annual Language Leadership Conference May 1-2, announced Terry Sharp, Missions Department associate.

Language pastors and their wives, others leading language groups, and interpreters for the deaf are encouraged to attend the event. It will be held at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Training for language pastors will include "Growing a Church Through Pastoral Ministry" and "Growing a Giving Church." The wives of language pastors will tour Belmont University

State recreation ministers hold annual retreat

"Strengthening Your Grip Through Personal Growth." Leaders for the meeting are Phillip Coyle, professor of counseling, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and Larry Yarborough, senior manager of training and development, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The retreat is sponsored by the church recreation office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Registration for the retreat is \$15. Fee does not include lodging. For information, contact the TBC church recreation office at (615) 371-2033.

For lodging information and costs, contact KenLake Resort State Park at (800) 325-0143.



COYLE



YARBOROUGH

The annual Tennessee Baptist Recreators Retreat will be held May 11-13 at KenLake Resort State Park in Hardin, Ky.

The theme of the conference is

Baptist and Reflector that a Texas politician and his Baptist partner were going over the convention drumming up votes for their candidate for SBC president. They were "exposing" as "liberal" those who refused to support them.

The "modern" way for the Holy Spirit to lead messengers whom to vote for came into existence then.

I have observed many Christians who have spent years serving God in the convention "exposed" as "liberals" and their efforts destroyed. I have read about hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent to pay committees and trustees to get together to "expose" and fire these Christian professionals.

Retirements and resignations became rampant for two or three years in the HMB. Exposure? Now Dr. Keith Parks (FMB) and other FMB people are retiring because of the same intimidation.

It seems to me the "exposing" is a resurgence of religious persecution of those who refuse thought control. We really need to "expose" the Gospel of Christ by our lifestyle and not just by words — and get away from hate campaigns that hurt the church. It is God's business to lead people by the Holy Spirit — and not by the power of men.

John H. Baskette
1055 Engel Ave.
Chattanooga 37421

Retirement benefits

A couple of weeks ago, the paper published a letter to the editor concerning salaries and retirement benefits of our convention leaders. The comments at the end of the letter concern me. Why would the Executive Committee have information not ordinarily known to others? There should be no privileged information. All information should be available to anyone in our convention. Also, maybe our Executive Committee should take a second look at "standard" procedure in retirement benefits. Is a

Lincoln Town car the standard for all convention leaders who retire? Why not consider an automobile that costs less?

I, too, hope our Executive Committee takes into account their wise use of money given by churches.

Charles Halliburton, pastor
Finley Church
P.O. Box 89
Finley 38030

Light, darkness

Thanks for excellent reporting in the Baptist and Reflector, and letting people speak what's on their mind in the letter section.

I read all the letters. However, there have been many letters that are for or against Masonry. Albert Pike, the highest Mason in the U.S. in his day wrote in his book, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, this: "Lucifer, the Light bearer. Strange and mysterious name to give to the Spirit of Darkness. Lucifer, the Son of the morning. Is it he who bears the Light, and with its splendors intolerable blinds feeble, sensual, or selfish Souls? Doubt it not. For traditions are full of Divine Revelations and Inspirations: and Inspiration is not of one Age nor one Creed."

He mentions in a speech at a council of high level Freemasons: "The Masonic religion should be, by all of us initiates of the high degree, maintained in the purity of the Luciferian doctrine. Yes, Lucifer is God, and unfortunately Adonai is also God. Thus, the doctrine of Satanism is a heresy; and the true and pure philosophical religion is the belief in Lucifer, the equal of Adonai; but Lucifer, God of Light and God of Good, is struggling for humanity against Adonai, the God of Darkness and Evil."

Paul E. Oliver, M. G. (Ret.)
Rt. 7
Elizabethton 37643

and discuss affordable clothing.

Leaders of the International Friends organization and teachers of conversational English classes may attend sessions on "Idioms ...," "Crossing Cultural Barriers, Ministering to Ethnics," and "Witnessing Cross-Culturally — Interfaith Witness."

Help for sponsors of language groups will include education on "Contextual Sponsorship." Interpreters to deaf people may attend the following classes,

"Communicating Religious Terms" and "Vocabulary Development."

Once again this year the Friday evening session will include a "Festival of Praise."

The conference begins at 1 p.m. on Friday and ends after lunch the following day. Financial help is available to those wishing to attend.

Those wishing to make reservations or gain more information should contact Terry Sharp at (615) 371-2032.

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership — April



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

24 — A medical team of 13 volunteers, led by William Skinner of Nashville, who leave today for Concepcion.

25 — Dr. and Mrs. Robert Mayfield and Dr. and Mrs. Cranston Moses from Crossville who begin their medical ministry today in Concepcion.

26 — Dr. and Mrs. Merrill Allen Winchester and daughter, Susan; and Pastor Phil Majors, all from Kentucky, who are serving with the Tennessee medical team this week in Concepcion.

27 — Medical volunteers in Concepcion — Ed Walker, Mountain City, and Mike Lett and Teresa Davis, both from Athens.

28 — Medical team leader Bill Skinner and his wife, Frances, today as they are at mid-point of their Chilean assignment.

29 — Missionary Susan Andrews asks us to pray for new believers Jorge and Minica Espinoza.

30 — First Baptist Church of Santiago asks Tennessee Baptists to join them in praying for wisdom as they explore and plan for the appropriate use of their new church property adjoining their church.

Churches can initiate change in environmental crisis

By Susan Todd Doyle

NASHVILLE (BP) — Churches are going to have to do more than just observe "Earth Day" April 23 if they truly want to make a difference in the environmental crisis, according to a Southern Baptist ethicist.

They must be willing to embrace a new "environmental" ethic.

"Too many Christians have studied the Bible for too many years without ever learning about the message of earth-keeping," said Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for

Ethics. "We have simply missed it. Or perhaps we have heard it but chosen to ignore it. Our failure mandates a return to the Bible with open eyes for the ancient word about a modern-day problem."

Parham describes today's environmental crisis in detail in his recently released book, *Loving Neighbors Across Time: A Christian Guide to Protecting the Earth*, Published by New Hope Press.

The issue of earth-keeping, Parham said, is evident in Scripture. "The

Bible speaks about guarding the garden, letting the land rest, preserving fruit trees, protecting hens, knowing that the creation belongs to the Creator, celebrating the beauty of God's created order, and recognizing that human sinfulness causes the earth's suffering," he said. "These and other broad themes flow through the Scriptures."

The church's task, he said, is to not only identify these themes and teach them but to lead the Christian community to apply them.

All too often, churches are not willing to recognize problems caused by social issues, much less to act on them, he said.

"Unfortunately, the discipline of Christian ethics frequently ends where concrete action ought to begin," Parham said.

The environmental issue is one issue in which the "Christian community has been largely silent," he said. But it is one issue in which the Christian community should be involved, he asserts.

Examples of the environmental crisis reviewed in Parham's book include:

- The nation's garbage glut has filled the nation's landfills. More than 66 percent of landfills have been closed since 1970. A significant portion of those remaining will be closed in the next several years.

- The average American family of three tosses away 87.5 pounds of trash every week.

- Compared to other nations, the United States stands as "king" of the garbage mountain. Individually, Americans generate more garbage than citizens of every other nation.

- Scientific evidence points toward a global warming trend. Six of the warmest years in recorded history have occurred during recent years: 1981, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990.

- In 1987 America's industries released 2.7 billion pounds of airborne toxic chemicals, including 235 million pounds of carcinogens, known cancer-causing agents.

"We cannot all address every issue," Parham said. "But we can target some issues and take some initiatives."

Parham suggested three things which churches can do to make a difference in the environment: Re-think the issue, reform community life using its purchasing power and influence in the marketplace, and tackle public policy regarding the environment.

"Reformed congregations act as yeast in dough," he said. "Their influence spreads slowly, changing society as it moves."

Parham's book is available from Baptist Book Stores.

Inerrancy standards proposed for Romanian seminaries

BUCHAREST, Romania (BP) — A proposal to require teachers to accept the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy or be fired has been rejected by the president and a majority of the faculty of the Baptist Theological Institute in Bucharest, Romania.

The proposal, presented by Romanian pastor Josef Ton, asks the Romanian Baptist Union's general council to require professors teaching at both the Bucharest institute and the Baptist Bible Institute in Oradea to agree with the inerrancy statement or be fired.

Ton heads the Oradea school, which is owned and operated by Second Baptist Church in Oradea, where he is pastor. He teaches at both schools and is chairman of the union's committee on education. The Bucharest school is operated by the Romanian Baptist Union, but the Southern Baptist

Foreign Mission Board owns the property.

Ton asked Vasile Talpos, president of the Baptist Theological Institute in Bucharest, to join him in signing the proposal. It is now circulating among Romanian Baptists bearing the typed names of both men.

But Talpos has refused to sign it. He and most of the seven faculty members at the Bucharest school have rejected Ton's proposal in principle although it has not been presented officially to the faculties of the two schools. At least one of seven teachers at the Oradea school — Otniel Bunaciu — also has refused to sign.

The three Southern Baptist missionary teachers at the Bucharest school are Charles "T" Thomas, Bill Richardson, and Gerald Milligan.

Thomas, who has resigned effective

May 1 and will leave Romania in late April, said he would refuse to sign the statement. Instead, he signed the Romanian Baptist confession of faith and nailed it to his classroom door.

Richardson told Baptist Press the matter should be worked out among Romanians. "If it should be presented officially, I'll consider it at that time," he said.

Milligan told European Baptist Press Service. "I would really have to look at (it) and pray a long time before I would sign any creedal statement, especially the Chicago statement, which I haven't seen as yet."

In recent months Ton has criticized European Baptists and "moderate" Southern Baptists as "liberals." He sent a letter to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees congratulating them for defunding the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, last fall. Thomas resigned in protest of the defunding.

Talpos told European Baptist Press Service he does not intend to back Ton's proposal because he and others who teach at the school believe the present Romanian Baptist confession of faith is adequate. He said any changes in that should be made only by Romanian Baptists in their next general congress in 1995.

But one Romanian Baptist leader familiar with the situation predicted Ton will persist in seeking approval for his proposal with the union's general council, which has some 50 members.

North Carolina association plans vote on Pullen Memorial Church

By Art Toalston

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — The 110-congregation Raleigh Association has scheduled a special vote May 5 on withdrawing fellowship from Pullen Memorial Church for approving a marriage-like ceremony for two homosexual men.

The association's executive committee in a proposed resolution states Pullen "has acted contrary to the accepted Biblical teaching regarding homosexual behavior" while "the Biblical model for confrontation with the Christian fellowship (Matthew 18:15-17) has been followed as nearly as possible and yet without the desired results."

In the May 5 meeting, the association's executive committee also will ask church messengers, or representatives, to approve a statement on

Annuity Board decides against CBF exhibit

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board confirmed April 16 it has decided not to exhibit at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, April 29-May 2.

The Annuity Board joins seven other SBC agencies who changed their plans.

Tom Miller, Annuity Board senior vice president for public relations, said there will be no official representative of the Annuity Board at the Resource Fair of the general assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"We will have select personnel present as observers, not as participants, just as we did last year in Atlanta at the CBF," Miller said.

He declined to discuss reasons for the late change in decision.

human sexuality. The committee has released a statement of its own on Baptist heritage involving autonomy of local congregations.

Mahan Siler, Pullen Memorial's pastor, did not return calls from Baptist Press for comment on the special meeting. The Raleigh church has received national attention for approving and performing a "same-gender union" of two homosexual men in March.

Charles L. McMillan Jr., Raleigh Baptist Association director of missions since 1978, told Baptist Press, "The issue is so important not only for churches in the association but all over the Southern Baptist Convention that we feel compelled not only to take a vote (on continued fellowship with Pullen) but also to issue a positive confessional statement about the Christian expression of human sexuality, not just the negative part of homosexuality."

"It's important for the unchurched public as well as Baptists to know there is a Biblical norm," McMillan said, describing the statement proposed by the association's executive committee as "a stab at saying what an appropriate understanding of human sexuality is from a Christian viewpoint."

On the proposed statement about church autonomy, McMillan said the association does not have a creed in its constitution but is "more confessional in nature. We have endeavored to state what we believe and to encourage member churches to participate on the basis of their willingness to be a part of that same belief system. We're a family of churches but it's a family based on mutual belief and ministries."



BIBLE READERS — Several church leaders from Middle Tennessee participated in a service of Bible reading, prayer, and singing April 5 on the steps of the Capitol in Nashville. Tennessee was the last stop for this special Bible reading celebration. The two Bibles read that day have been read in every Baptist state convention since last October. The April 5 service was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department. From left, front row, Ngoc Ho, Vietnamese Mission, Immanuel Church, Nashville; Charles McMinn, Nashville Association; Martha Couch, TBC; Jennifer Wilkins, Concord Church, Brentwood; back row, Charles Bridger, Baptist Sunday School Board; Greer Ruble, TBC; Jimmy Terry, Tabernacle Missionary Church, Clarksville; Ralph Carroll, Concord Church; Julian Suggs, TBC; and Jim Freedman, Nashville Association.

Belmont BSU members help mend 'broken wings'

NASHVILLE — On a Saturday morning, five-year-old Jessica runs into the family room calling, "Mommy, the college kids are here." The regular visit from members of Belmont University's Baptist Student Union is anticipated by the residents of Broken Wings, a home for would-be homeless Nashvillians that the Belmont BSU students have taken on as a mission project.

It doesn't take long for Stephen Dean of First Church, Franklin, and Vickie Patterson of First Church, Columbia, to get busy with all the work needed to repair the one-time nursing home.

Dean, a junior, and David Elliott, a senior, from Park Avenue Church, Nashville, learned about Broken Wings through a Friday night street ministry where they distribute food, clothing, and blankets to the homeless. Now they also work with Ron and Shannon Johnson, the couple that oversees Broken Wings. Every other Saturday they paint, hammer, clean, or do whatever big jobs need to be done. "Basically, they take a lot of the load off Ronnie and me," says Shannon Johnson.

Elliott, with an interest in ministering to homeless people, says situations of the homeless are "not always typical of what is thought of as homeless." There are a lot of families, a lot of children. Agreeing the Broken Wings ministry is "an excellent ministry opportunity," Dean says fellow BSU members see needs, know they can do the work, and at the same time minister to people.

Elliott says "churches get caught up

in themselves, ministering to their own body." The responsibility of meeting the needs of God's body has shifted to the government, which is unable to provide all the basics. The Belmont students base their philosophy of ministry on the New Testament church, Dean says. He points out that the first century brother who needed something could reach out to the brother who had.

A display hangs in the Christian

Rogersville church molds youth into leaders

Ever since the jitterbug was the rage and television was a novelty, Persia Church, Rogersville, has been molding youth into leaders during its Youth Week.

Since 1950, the congregation has relinquished leadership for a week. Once again this year March 29-April 5 youth ministers, teachers, and ushers tried out leadership. And once again Ruth Turner, who started the program at the church, was proud.

"It gives them a chance to have an experience in the different organizations of the church," said Turner. "It makes them more sympathetic to those who carry out those responsibilities too."

"I never did have anyone to say no," she said, referring to the 27 years she directed it. "They don't now. They go ahead and try," she added. "And they're serious about it."

Turner is especially proud of the former youth pastors. Forty-two years ago she began the process of keeping

records on each. Eight of the 42 have chosen the ministry as their career, she reported.

"We (the congregation) go in big for it," she explained as she described the activities. All of the former youth pastors are contacted each year. About ten returned for Youth Week 1992, she reported.

Also, photos dating back to the first Youth Week are posted in the sanctuary. And a reproduction of a key, a memento of leadership, is presented to those assuming top positions, said Turner. An event to showcase the talents of teens also is held.

Preparation for Youth Week requires a lot of work, reported John "Rip" Noble, pastor. However, that work enables the youth to assume more responsibilities, he explained.

About 50 teenagers will assume positions of pastor, assistant pastor, minister of education, music director, chairman of deacons, Sunday School director, Discipleship Training direc-

tor, teachers, ushers, and others. Johnnie Hall Jr., Discipleship Training director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, reported the program began in 1938, but Persia Church has held Youth Week longer than any other Tennessee church.

One result of the emphasis — eight ministers — is a "tremendous" outcome for a small church, noted Hall. Persia Church has an average attendance of 200 in Sunday School.

Turner said she suggested the first program after reading about it in a publication. After the first Youth Week, "each pastor has just expected me to do it."

Although 77 years old, she is still active. Turner teaches a Sunday School class for adults with handicaps. But she especially enjoys Youth Week. Two of her sons have served as youth pastor and this year a grandson was assistant pastor.

"It's been a wonderful thing for our church," said Turner. — *Connie Davis*

RA Congress provides fun, missions education

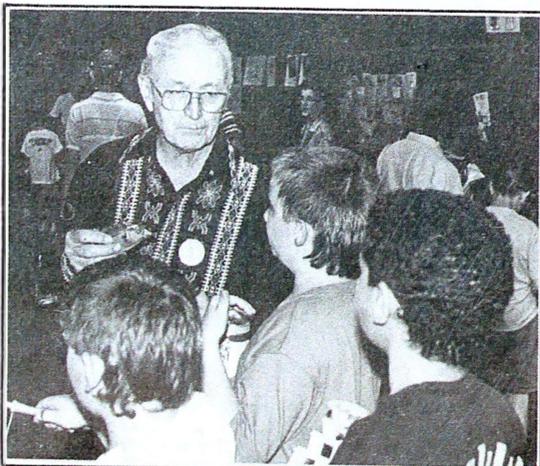
LORI VINSON paints the face of Matthew Cheek of Cross Creek Church, Indian Mound, during the missions carnival.



About 1500 boys registered for the 38th annual Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress held April 17-18 in Jackson. Boys had the opportunity to meet retired and current home and foreign missionaries and attend conferences. A new facet at the Congress was a missions carnival which provided games and activities for the boys with proceeds going for missions. During the two-day event, the RAs collected \$2916 for missions.



VIEWING AN EXHIBIT from Brazil are, from left, David Maddox, Aaron Kennedy, and Nathan Washburn from First Church, Martin.



RETIRED MISSIONARY Bill Skinner tells RAs about Paraguay where he served for 38 years.



AFTER A LONG DAY these RAs and a leader from First Church, Dickson, needed a rest. From left, Scott Kerr and Joshua, Joseph, and Jimmy Drake.



TAKING A PIE in the face for missions is counselor Donald Dugger from Second Church, Union City. RA Adam Byars had the honor since he collected the most money for the privilege. All proceeds went to missions.

Acteens — 1740 — converge on Nashville

NASHVILLE — Spring break is the time for teenaged girls to develop their tans ... not true! The largest number of Acteens and their leaders in 21 years — 1740 — gathered for the annual Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Acteens Summit at Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

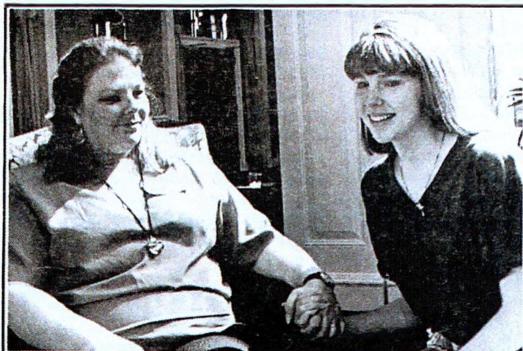
A record-breaking number of Tennessee Activators were commissioned to "light their world," the summit theme, through mission duty. After a procession and commitment liturgy voiced by the 190 Activators and their leaders in a ballroom of the hotel, the crowd showed their appreciation by bursting into applause. The Activators will make up 21 teams who will go to ten states and one foreign country.

One Activator, Heather Denton, First Church, Bolivar, reporting on her experience last year in Uruguay, said, "I was so scared before meeting Uruguayan Christians. But when we went in (to a Baptist church) they kissed us ...," she said, explaining it is a custom there. "I realized they're Christians just like we are and there are Christians just like them all over the world."

Also recognized during the meeting were those earning top advancement honors from across the state. Those earning Citation awards were Carey Woods, First Church, Lexington; Kelli Cameron and Ellen Richardson, both members of First Church, Memphis, and Jennifer Coble and Sharon Patton, both from Mount Olive Church, South, Knoxville.

Bible study leader Nick Foster, minister of students, First Church, Knoxville, asked the teens to be light and salt in their worlds.

"Go out into the darkness then and change it. Change the darkness to light." — *Connie Davis*



◀ **NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE** — Duffy Walls, right, who sits with her counselor/mother, Debi Camp, was recognized during summit because she is a 1992 National Acteens Panelist. Walls is a member of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville. — Photos by Connie Davis



ONE OF FIVE — Jennifer Coble of Mount Olive Church, South, Knoxville, tells during a general session about earning the top level of Acteens advancement, Citation.



MORE THAN PLACES ON A MAP — Dora Saul, left, State Acteens Panelist Alternate from First Church, Collierville, and her sponsor, Judi Watson, explain the "Pray Around the World" program.



PEER LEADERS — The summit was led by State Acteens Panelists, from left, first row, Sarah Rushing, Shiloh Church, Kingston; second row, Carrie-Ann Segraves, First Church, Huntingdon, and Sharon Patton, Mount Olive Church, South, Knoxville; third row, Kelly Hamilton, Salem Church, Knoxville, Meredith Crabtree, First Church, Cookeville, and Heather Denton, First Church, Bolivar.

Springtown celebration

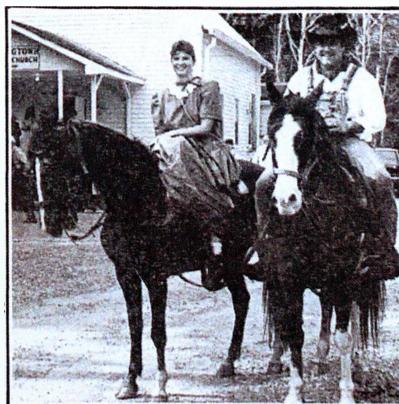
ONCE A SCHOOLMA'AM — Mrs. Josephine Lindner, 92, the church's oldest member taught school many years at Springtown School which was adjacent to the church. Pastor Bobby Rymer and his wife Patricia stand with her.



A DIFFERENT RIDE — Making the best of "good old days," Laverne Shadden and Mark Perrian ride to church on horses, a reminder of the church's 125th anniversary.



FROM OLDEN DAYS — Springtown Church, near Reliance, celebrated its 125th anniversary April 12. The church has minutes from about 1844, but was recognized in 1867. The first name was United Baptist Church of Christ of Springtown. The anniversary celebration featured singing and testimonies of current and former members, and dinner on the grounds. Springtown members and friends dressed "old fashioned." Polk County Association director of missions W. L. Shipman presented a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. Representing the Tennessee Baptist Convention was Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor.



Historic Nashville church celebrates past, looks to future

Members of Edgefield Church, Nashville, celebrated 125 years of heritage April 11-12 with a series of weekend activities.

The church held a reception on April 11 honoring the church's four living former pastors — W. C. Kirk (1947-51), J. T. Spurlin (1951-57), Roy W. Babb (1957-79), and James H. Powers (1980-85).

Pastor Thomas E. Dumser delivered the morning message on April 12 preceding a covered dish luncheon and a special afternoon service.

Members were provided copies of a historical booklet, detailing the history of the church, located in the historic Edgefield community of Nashville.

Edgefield has a storied past. It was the first Baptist church east of the Cumberland River in Nashville. The church is the mother congregation to three current Nashville churches — Lockeland, Shelby Avenue, and Woodcock Memorial.

The church was organized on April 7, 1867 when 20 members of First Church, Nashville, withdrew their memberships for the purpose of beginning a church in the Edgefield community.

The church first met at what is now the corner of 5th and Woodland Streets. In 1903, the church purchased property at its present location on the corner of Seventh and Russell Streets and constructed its building in 1906.

Through the years, the church has survived a fire which damaged the surrounding area and a tornado.

Pastor Dumser noted that there is a great need for historic, older churches to adjust and meet the needs of a changing community. Dumser observed in the historical booklet that Edgefield once "was the showplace of Nashville." Now, he observed, Edge-

field is part of the inner city. "Turbulent social change has rocked the inner city and our community has been in transition for more than 40 years," he wrote.

Dumser concluded that "our heritage demands that we make our church accessible to our neighbors through creative and innovative evangelism, worship, discipleship, and fellowship."

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Shelby County Association did a bold thing a few days ago. In cooperation with the Brotherhood Commission and our Brotherhood Department, they launched 14 new Brotherhood units in one night. They are utilizing the good Biblical principle of the strong helping the weak. Churches that have Brotherhood work are helping those that do not. I commend John McBride and the Shelby County folks for this bold step.

This principle will work in many things. Churches with strong Sunday Schools could help smaller churches. Those with good Discipleship Training programs, or WMU, or music programs could offer assistance to the smaller churches.

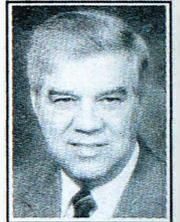
Smaller churches help larger churches all of the time. Most larger churches are made up of people who came to Christ in smaller churches, but who moved to a larger church. The larger

church can give something back to those churches. Many of them need help. The larger church needs the experience of helping. Churches have a tendency to become selfish just like individuals.

One way the larger church does help is through strong participation in the local association.

The presence of leaders from the larger churches is a great encouragement to those from struggling churches. Their financial support can also make the difference between a strong association and a weak one.

The churches in Shelby County are setting a good example. Who will follow in their steps?



LOWRIE



RECEPTION GUESTS — Former pastors James H. Powers, center, and Roy W. Babb, right, were guests at a reception held in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of Edgefield Church, Nashville. They were welcomed by Pastor Thomas E. Dumser, left. Powers is now director of missions for Concord Association, based in Murfreesboro.

FREE SEMINAR

Introduction to Estate Planning

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9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 7
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Jack C. Massey Business Center, Board Room
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Learn:

- How to maximize benefits for your loved ones
- How to maximize your retirement benefits
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- Legalities of wills, including intestate statutes, powers of attorney, and tax laws concerning wills and gifts

Reservations/information call:

Office of Planned Giving
(615) 385-6435 by May 5

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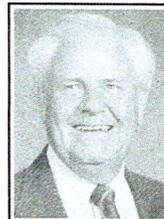
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"Make Me A Blessing . . . Now!"

A conference for senior adults

May 19-21

Featuring:



JIM DORRIETY
"Minister of Humor"

Conference leaders include:

Cordell Maddox	R. R. Turner
Frank Ingraham	J. L. Ford
Dorothy Scott	Johnnie Hall
Tippie Pollard	Tom Madden
Kitty Coffey	Dan Holbrook
Don Mauldin	Bruce Coyle

Bible study will be led by
TBC President Ron Phillips

Cost of the conference, including registration, banquet, meals, and lodging is only \$50. Lodging is provided in air-conditioned dormitories. Non-Residents may attend at a cost of \$40 which includes — registration, banquet, and meals. Reservations are needed by May 12. For additional information, call Tom Madden at CNC at (615) 471-3245.

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TenneScene

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

Education . . .

Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, will speak at the West Tennessee Pastors' Conference May 5 at Union University, Jackson. Music will be provided by David Hatfield, minister of music at First Church, Dyer. Pastors will gather at 10 a.m. in the foyer adjacent to the university's chapel and the program, sponsored by Shelby County and Hardeman associations, will begin at 10:45 a.m. in room D-3. The Ministers' Wives Fellowship will meet at 10:30 a.m.

Leadership . . .

Rick Keith is serving as youth minister at Midway Church, Johnson City.

Boones Creek Church, Gray, called Billy Duncan as music director.

Terry Jones has been called as minister of youth to Southside Church, Johnson City.

Macedonia Church, Cleveland, called Floyd Gill as interim pastor.

J. C. Hatfield, minister to married adults at First Church, Jackson, recently announced his retirement, effective Sept. 1. Hatfield served in religious education for 40 years, and served as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board and the Sunday School Board. He will be available as a consultant to churches planning growth campaigns, building programs, and leadership banquets after Sept. 1.

Thomas L. Baines is now serving as pastor of Bethany Church, Loudon. Baines was formerly pastor of Calvary Church, Smithville; Mt. Hermon Church, Murfreesboro, and Trinity Church, Lebanon. The Lebanon native has received degrees from Middle Tennessee State University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Churches . . .

Members of First Church, Middleton, dedicated a new building March 22. Former pastors Joe Littlefield and Bill Whitman were guest speakers.

A groundbreaking service for a new educational building was held March 29 at Denton Church, Cosby.

Homecoming will be May 17 at Piney Grove Church, Del Rio.

A note-burning ceremony was held April 5 at Raleigh Church, Memphis, to celebrate payment of the debt on the family life center. The building was dedicated April 5, 1981.

Gerald Martin will preach at homecoming services April 26 at Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

A four-day centennial celebration will be held April 22-24 and April 26 at First Church, Dickson. Wednesday will feature special music by the choral group The Beautiful Life and a devotional by John Laida. Highlights of Thursday night will include former pastor Carter Elmore speaking, a time for renewal of wedding vows by couples who were married at First

Church, and special music by former ministers of music. Former pastor Lawrence Martin will speak and former ministers of music will perform Friday, and Sunday will bring more special music, a fellowship dinner at noon, and a meeting of church members at the original church site for prayer and praise.

Revivals . . .

Rick Ingle will be guest evangelist for revival April 26-29 at Meridian Church, Knoxville.

Salem Association reported the following churches have revivals scheduled for the coming weeks: Woodland Church, Woodbury, April 26-29, Bobby Zumbro; New Hope Church, Smithville, April 26-29, John Evans; and Covenant Church, Smithville, May 10-15, Thurman Seber.

Revival will be April 26-29 at White Oak Church, Chattanooga. D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director-treasurer, will be guest evangelist. Julian Suggs, TBC Church Music Department director, will lead music.

First Church, Monterey, will hold revival April 26-30 led by Phil Glisson, Memphis.

Frank Samuels will lead revival April 26-29 at First Church, Dyersburg.

Fred Wood will be evangelist April 26-29 during revival at First Church, Martin.

Spring revival will be April 26-29 at South Gate Church, Antioch. Curt Bradford will be guest speaker.

Frank Crumpler, pastor of Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, will lead revival April 26-29 at First Church, Rockwood.

First Church, Clarksville, will hold the third annual Here's Hope Crusade April 26-29 with evangelist Rick Ousley and music director John Shillington.

Russ Stephens, pastor of Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet, will lead revival April 26-29 at Madison Heights Church, Madison.

Q. T. Curtis, Mobile, Ala., will lead revival April 26-May 1 at Mt. Gilead Church, Bethel Springs.

Ray Newcomb will lead spring revival April 26-May 1 at Highland Heights Church, Memphis. Ron Alley, Nashville, will lead music.

Cross Creek Church, Indian Mound, will hold revival services April 26-May 1 with evangelist Henry Freeman, Runnelstown, Miss.

Revival will begin April 29 at Unaka Avenue Church, Johnson City. Revival leaders will be Grant L. Jones, Mike Lester, Virgil Peters, Chester Parker, and William Saylor. Services will conclude with homecoming and a 30-year anniversary celebration May 3.

Riverview Church, Newport, will hold revival April 29-May 3.

Mike Winter, Harriman, will be evangelist for revival beginning April 26 at Swannsylvania Church, Dandridge.

The following churches in Hardeman County Association have revivals scheduled in the upcoming weeks: Ebenezer Church, Toone, May 8-10, youth revival team from Union University, Jackson; Essary Springs Church, Pochontas, April 20-24, Jim Branscum; Hornsby Church, Hornsby, April 26-29, Ken Story; and Midway Church, Whiteville, May 3-8, Tim West.

Bill Sauer, pastor of Willeo Church, Roswell, Ga., will be guest evangelist for revival April 26-29 at Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah. Sauer's wife, Melanie, will be guest soloist, and Susan Ellis, minister of music, will direct music.

Missions . . .

Ron Herrod, pastor of Central Church, Oak Ridge, recently traveled to India on a mission trip. While in India, Herrod preached in Bombay; Agra; a leper colony at Feridabad; and at a Bible conference, graduation of 30 preachers, and evangelistic crusade in Kota.

Donna Mae Bobby, missionary to Chile, is in Tennessee on furlough. Bobby was born in Nashville and lived in Old Hickory and Hermitage Hills. To correspond with her, write to 5020 Bonnameade Drive, Hermitage, Tenn., 37076.

Missionaries to Brazil Ken and Ginger Collier are on their field of service. Collier was born in Kingsport and considers Nashville his hometown. The couple may be addressed at Rua Paschoal Delmaestro, # Jardim Camburi, 29.090 Vitoria, ES, Brazil.

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Jeff and Regina Palmer, Tennesseans now serving their first term as missionaries to the Philippines, are involved in some unusual mission work.

They are part of the agricultural ministry begun by Harold and Joyce Watson on the southern island of Mindanao. The Rural Life Center they established there is flourishing, and blesses people from several nations in the Far East.

The RLC has been awarded many times for service to families and areas blighted by poor crops and lack of "know-how" in getting the best use of available farmland.



ALLEN

As you would expect, spiritual ministry goes with farming. The Baptists include outreach in everything they do. A recent letter from the Palmers underscores the reality.

One morning Jeff met Ben, a new Christian, on the path. He was running and very tired. Ben explained quickly that a friend was extremely sick, a

friend to whom Ben had been witnessing.

Jeff, at Ben's request, went with him to the friend's home to share the Bible. The man was dying, and his brother said he had been sick for three years and probably didn't even know they were there.

To their surprise, the sick man opened his eyes and said, "I want to be a Christian." Jeff asked him if he knew what that meant. Yes, said the sick man, "Ben told me and I want to trust Jesus as my Savior."

Jeff asked Ben to lead the man in a prayer to trust Jesus for his salvation. Ben said he didn't know how, but Jeff told him to remember how he personally had received Jesus. Ben responded by leading the man in a beautiful prayer of confession and repentance.

Later that night, San Miguel Church members rejoiced and began praying for the man's family. When Jeff and Ben stopped by after church, they learned that Ben's friend had died. Someone brought the congregation to the house where they held a service right then.

"I was so proud of Ben," Jeff says. "He hadn't been a Christian that long and he did something that many Christians with greater Bible knowledge and education never have courage to do. Ben gave the gift of life to a dying man."



TURNER HONORED — Jeannette Thomas, left, assistant Woman's Missionary Union director for Knox County Association, presents a \$2000 check to Doris June Large, center, Second Century Fund consultant for Tennessee WMU. The gift was presented in honor of Bobby Turner, right, outgoing WMU director for Knox County Baptists. The Second Century Fund was established in 1988 in commemoration of the 100th birthday of WMU. The purpose is to give missions-minded women an opportunity to financially participate in missions through wills and other gifts. The income will be used solely for missions needs, not administrative costs.

FMB trustees appoint four missionaries from Tennessee

RICHMOND — Four people with Tennessee ties were among 38 named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 7 at Clemson (S.C.) University.

Ricky (Rick) and Cynthia Epperson Jenkins of Cleveland will live in Mexico where he will work with students and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Home Mission Board appoints Tennesseans

Tennessee natives Eddie and Kathy Miller have been appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in March.

Appointed to serve as director of missions in Reno, Nev., Miller is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

A native of Morristown, Miller has served as pastor in Tennessee, Illinois, and Texas. While in Nevada, Miller will work for Sierra Association where he will develop an associational mission strategy.

A native of Jefferson City, Mrs. Miller will work in family and church service as secretary for the association in Nevada.

youth at First Church, Cleveland. The Jenkinses are the fourth couple in four years to join the overseas mission force from the Cleveland church. In 1991, Allan and Andrea Duncan came from the church to work in South Africa; in 1990, Mike and Debbie Murphy went to Malawi; and in 1989, Bill and Gincy May left First Church to work in Benin.

Rick Jenkins is from Marietta, Ga., and Cynthia Jenkins was born in Copperhill and reared in Epworth, Ga.

The Jenkinses have three children.

Also assigned were Frederick M. and Carolyn Sue Smith Massingill of Louisville, Ky., formerly of Knoxville. They will live in Senegal, where they will work as dorm parents for children at Dakar Academy and will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

They attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Recently he was administrative officer of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee for the Office on Aging in Knoxville.

Carolyn Massingill has been a transcriber for the Office of Personnel Management in Knoxville and hostess at Cumberland Church, where they are members.

Both of the Massingills consider Knoxville their hometown and Cumberland Church their home



THE JENKINES



THE MASSENGILLS

church. Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville also was influential in her Christian growth, she reported.

The couple have a daughter and a son.

Both the Jenkinses and the Massingills will go to Rockville, Va., in June for a seven-week orientation before leaving for their work.

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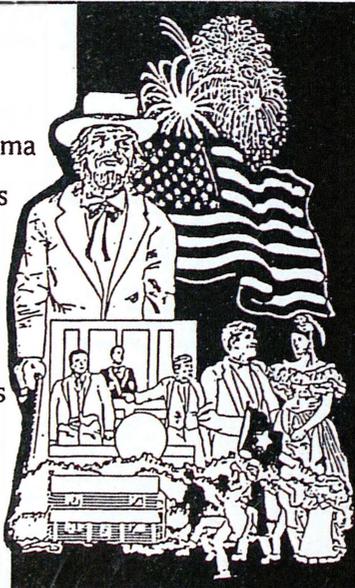
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Paul's ministry through the Spirit

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

Paul had his critics. Charges of deceit and conceit were hurled at him. His ministry was under attack. Yet in the midst of the attacks, he remained calm, cool, and collected. How did Paul maintain such confidence? This is the real question facing every believer in Jesus Christ. All followers of Christ Jesus are involved in a ministry. Chapter three of II Corinthians is not just for the "called" and ordained minister. It is for every believer in the name of the Lord Jesus (v. 6).

A study of Paul's response to his critics will reveal to us how we may measure our ministry. Our ministry measured by what God knows, not what others say (vv. 1-3)*

The critics of the apostle Paul commended themselves and had others to write letters of commendation. Even though Paul had used letters to commend others, he said there is a better way to measure one's ministry — how

others' lives are changed under the influence of the ministry. A changed life is the result of God's work of grace in one's heart. Thus, God was the one who was commending Paul because the Holy Spirit was the one who had changed the Corinthians and caused them to be living proof of his ministry. Is God changing the hearts and lives of the people around you and under your influence? If so, rejoice in their commendation.

Our sufficiency in ministry is measured by our dependency upon God rather than our own adequacy (vv. 4-6a)*

Paul's confidence in his ministry was not based upon self-evaluation as a result of self-effort (v. 4). His confidence was based upon the adequacy or sufficiency of God (v. 5). His grace or ability made the difference. He is the one who has "made us able ministers." (v. 6). And since God made Paul adequate for his ministry,

he can make every Christian adequate for his or her ministry. Our glory in ministry is measured by the Spirit's power upon us rather than our obedience to the law (vv. 6b-18)

The law with all of its rules and regulations could not save and give life, but could reveal a person's need and bring death. Paul recognized the glory of the law, but he knew it was a

BIBLE BOOK
April 26 Lesson
 Basic Passage: II Corinthians 3:1-18

fading glory. Moses at first had such glory on him when he brought God's law to the Israelites he had to place a veil over his face. But Moses had to put the veil over his face again to keep the people from knowing the glory was fading away. (Study Exodus 34:29-35.)

The new covenant was different in that it provided "a Lord to live for and

a love to live with" (Brian Harbour, *II Corinthians: Commissioned To Serve*, p. 31) and a glory to live under. And when the glory is on one's life, it causes that life to manifest the presence of God. Such is possible only through the Holy Spirit. Every day the Spirit is changing us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Being a part of a ministry of increasing glory brings boldness (v. 12), enlightenment (vv. 14-16), freedom (v. 17), and growth (v. 18). How else can you account for the ministries of Evangelist David Ring or Joni Eareckson Tada? Both have learned to trust in the power of God even with their difficulties in movement. Fanny Crosby, who suffered all of her life, still was able to write many wonderful Christian songs and hymns. Blindness didn't stop Helen Keller, nor did it stop Charles Melton from being a Baptist minister and professor. *See Warren Wiersbe, *Be Encouraged*, pp. 36, 37.

The gift of living hope

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

The letter of I Peter was written to the "exiles of the dispersion" in the Roman provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. This phrase could refer to Jewish Christians, but most likely refers to all believers scattered throughout Asia Minor. These followers of Christ were sojourners and wayfaring strangers traveling through the earthly experience of life "exiled" from their heavenly inheritance.

This journey is often beset with difficulty and ill-treatment. Christians in the early church were often rejected by associates, friends, and family members as a result of their commitment to Jesus. A reading of Acts brings one face to face with the persistent conflict that followers of "The Way" encountered. Persecution reached its height as a result of cruel

and murderous treatment by Roman emperors like Nero, Domitian, and Trajan.

Against this background of persecution, Peter assured believers of the gift of a living hope. This living hope results from the "new birth," or salvation experience, which is authenticated through the resurrection of Jesus

CONVENTION UNIFORM
April 26 Lesson
 Basic Passage: I Peter 1:1-25

Christ. The end result of this new birth experienced through faith in Jesus is an inheritance "... which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading kept in heaven ..." This salvation experience will receive its consummation and fulfillment at the second coming of Christ.

Until that time, believers will experience trials. Often these trials will come from outside sources and influences. These trials can serve as a means to refine our faith. Our positive response to these trying forces will serve to bring "... praise, glory, and honor ..." to the returning Christ.

By nature, Christ is holy. Consequently, Christians are called to holy living. Precisely, one is to "Be holy, because I am holy." The followers of Jesus are to practice a lifestyle consistent with that nature. Those partaking in the living hope are to "... gird up your minds ..." thus indicating that obedience is to be approached conscientiously. This imagery reminds one of the practice of Jewish men tying their robes around their waists as they performed manual labor.

Christians are to conduct themselves

in a manner reflective of their new birth and eventual inheritance. This behavior or conduct will be an outward expression of an inward commitment serving as a verification of the living hope. The darts of persecution are not to overwhelm the believer. This earthly pilgrimage is to be lived in awe and respect of God

The gift of living hope is the result of the direct action of God through Christ Jesus. Our redemption from sin has been secured "... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." This sacrificial act of Jesus secured our release from the slavery and bondage of sin. This "birthing" process is accomplished "... through the living and enduring Word of God." The child of God has received the gift of living hope through Jesus Christ.

Hear and heed His message

By Sharon Herrington, layperson; Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

We are hearing more about out of body experiences these days as persons who have had these unusual experiences gain courage in sharing with the public "what they saw" as their spirit was lifted out of the body, usually during grave illness or near death. Most of them tell of the bright, warm, comforting, noncondemning "light," the path leading to what they call heaven, and the elements unknown to man. Generally these persons say they did not want to come back to the body, and they relate their feelings about what they saw with great reverence and awe.

This Sunday's lesson introduces a ten-week study of Revelation 1-3 in which the apostle John relates "what he saw" with great reverence and awe. We might say his revelation (apocalypse [Greek] means unveiling or revealing) is the link between God and His children, just as persons today become our link in receiving a glimpse of the unknown.

We will study Christ's messages to

seven churches in the Roman province of Asia, and by the way, the correct pronunciation is Revelation, not Revelations.

Because this book is somewhat mysterious and certainly symbolic, the average reader, this writer included, tends to misunderstand the book's purpose or shy away from it. Not being a seminarian, I must confess my inadequacy with the book and therefore pledge my diligence in preparing these lessons during May and June.

The apostle John is the author of Revelation, which he penned while in exile for his Christianity on the Isle of Patmos in the Mediterranean Sea. The setting was A.D. 95 when Christians were being persecuted by Domitian, the Roman emperor. Herschel Hobbs notes that the term apocalyptic (English) "denotes a style of writing developed among the Jews to communicate with each other in times of trouble." Remember the fish symbol?

Ask folks about the theme of this book, and most will answer, "Christ's

return" or the "end of time," but the second coming doesn't receive attention until chapter 19. The theme of Revelation is Christ victorious.

We feel the awe of John in Revelation 1:1 as he gave credit to God for giving him the revelation of Jesus Christ (unveiling or revealing). Verses 1-8 glorify Jesus, giving Him proper, sacred identity. John's descriptions of our Lord remind me of Paul's Christology passages in Colossians 1 as he heralds Christ's divine identity.

John's fellow Christians needed to hear the reassuring words in his writings because of their oppression. John identified the sender of the message as one who fulfills the present, past, and future. Firstborn from the dead alludes to His resurrection and Psalm 89:27 is quoted — "ruler of Kings" leading to his later title "King of Kings."

Can you imagine the hope given to the people of the Asian churches as they read the doxology in verses 5 and 6? Reading Revelation and other dox-

ologies written by Paul (Ephesians 3:20-21), Jude (vv. 24-25), and David (Psalm 136) give us a blessing as spoken of in Revelation 1:3.

LIFE AND WORK
April 26 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Revelation 1:1-8

All will see Jesus come again, but His crucifiers and those who reject Him will mourn His coming (vv. 7-8). Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

What is the message of God's highest revelation of Himself — Jesus Christ — to our churches today? To paraphrase writer Fred Wood, God chose human writers to convey facts about Jesus. He inspired them to communicate the truth accurately; sovereign God expects us to pay attention to the redemptive message He sends through His Son; and Jesus' coming again should motivate us to complete obedience.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Opponents argue need for alcohol ad warnings

WASHINGTON — Warning messages in alcohol advertisements are counterproductive and will force sports programming off free television, a representative of the National Association of Broadcasters recently told a Senate subcommittee. The proposed health and safety warnings are a "very modest proposal," a supporter of the legislation countered.

Representatives of the alcohol, advertising, and broadcasting industries squared off against health, anti-drug, and education representatives in a hearing before the Consumer Subcommittee of the Senate's Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Their testimony concerned the Alcoholic Beverage Advertisement Act, Senate Bill 664.

The bill will require health and safety messages in all alcohol advertising on television and radio as well as newspapers, magazines, and promotional materials. Five rotating messages have been proposed. They warn about drinking during pregnancy, while driving, and when taking other drugs. One warns about alcohol's addictive nature, while another says it is illegal for persons under 21 to buy the product.

"One thing is for certain," said Wayne Vriesman, representing the National Association of Broadcasters. "If this law passes, the advertising of beer and wine on radio and television will dry up. No advertiser will spend money to buy time on radio or TV, of which a significant portion would be used to warn of the potential hazards of abuse. . . . All it will mean is a broadcast industry which is stripped of an advertiser for a legal product, while the problem of alcohol abuse remains unaffected." The broadcasting industry already is working against alcohol problems by providing more than \$1 billion yearly in airtime and facilities for substance abuse prevention, said Vriesman, a vice president with Chicago's Tribune Broadcasting Co.

"These scare tactics are despicable demagoguery," James A. Smith of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission told Baptist Press. "Consumers and the U.S. Congress should be offended our opponents would be so threatening about legislation which simply seeks the truth about the potential harmful effects of alcohol consumption." Smith, CLC director of government relations, is on the steering committee of the Coalition on Alcohol Advertising and Family Education.

Mississippi College trustees vote to close Clarke College

NEWTON, Miss. — Mississippi College trustees have voted to close Clarke College, a two-year institution they operate in Newton. Trustees, in a written report, cited as reasons for closing a continuing loss of students, dwindling financial resources, and a loss of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1990.

The current semester ending in May is the last scheduled for the junior college which was established in 1907 by an association of Regular Baptists. The Mississippi Baptist Convention took control in 1914. Clarke trustees in 1980 reported an anticipated deficit of \$175,000 and recommended merger with Mississippi College in Clinton. The recommendation was approved by the convention that year.

MC operated Clarke as a division of MC, with separate accreditation. After loss of accreditation, MC appealed through the appeals committee of SACS and through the federal courts. As of the end of March, the federal court had not responded to MC's appeal for an injunction which had been filed last September.

MC trustees said all of the about 100 Clarke students could transfer to MC. Clarke Dean James Read said faculty and staff, numbering about two dozen, had not had job offers but were being helped in finding other employment. MC President Lewis Nobles said disposal of the \$2 million plant and property and \$750,000 million in endowment funds had not yet been determined. MC trustees may make such decisions in their May meeting.

HMB journalist takes position with World Vision

ATLANTA — Jim Newton, public relations director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named director of media relations for World Vision International. Based in Monrovia, Calif., World Vision is an international relief and development organization which works with poor and hungry people around the world.

Newton will work with journalists at the Monrovia office as well as regional offices in London, England; Bangkok, Thailand; Nairobi, Kenya; and San Jose, Costa Rica. He will also help coordinate media relations in the 90 countries where World Vision works.

Newton has worked for the Home Mission Board 11 years, including eight as news and information director. He has also been Atlanta bureau chief for Baptist Press for years.

A Texas native, Newton is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He began his 33-year career in Southern Baptist journalism as a press representative for the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1959. He also has worked for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, and the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville.

Broadman Press author on national media tour

NASHVILLE — After suffering through a career collapse and divorce 12 years ago, Anita Bryant wanted only to avoid the press. "I was like a wounded animal that went into hiding," the well-known Christian singer/entertainer remembered. "I really just wanted to dig a hole, jump in, and pull the dirt in over me."

But in dealing with her pain in the last decade, Bryant said she learned a valuable truth. "When you get down to the depths of hell and you are ready to give up, you find that God has suffered as well and he is able to relate to you

and minister to you," she said. "I had lost everything precious to me and yet I found the essence of the most precious treasure I had had all along, and that was my relationship with Jesus Christ."

Today, with a new story to tell of God's redemptive healing in her life, Bryant is facing the press once again on a national media tour promoting her new book, *A New Day*. Published by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press, the book sold more than 15,000 copies before its release and already is in its second printing. Copies were to begin arriving in book stores in April.

Eleven-year-old RA begins Bible study club in school

HOPE, Ark. — Daniel Bramlett believes in putting his faith into action. Concerned with the pressures faced by his peers, the fifth grader at Beryl Henry Elementary School in Hope, Ark., made a presentation to the Hope School Board to form a Bible study club at his school.

Under federal equal access provisions, students are allowed to form groups before and after school on school property but they must go before the school board for approval. Daniel met with the Hope School Board March 16 to present a proposal and constitution for the club. The board voted unanimously to approve it.

Inspired by the "Meet Me at the Flagpole" concept used by the local high school, Daniel hopes the club will "minister to kids. . . . Some of them have problems at home," he said.

It's no surprise Daniel is concerned about others. His family has been active in Christian service for generations. His aunt, Debbie Moore, is a missionary in Liberia, and his great-grandfather, S. A. Whitlow, was a pastor and Baptist associational leader. Daniel, a member of First Church and a Royal Ambassador for four years, has had firsthand experience in missions. Last summer, he worked at the migrant mission center his church sponsors.

Club members will study the Bible under the direction of the club president who, along with the vice president and secretary, will be elected later this school year. Daniel will serve as interim president until the election. Besides Bible study, the club also will sponsor school service projects such as picking up litter and organizing parties to celebrate teachers' birthdays.

Innovation a must in San Francisco ministry

SAN FRANCISCO — From Christian TV talk shows to "Breakfast with Jesus," Southern Baptists here try innovative projects to spread the Gospel to a city where less than one percent of the population is Southern Baptist. "I think our walls are somewhat more fluid here than they are somewhere else," said Jim Pittman, pastor of Valley Church in San Francisco.

With a larger population of unchurched residents, pastors and missions workers say they have the liberty to pursue ministries that are effective, not just traditional. "There's a freedom in the culture to try new stuff," said Pittman, whose church offers a tutorial program for elementary students that includes a Bible discovery period. If something doesn't work, he said, "there's a freedom to flush it and move on."

Such freedom has resulted in a variety of new programs such as a Christian TV talk show aimed at the region's one million Hispanics.

Kenneth Sampson is another pastor who is breaking Southern Baptist tradition in San Francisco. "Southern Baptists have a lot of good things but nobody knows about it," Sampson said. His church began an 8 a.m. Sunday service in nearby Pacifica for unchurched residents and for Christians who can't attend an 11 a.m. service. "The church has gotten locked into this 11 o'clock time mold," said Sampson, pastor of New Home Church, a predominately black congregation.

Sampson calls the early service "Breakfast with Jesus." "We have to change to meet the schedules of the people." Since the first early service with ten people in October, 65 people have been saved, Sampson said.

Ecumenical leader underscores need for 'missionary identity'

LOUISVILLE — A "missionary identity" is an essential component of the Christian faith, said the general secretary of the World Council of Churches. "If you do not have a missionary people of God, you do not have a people of God," said Emilio Castro during the Gheens Lectures at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He emphasized there is no Biblical calling "that will not imply immediately a task, a vocation, a mission."

Missions involves proclamation of the Gospel as well as acts of love and service, said Castro, a native of Uruguay and an ordained minister in that nation's Evangelical Methodist Church.

Proclaiming the Gospel cannot be separated from "the living of the Gospel and the acting of the Gospel," he said. Yet persons who serve human needs should be prepared to point others to "the source of love," Castro said. "How could we be satisfied with providing for whatever needs we discern and make a line by which we will not go beyond to announce the name of Jesus Christ?"

Broadman, Holman products named Gold Medallion finalists

NASHVILLE — Four books published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press and Holman Bible Publishers have been selected as finalists for one of Christian publishing's top honors. The Gold Medallion Awards, given by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, will be presented June 27 at a banquet in Dallas.

The awards are given in several categories. Broadman finalists include *Talking to the World in the Days to Come*, by Bob Hughes, associate professor of communication and mass media at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., nominated in the missions/evangelism category; and *Journey to Amanah*, by Columbus, Ohio, writer Colleen Snyder, nominated in the youth category. *Journey to Amanah* also was recently named a semifinalist in *Campus Life* magazine's annual Book of the Year contest.

The Holman Bible Dictionary was named a finalist in the Gold Medallion reference texts category and Holman's Family Worship Bible is up for the award in the Bibles category.